



Information Sheet: Collaborative Law - finding solutions together

When relationships break down couples often find that fear and anger are the feelings which drive their conversations. This can lead to destructive and unhelpful exchanges which don't help anyone move forward with the lives and can often damage friends, family or children caught in the crossfire.

Often, the very best solutions are those which you are able to work out together with your former partner.

Traditionally, when couples separate, you will each take independent advice from specialist family lawyers and, working through your lawyers, you will try to reach an agreement on how best to settle your differences and make arrangements regarding financial matters and children (if appropriate).

While, in many cases, this approach can help couples to reach an agreement there is always the risk that the matter may end up being referred to family court on issues which cannot be resolved. That litigation can lead to uncertainty and solutions imposed by the court which may not suit either one of you.

What's the alternative?

Collaborative Law is about trying to change the way people resolve family breakdown. It gives you the opportunity to sit together in the same room with your respective lawyers to work out issues face-to-face. Rather than dealing through solicitors you work with them to discuss the best solutions.

Alsters Kelley is able to offer this service through trained collaborative lawyers such as Head of Department Erica Kemp and Assistant Solicitor Emma Piff. If you wish to consider whether collaborative law can help you seek a fair solution and minimise the pain of family breakdown then please contact Erica (contact details below).

The collaborative process can benefit all concerned as it allows a real opportunity to make key decisions about your future and your family's future rather than have them dictated by a stranger in a court room.

You set the agenda and, with the support of trained collaborative solicitors, you can reach solutions about the things that matter most to you and your family.

Collaborative lawyers sign an agreement which prevents them from representing their clients in court if the collaborative process breaks down. This means that they are absolutely committed to helping you find the best solutions by agreement rather than through conflict.



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If you need any further information about matters in this information sheet, please do not hesitate to contact us.