

A better future upon the breakdown of your family relationship

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"All happy families are the same: each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way"

Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

The best possible outcomes of relationship breakdown can be achieved by improved communication in Collaborative Law. Ask any experienced family lawyer and they will tell you that the most hard fought arguments are over property and money but the most hurt arises when relationship breakdown affects children. Sadly the conventional legal procedure may make matters worse!

Collaborative Law allows a separating couple access to legal advice without involving the courts. The solution to each party's potentially conflicting claims must then meet their proper interests and most importantly those of any dependent children. To identify what each party seeks to achieve in this process, coaches and other experts may be asked to give confidential advice.

Rather than inviting a judge to decide the fate of their children and marital assets a couple, in the Collaborative process, retains responsibility for the outcome. All that is required of both parties is a commitment to honesty and respect for a mutually satisfactory conclusion. The advantages, although most obvious in any situation in which the couple continue to parent children, include the dignity of reaching a settlement with integrity for them both. The process will also suit those who wish to preserve the privacy of their family matters.

It may not always be possible, even with the assistance of mediation or coaches, for a couple to work together with their lawyers collaboratively because the necessary trust is not present. Some cases require the urgent intervention of the courts to protect the parties, their children or property. Lacey's can advise when court procedures should be followed to provide urgent protection.

Our firm offers services to private clients and those who are eligible for public funding (legal aid). For clients who are of modest means, a special family proceedings charging rate is available to defer some of the costs involved.

If it matters to you then it matters to us; and we will listen hard to find out what that is!