

Collaborative Divorce

A special service from VMSW

Make your divorce transition easier with a comprehensive and mutual financial plan.

An Alternative to Court.

Often in a divorce situation the goals of the husband and wife are very similar: settle the family property fairly, provide for the needs of the children and get on with their lives.

In traditional divorce proceedings, both sides may hire their own set of professionals to represent them, which can become costly and may increase the conflicts. The Collaborative Approach recognizes the need for allied professionals, but favours the use of one interdisciplinary team whose goal is to work together. The team focuses on collaboration, rather than taking the side of one party or the other. This ensures that divorcing couples get the expertise they need in the most efficient and economical way possible. The Collaborative Divorce Process can significantly reduce the emotional strain associated with a long legal struggle.

A Certified Professional.

VMSW partner Jean Shippey is a Financial Divorce Specialist. For 20 years, she has played a supporting role in divorce proceedings by providing her clients and their lawyers with important financial analysis and interpretation of financial matters. Jean is also certified in Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Skills from the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. This certification entitles Jean to work as part of a team of Professionals in a Collaborative Divorce. As a financial neutral, Jean provides:

- unbiased presentations of financial information
- clear ideas of asset values, properties and tax implications
- realistic budgets that reflect future needs
- long term cash flow analysis
- long term consequences of various settlement options

The primary role of the neutral Financial Professional in a Collaborative Practice is to help clients achieve the

most acceptable financial outcome by focusing on needs, interests and values. Jean provides added support by:

- helping clients achieve a greater sense of confidence
- helping clients get beyond destructive financial emotions
- encouraging creative problem solving skills
- helping balance power

A Mutually Acceptable Agreement.

In collaborative divorce the couple must agree in writing to negotiate a mutually acceptable settlement without going to court. They commit to maintaining open lines of communication and sharing information readily. Collaborative divorce means finding an agreeable solution that meets the highest priorities of both parties.

A Team Approach.

The following are a list of professionals who may be part of your Collaborative team: Lawyers certified in collaborative law, Certified Financial Divorce Specialist, Divorce Coach, Child Specialist, Mediator.

A Plan for the Future.

Each member of a collaborative divorce team is an expert. They are focused on finding a workable solution for all parties in the divorce. Preparing parents and children for the future is a critical role for all team members. Financial planning, psychological counseling and legal advice are all part of the collaborative process. The goal of the collaborative process is to help each member of the family develop a positive outlook for the future and lead productive, rewarding lives.



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