

Principles and Guidelines for Collaborative Family Law

I. Goals

- We acknowledge that the essence of "Collaborative Family Law" is the shared belief by all participants that it is in the best interests of the parties and their families in typical family law matters to voluntarily commit themselves to avoiding adversarial proceedings.
- We therefore adopt this conflict resolution process, which does not rely on a court-imposed resolution, but relies on an atmosphere of honesty, cooperation, integrity, and professionalism geared toward the future well-being of the family.
- Our goals are to maximize settlement options for the benefit of all participants, to increase the abilities of the parties to communicate in a post-divorce relationship, and to minimize, if not eliminate, the negative economic, social, and emotional consequences of adversarial court proceedings to the parties and their families.
- We voluntarily commit ourselves to the Collaborative Law process, agree to seek a better way to resolve our differences justly and equitably, and strive for shared solutions and self-determination to resolve the issues surrounding the dissolution of our marriage.