

## **The Role of the Allied Coach**

In the two-coach model each member of the couple has a coach who serves as an ally to them while still keeping the interests of the whole family in mind. This can allow the parties to get extra support in the process and for the coach to focus more attention on the needs and challenges of just one member of the couple. As an integral member of the collaborative team, the allied coach supports and holds accountable the individual clients. Each coach helps their client advocate for themselves. The allied coach does much of their work with individual clients outside of the attorney meetings. In one-on-one meetings, the allied coaches help their clients identify their needs and interests and learn to communicate them so they are more likely to be heard. In periodic 4-way meetings, the allied coaches meet together with their respective clients to facilitate communication between the couple and address issues that are causing problems between them. In the joint meetings with attorneys, clients, coaches, and possibly other professionals, the allied coaches help their clients function to achieve the best possible outcome. The coach meets with the couple, both together and individually, to gather information and understand the dynamics and stress points of their particular situation.

- The allied coaches meet with one member of the couple to help them identify where they are in the process and how they can communicate their concerns in this process.

- The allied coaches help clients manage strong emotion so that they can think clearly.
- The allied coaches help highlight their clients' unique strengths that can be used productively in the process.
- The allied coaches listen for their clients' unique challenges and help develop plans to manage these challenges.
- The allied coaches in coordination support the neutral child specialist.
- The allied coaches assist their clients in developing effective communication and co-parenting skills in the best interests of the children.
- The allied coaches help clients formulate a vision for their individual futures.
- The allied coaches provide guidance and direction to help their clients find outside resources if needed.
- The allied coaches assist the parents in creating a parenting plan.