

Overall, the outcome gave us a settlement that respected what was important to each of us. My divorce coach was immensely helpful to me in helping me clarify my priorities.

Areas of the agreement that became contentious were much easier to reconcile when we made the trade off decisions through the lens of personal priority, as opposed to "wins and losses". It allowed my ex-husband and me to retain a sense of dignity through the process that might otherwise have been lost.

*Carin Morgan  
Married 12 years*

We chose the collaborative approach with our divorce because we wanted a respectful process. We did not want our future joint parenting relationship to be adversely affected by litigation. We were active participants in the final settlement as opposed to having the judge decide the outcome.

The team approach of using attorneys, coaches and financial specialists was very helpful and educational. It was obvious that the goals of the whole team were to solve problems rather than to create them.

*Collaborative Divorce Client  
Married 21 years*

Things have been going well with me and T. [former wife] and I feel as if we have a solid agreement that we're both satisfied with. Most importantly, my kids are doing great, which is most important to me. I'm not sure that things would have worked out this well if we hadn't used this process.

*Collaborative Divorce Client  
Married 13 years*



COLLABORATIVE LAW  
INSTITUTE OF ILLINOIS

*Over 100 specifically trained professionals,  
meeting annual requirements, who help  
divorcing spouses restructure their lives for  
a healthier future.*

*The Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois  
P.O. Box 2032  
Glenview, IL 60025-6032*

*T: 312.882.8000  
[www.Collab-Divorce-Illinois.org](http://www.Collab-Divorce-Illinois.org)*

*Members of*



COLLABORATIVE  
PRACTICE  
Resolving Disputes Respectfully

*3,600 professionals worldwide helping people  
resolve disputes respectfully*

# Collaborative Divorce



# A Better Way to Divorce



COLLABORATIVE LAW  
INSTITUTE OF ILLINOIS

Private Respectful Caring



## *A Better Way to Divorce*

*Collaborative Divorce uses specially trained lawyers, divorce coaches, child specialists and financial specialists to help you reach an out-of-court agreement, with privacy and respect. In Collaborative Divorce both spouses commit to:*

- *A written pledge not to go to court*
- *An honest exchange of information*
- *A problem-solving approach that addresses the issues of both spouses and their children.*

*The goal is to solve problems jointly, prevent a court battle and, when there are children, to have them be a priority, rather than a casualty.*

## *The Approach:*

*Resolving Disputes Respectfully*

Collaborative Divorce provides face-to-face meetings with you, your spouse, your lawyers, and other advisors as needed, including divorce coaches, financial specialists, and child specialists. You and your spouse, rather than any judge, stay in control of the decisions. Our problem-solving approach emphasizes cooperation in finding solutions so you reach a workable settlement by building on areas of mutual agreement.

## *The Team:*

*Centered Around a Positive Transition*

In addition to legal counsel, the Collaborative Divorce team also frequently includes divorce coaches, a financial specialist, and a child specialist.

A **Divorce Coach** helps each spouse manage the pain and strain of changing relationships while focusing on goals for the present and future.

A neutral **Financial Specialist** helps you and your spouse identify your options and alternatives by reviewing all assets and incomes, and assists in developing financial scenarios for the future well-being of all family members.

A neutral **Child Specialist** helps you and your spouse create parenting time plans and parenting arrangements customized to fit the unique needs of your family.



## *Benefits of a Collaborative Divorce*

- *Keeps control of the process and timeline with the individuals*
- *Promotes open communication*
- *Uses a problem-solving approach*
- *Identifies and addresses interests and concerns of all*
- *Emphasizes the needs of children*
- *Creates agreements more likely to be adhered to by both spouses*
- *Encourages mutual respect*
- *Reduces stress and animosity*
- *Protects privacy*
- *Prevents a court battle*
- *Prepares individuals for new lives*
- *Is usually less costly than litigation*

**To find professionals trained in Collaborative Divorce, please log on to [www.Collab-Divorce-Illinois.org](http://www.Collab-Divorce-Illinois.org) or call 312.882.8000.**