

**COLLABORATIVE  
PRACTICE: RESOLVING  
DISPUTES RESPECTFULLY**

The Collaborative Process encourages mutual respect. Although you are on your way to dissolving your marriage/ partnership, you may prefer to part in a respectful way that will not leave you with long standing bitterness. If you have children, you continue to be loving parents long after your dissolution is completed.

The focus is on problem solving, not blaming or endlessly airing grievances. Full disclosure and open communications help to assure that all issues are discussed in a timely manner. The team will support you finding solutions that are realistic, well-informed, and tailored to your family's needs.



**COLLABORATIVE  
PRACTICE**

Resolving Disputes Respectfully

**To Find Out More About**

**Collaborative Practice  
East Bay**

**Go To**

**[www.CollaborativePracticeEastBay.com](http://www.CollaborativePracticeEastBay.com)**

**COLLABORATIVE  
PRACTICE**

**PRO BONO  
FAMILY LAW  
CLINIC**



**DO YOU AND YOUR  
FORMER SPOUSE/PARTNER:**

- Have a family law case and can't afford an attorney?
- Need help in coming to an agreement on a parenting plan that is in the best interest of your children and that you are unable to resolve during your meeting in Family Court Services?
- Need help resolving conflict over child or spousal support?
- Need help resolving conflict over division of assets and debts?
- Want to work cooperatively to settle your case?
- Feel you could reach an agreement with the help of trained professionals?
- Want to avoid further court appearances?

**ARE YOU BOTH  
WILLING TO:**

- Speak up for yourself and your own self-interest?
- Be honest and open in your conversations?
- Work through difficult conversations?
- Make decisions for yourself and your family from a place of calm, rather than from a place of anger, humiliation, and fear?
- Reach a solution that takes into account the highest priorities of you, your former spouse/partner, and your children?

**IF YOU ANSWERED YES  
TO THESE QUESTIONS,  
YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR  
HELP WITH THE  
COLLABORATIVE  
PRACTICE CLINIC**

The Collaborative Practice Family Law Clinic is a voluntary and confidential program designed for parties in a divorce or parentage case, who are not represented by attorneys and who would benefit from additional assistance in reaching a settlement that is satisfactory to both parties.

The Collaborative Practice model uses a team of specially trained professionals, who are committed to finding solutions that take into account the highest priorities of both parties and/or their children. This team includes an attorney for each party, a coach (mental health professional) for each party, and, in some instances a neutral financial professional.

The process is limited to approximately 4 hours, and the team of collaborative professionals who assist you today will not advise or assist you once the process has concluded.

*Your collaborative attorney will not be your "attorney of record" and will not represent you in court at any point during or after your family law matter.*

**Mutual Respect and Open Communication are Fundamental to the Collaborative Practice Model.**

When respect is given and received, the difficult work of reaching a resolution is likely to be more productive and an agreement reached more easily. The Collaborative Practice model enables you and your former spouse or former partner to keep control of the decisions about your family and to commit to a healthy, long-term approach to restructuring your post-separation family. The nature of the collaborative model requires all communication between the parties and the team to remain confidential.

**In the event that no agreement is reached, both parties and all team members are prohibited from repeating (verbally or in writing) anything said during this collaborative work in any future court proceedings.**

**No Cost for This Service**

**For more information & to find out if you qualify please contact:**

**For Contra Costa County Cases**  
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**Administrator**  
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