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COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW LAWYERS

How do I get started? What are my rights and obligations? How can I be sure I'm making the best decisions? Have I considered all the important details? How can I reach a fair agreement while protecting myself, our children and my property? Divorce means dissolving the marriage bonds between the spouses and may involve making arrangements for distribution of your property, division of debt, parenting your children, and child and/or spousal support.

A Collaborative Lawyer ...

- has specific training to facilitate resolution for a broad range of family issues.
- strives to reach agreements that best meet the specific needs of both clients and the children without the underlying threat of contested litigation and the uncertain outcome of Court.
- works with you on the *LEGAL* aspects of your divorce.
- partners with other members of the Collaborative team to pool resources

Your Lawyer will ...

- ❖ explore your specific situation and identify your concerns and interests.
- ❖ provide legal advice specific to your situation.
- ❖ guide you through a process of negotiation to craft creative solutions for the issues that need to be addressed, considering what is best for you and the family overall.
- ❖ finalize your agreement and prepare and file your legal documents

You can expect your Lawyer to...

- ✓ listen to you and learn what your issues and concerns are
- ✓ foster respectful communication and listening skills for all parties
- ✓ encourage stability, reason and reality in emotionally charged situations
- ✓ use clear and neutral language in both written and verbal communication
- ✓ respect your choices even if they are different from what the law may offer
- ✓ remain committed to finding effective ways to assist you in reaching agreement

With a Collaborative Family Law lawyer it is easier to come to an agreement knowing that your rights are protected and your responsibilities are fulfilled. Like all members of the collaborative team, your lawyer seeks to accomplish a "win/win" situation in which your separation and divorce promotes a healthy transition for you and your children.