



## Southern Sydney Collaborative Professionals Inc

### What is Collaborative Practice?

Collaborative practice is a recognised method of resolving family law issues without having to resort to litigation. It is a voluntary dispute resolution process, in which you and your partner work with collaborative lawyers, coaches and other experts to creatively problem-solve issues using face-to-face communication. It allows parties to negotiate a resolution that targets priorities whether they are financial or child related. It focuses on an end result which satisfies both parties with little conflict.

### How does it work?

In the collaborative practice process, each party has their own collaborative lawyer. Often the process is facilitated by a coach who directs and guides the parties and the respective collaborative lawyers through the process, while ensuring everyone adheres to the objectives. Financial professionals, Child Consultants and other experts may be appointed to work impartially as part of the collaborative

team to help the parties make informed decisions.

All participants sign a Participant Agreement prior to committing to the collaborative practice process. This is a contract that includes an agreement to settle the family law issues without involving the court.

The collaborative practice process involves a series of meetings where the parties sit down both privately and together with their collaborative lawyers, coach/other experts to discuss options best to satisfy both parties goals and interests. Legal advice is provided by the collaborative lawyers in the presence of both parties and all negotiations are conducted during the meetings. Correspondence is kept to a minimum, with minutes recorded and circulated as to what takes place in the meetings. Depending on the complexity of the issues the collaborative practice process may take time, and require multiple meetings and help from different members of the collaborative professional team. After reaching an agreement, it may be submitted to the Court for orders to be made.

## Who may be involved?

- Collaborative Lawyers
- Collaborative Coach(Mediator)
- Financial Professionals such as Accountants, Financial Planners, Mortgage Brokers, Tax Specialists
- Child Consultants such as Child Psychologists
- Valuers – Property & Business

## Our Objectives

- Develop collaborative practice in the family law area
- Educate and raise awareness in the legal community, amongst other professionals and the general public, of collaborative practice in the family law area
- Support collaborative professionals with training, marketing, practice management and development
- Connect collaborative professionals generally

## Contact us

For further information about collaborative practice/Southern Sydney Collaborative Professionals Inc

Email – [info@collaborativeprofessionals.com.au](mailto:info@collaborativeprofessionals.com.au)

Collaborative Practice Professionals in NSW can be found through the website listed below

[www.collabprofessionalsnsw.org.au/practitioners/](http://www.collabprofessionalsnsw.org.au/practitioners/)

## Next Collaborative Training Course

28-29th April 2017

2-day training - \$1700

2-day training + Master class - \$2200

Master class Only - \$700

Further information can be found at -

[www.airs.edu.au/event/interdisciplinary-collaborative-practice-workshop-masterclass/](http://www.airs.edu.au/event/interdisciplinary-collaborative-practice-workshop-masterclass/)

## Membership Costs

\$250.00 per member for the first year