



Collaborative Family Law

The Collaborative Family Lawyer

Collaborative Family Lawyers guide you through a process that enables you to resolve conflicts.

They will assist you to:

- Negotiate in a principled, dignified and respectful manner
- Obtain full and complete disclosure of all pertinent information
- Explore as many settlement options as possible
- Find solutions that best meet the goals and priorities of your family
- Resolve family law disputes without going to court

Collaborative Family Law is an efficient non-court approach for resolving disputes.

An alternative process to litigation:

- Lawyers and clients work as a team
- Everyone agrees to stay out of court
- The process is structured to meet your needs
- Promotes the best interests of children

An innovative approach
to settle family law disputes

quebeccollaborativelaw.ca

What is Collaborative Law?

- A structured and creative dispute resolution process
- An approach that addresses the needs of the family
- Dispute resolution with the participation of both parties and their lawyers
- Dispute resolution based on complete information



Why choose Collaborative Law?

- The clients and their lawyers control the process
- A climate of cooperation reduces the stress that accompanies any family law dispute
- Trained counsel assist both parties at every stage of the process
- The team can focus on settlement rather than Court
- The process may be less costly and time-consuming than litigation

How is the collaborative process different from mediation?

In Collaborative Law, negotiations take place in four-way meetings with both lawyers and parties working together. You also meet with your lawyer individually to receive legal advice.

Mediation takes place with an impartial third party who helps you and your partner reach decisions. You attend the sessions without your lawyer and obtain legal counsel and advice outside the sessions.

How does collaborative law differ from litigation?

The parties decide.

The Collaborative Process :

- Allows the parties to actively participate
- Focuses on your interests and, where applicable, those of your children
- Allows everyone to maintain their dignity
- Lessens hostility
- Reduces the negative impact on children
- Promotes a positive outlook focused on your future

What if the process is not successful?

Throughout Canada and the United States, the success rate of collaborative law is high. However, if either party decides to discontinue the process, both lawyers must withdraw while respecting their obligation to assist their client with the orderly transfer of the file to a litigation lawyer in accordance with the terms of the collaborative agreement.

How long it will take?

The length of time required depends on the parties and their individual situations.

What must I bring to the process?

A willingness to participate in a productive dialogue, to make financial disclosure (this is also required in mediation and litigation) and to treat your partner with respect.

How much will it cost?

Your lawyer will charge his / her hourly fees.