

# Information

## Collaborative Law

### What is Collaborative Law?

Collaborative Law is a process whereby a separating couple engage in a series of open, dignified and honest discussions about the practical aspects of their separation with their lawyers present.

### The process

- 1 Both choose a lawyer trained in collaborative law.
- 2 They sign an agreement:
  - a not to go to court.
  - b to cooperate by working together to find a solution for the family as a whole, and,
  - c to respect each other throughout the process.
- 3 A series of meetings takes place with both parties and their lawyers all present to achieve:
  - a A full exchange of financial information.
  - b A solution which meets the needs of the whole family putting the children first.
- 4 Having reached an agreement the lawyers draw up a document confirming this agreement and this agreement can then be filed with the court so that, once approved, it becomes binding.

a way that is open and enables the other lawyer to respond so that both parties hear what is being said.

The lawyers may invite other professionals, such as accountants and IFAs, to attend the meeting so that if, for example, pension options are being discussed both parties can have the benefit of advice from the IFA as to the effect of the various options. Some of the professionals we work with have completed the Resolution training for experts in collaborative cases so understand how the process works.

### Who does collaboration?

At Thomson Snell & Passmore we have one of the largest teams of collaborative lawyers in the area with four of our lawyers qualified in collaborative law.

To find out more about Collaborative Law please contact our collaborative team:

Joanna Pratt  
01892 701297  
[joanna.pratt@ts-p.co.uk](mailto:joanna.pratt@ts-p.co.uk)

Kirstie Law  
01892 701271  
[kirstie.law@ts-p.co.uk](mailto:kirstie.law@ts-p.co.uk)

Desmond O'Donnell  
01892 701315  
[desmond.odonnell@ts-p.co.uk](mailto:desmond.odonnell@ts-p.co.uk)

Helen Waite  
01892 701213  
[helen.waite@ts-p.co.uk](mailto:helen.waite@ts-p.co.uk)

### The advantages

Both parties are present when the discussions take place so that they can hear each others' views. In addition lawyers give advice to their clients during the meeting in

**Head Office**  
Heathervale House  
2-4 Vale Avenue  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent TN1 1DJ  
T 01892 510000  
F 01892 540170

**Thames Gateway**  
Corinthian House  
Galleon Boulevard  
Crossways Business Park  
Dartford  
Kent DA2 6QE  
T 01322 623700  
F 01322 623701