

**WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THE
COLLABORATIVE TEAM MODEL**

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Why You Should Choose the Collaborative Team Model

If you are even considering using the collaborative process for your divorce, congratulations, that is great news for you and your family. In choosing the collaborative process over litigation, you will get to keep control over the outcome and costs of your legal matter and to place a much higher priority on the emotional and financial health of yourself, your family and especially your children.

If you want to significantly increase the benefits and advantages of choosing the collaborative process over litigation, you should choose the Collaborative Team Model, which from the start employs a team of professionals each one specifically trained to help you and your family through the divorce process. As the collaborative process has evolved to include these professionals, we have seen all the benefits and advantages of the collaborative process increase significantly as well as discovering additional benefits all of which are outlined in this article. The following are the most commonly questions that are asked about the Collaborative Team Model. In answering these questions, we have outlined for you the benefits and advantages of this approach.

I. It's Just a Divorce; Why Would I Need Anyone Other Than My Lawyer?

Divorce is not just a legal matter. Without a doubt, your divorce will be inextricably intertwined with two other important areas of your life: your finances and your emotions. In the past, family lawyers often had to wear their "psychological hat" when assisting divorce clients. Clients would call their lawyers with questions like "[W]hen should I tell my children about the divorce?" or "[L]ittle Johnny is acting out in school, do you think it is related to the divorce?" or "[W]hich parenting plan do you think would be better for the emotional well-being of my children?"

Lawyers do their best to answer these types of non-legal questions, and while all divorce lawyers have "hands on experience" with the emotional fall out inherent in any divorce, they usually have no training or expertise in family systems therapy or any other psychological specialty. The same holds true when divorce lawyers wear their financial "hat". Again, while lawyers are experienced with the financial issues directly related to divorce and do their best to address the financial questions raised by clients, most lawyers are not certified financial planners or analysts trained to educate clients about their financial future and the impact on it of various settlement options.

The theory behind the Collaborative Team Model is that since every divorce client has significant emotional, financial and legal needs, the best approach to meeting those needs is to bring to the table professionals specialized in all three areas to treat the "whole" client. Lawyers who use the Collaborative Team Model have found that since more of a divorce client's needs are being addressed, the chances of settlement are increased and the settlements are more cost-effective, efficient, tailor-made and creative.

II. What is the Collaborative Team Model?

The Collaborative Team Model is an interdisciplinary approach to collaborative law. In the Collaborative Team Model, each client hires a collaborative lawyer just like any other collaborative case. The difference is that with referrals from both collaborative lawyers, the clients then jointly hire, one neutral Mental Health Professional (MHP) and one neutral Financial Professional (FP) both of whom are on the team right from the start of the case. The MHP and FP are known as “allied professionals”. Having these neutral professionals on the team from the beginning is a major key to the success of the Collaborative Team Model.

The MHP is a licensed mental health professional such as a licensed professional counselor, a psychologist, a marriage and family therapist, etc. The MHP will most likely have extensive training in family dynamics, interpersonal communications and relationship issues. The FP is also a licensed professional, most often a financial planner and/or a financial analyst. Experienced collaborative lawyers will only involve experienced, well-trained (both in their areas of expertise and in the collaborative process) and highly competent allied professionals.

When working in the collaborative process, the MHP has been referred to as a “communications coach”, a “divorce coach”, and a “relationship specialist”. Regardless of what they are called, the role of the MHP is to manage the emotional side of the case and to assist the parties with making decisions involving the children, if any. The FP’s role is to manage the financial aspects of the case. The lawyers and the allied professionals together comprise the “collaborative team”. Comprised of highly skilled professionals with specific expertise in the legal, financial and emotional needs of the divorcing couple, the team can more efficiently and effectively resolve the multi-faceted issues of your divorce than any one professional in any discipline.

III. What Types of Specialized Services Can the Allied Professionals Provide?

The following are some examples of the services that an MHP can provide to a couple who are going through a divorce.

- Improve the spouses’ negotiation and problem-solving skills
- Increase effective communication among family members
- Enhance the collaborative law team’s effectiveness
- Assess the children’s needs
- Assess the parents’ respective parenting strengths and the parenting relationship between each of them and children
- Develop a workable parenting plan that meets the children’s developmental needs
- Determine the children’s perspectives and preferences regarding a parenting plan and communicate the “children’s voices” to the parties
- Consider the benefits of an ongoing relationship with a mental health professional as a parenting coordinator after the family law matter concludes

An FP can provide a divorcing couple the following services:

- Educate the couple about pertinent financial matters

- Assist them with gathering and organizing financial information and preparing necessary financial documents
- Prepare cash flow projections and tax calculations
- Prepare ranges of present or future value
- Encourage each spouse to formulate realistic future plans for income and expenses
- Assist the spouses with developing and analyzing options for allocation of their income and expenses and division of their marital estate and liabilities
- Help one or both spouses trace a separate property, reimbursement or economic contribution claim
- Assist the spouses and lawyers with negotiating a financial outcome acceptable to both parties.

IV. Would the FP Appraise our Home?

In the Collaborative Team Model, in order to maintain trust, the FP's role is always to remain neutral, and thus, the FP should not step into the role of the professional who renders an expert opinion. If an expert opinion is needed, such as a house appraisal, the parties can jointly hire an expert (real estate appraiser) to provide that opinion. That expert will also be hired in the capacity of a neutral; however, once the expert renders his opinion it will likely be viewed by one or both parties as biased which is why the process is designed not to have the FP fulfill that role.

V. How Does the Collaborative Team Model Work?

In the Collaborative Team Model, the team (lawyers, MHP and FP) meets with the clients at the initial process/goal setting joint session as well as at any other meeting that the team thinks necessary. These meetings are known as "joint sessions." After the initial joint session, the allied professionals often meet with the clients, together and/or individually, where appropriate, without the lawyers. The allied professionals then report back to other team members so that everyone is kept in the loop on important information and progress.

There are two major advantages of the spouses meeting with the allied professionals outside of the joint sessions. First, money is saved by not having lawyers attend meetings where their presence is really not necessary. For example, if a couple is working through the sensitive issues presented when one person is more emotionally ready to divorce than the other, it makes more sense for the couple to explore those issues with the MHP only. Children's' issues such as how and when is it best to tell the children about the divorce are also more effectively and cost-efficiently dealt with in a meeting with the MHP. Having one or both parties meet only with the FP to deliver financial information also saves money. In these types of meetings/discussions having the allied report back to the lawyers is almost always sufficient.

Second, and even more importantly, the privacy afforded the couple when discussing with the MHP the problems and emotional aspects of their marriage or

when discussing their financial concerns with the FP often provides the most conducive forum to address these-types of issues. It is the rare divorce where the parties do not need to air the issues in their marriage that lead them to divorce before any significant headway can be made toward settlement. Most people, however, are understandably reluctant to initially reveal and discuss their most personal issues in a joint session. Having a skilled MHP or FP and a private place for these discussions is a tremendous benefit to the couple. After these meetings, the MHP or FP provides the appropriate level of information to the rest of the team so that sensitive but critical issues can be addressed by the team in the most productive manner possible.

A key aspect of the Collaborative Team Model is that the allied professionals are fully integrated into the process from the beginning of the case. When the allied professionals and lawyers function as equal team members, the benefits to the clients and the process are greatly enhanced. In addition because the lawyers and the allied professionals have often worked together as a team on other collaborative divorce matters before and/or belong to the same practice group, they likely have established a positive working relationship with each other and a high level of trust which leads to a positive synergy regarding the collaborative process.

VI. How Is This Model Different From Other Collaborative Law Models?

In the model known as the Lawyer Only Model, family lawyers and their clients work to settle the case with little to no assistance from outside professionals. Although it is possible to obtain a settlement in the collaborative process with just lawyers involved, experience tells us that many cases that terminated in the lawyer only model would have had a much better chance of success if a team approach had been used.

Additionally, many lawyers who have handled cases in both the Lawyer Only Model and the Collaborative Team Model have expressed that often times the lawyer only cases operated more like “forced settlements” whereas in the team cases, the clients walked out of the process with more “value” under their belts, whether that value was in the form of a more creative settlement, a less stressful process, or the receipt of a service provided by an allied professional that on hindsight was very much needed by the parties in the case.

In the model known as the Lawyer Referral Model, the lawyers handle the case and they hire outside professionals on an “as needed basis” to assist with specific issues as they arise. Most often the professionals are hired as consultants to the lawyers versus team members whose role is to serve the clients. In this model, although the outside professionals are jointly engaged, the professionals typically do not attend any joint sessions; instead they meet with the clients in their offices without the lawyers and report back to the lawyers. At first glance, this may seem like a better option than paying to bring on the team from the beginning “when you may not need it”. However, experience has shown us that (1) all clients going through a divorce can benefit from the addition of allied professionals and (2) to reap the greatest benefits from using the allied professionals, they need to be brought in from the beginning. The pitfalls of waiting to bring in the allied professionals until later are addressed in more detail below.

VII. What Really Makes the Collaborative Team Model Work Better?

Three components are key to the success of the Collaborative Team Model. The first is the “neutral voice” of the allied professional and having that neutral voice on the case from day one. The second is the highly specialized skill set of each professional in the three main areas affected by divorce: emotional, legal and financial. The third is the power of the team. These components combine to make the Collaborative Team Model an effective, efficient and value added process.

1. Why is it Important to have a “Neutral Voice” in a Divorce?

A. The Neutral Voice Restores Trust to the Process

The allied professional’s involvement is fundamental to a successful collaboration because it brings to the table a “neutral voice” that you can trust. Once an allied professional enters the room, the psychological dynamic of the process is fundamentally changed. No longer is it “his side” versus “her side”. When the only people sitting in the room are the two lawyers and their clients the impulse is to regress into an “us vs. them” mentality. The neutral voice rearranges the dynamic within the room allowing an “us vs. the problem” mentality to prevail. This change in the dynamics is critical to transforming the process from one in which clients are highly fearful and suspicious to one where clients are more trusting and open to perspectives outside their own.

B. The Neutral Voice Negates the “Discount Factor”

Spouses in a divorce are more likely to listen and respond to the neutral voice of the allied professional with an open mind than to a lawyer. Lawyers are viewed as aligned with their clients and as presenting agendas that support their respective client’s interests. The lawyer’s words, options, and suggestions, no matter how neutrally presented, are discounted and rarely perceived as neutral. Discounting also routinely occurs between spouses even in the best of marriages. In a divorce, this discounting is magnified a thousand times.

You may even experience this “discounting” if you mention to your spouse that you would like to use the collaborative model for your divorce and the main reason it is rejected is because you mentioned it. In cases where this may happen, your lawyer may ask you to find someone whom you both can trust (your pastor, family therapist, favorite uncle), educate that person about the collaborative model, and have that person sell the idea to your spouse. This is the same concept at work using neutrals in the Collaborative Team Model.

This “discount factor” is also observed over and over in the collaborative process. For example, wife’s skilled collaborative lawyer suggests an option that is probably more in the husband’s interest, yet the reaction of the husband is to instantly discount it. However, when the allied professional makes the same suggestion, husband more readily agrees. The reason is that the husband understands that the allied professional has no hidden

agenda or bias and can be trusted to assist both parties with achieving their best outcomes under the circumstances.

Many people choose collaborative law because they believe that they can “work it out” with their spouse; however, they underestimate the “road blocks” they will face when one or both of them begins to distrust the other and/or the other lawyer. No matter how much you may think your case will run smoothly or how honest and well-intended you and your spouse and both lawyers are in the process, it is almost inevitable that at some point one of the spouses will distrust the other and/or the other lawyer. In collaborative team model, the parties can work through any distrust by placing their trust in one or both of the allied professionals. When this happens, the process forward more quickly and efficiently since the “bottleneck” that results from distrust is removed.

C. The Neutral Voice Negates the “Advocacy Factor”

It is crucial to a successful resolution to obtain from you and your spouse honest and candid answers to difficult questions. Even when a lawyer frames the “tough question” in a neutral manner, it is normal for spouses to be defensive and even to censor their answers. Because of the lawyer’s role as an advocate, the clients perceive the tough questions asked by either lawyer as tactical, and they alter their answers accordingly. Because the allied professional is not an advocate or aligned with either party, he is often the best person in the room to ask the tough questions without being met with censorship or client defensiveness.

D. The Neutral Voice is Often the “Voice of Reason”

Because the allied professional is the only person who is truly neutral and without bias in the collaborative team divorce process, often she is the only “voice of reason”. Many times it is this voice of reason that allows the parties to find common ground and settle their differences.

2. Why are Other Professionals with Specialized Skills Critical to Obtaining the Best Outcome?

Imagine you have been in a terrible car wreck and you find yourself in the emergency room bleeding profusely with a smashed femur and swelling on the brain. Would you want the doctor on staff, albeit a highly trained emergency room doctor, to make all the decisions about your course of treatment and perform surgery without consulting any specialists? Probably not. Even though the ER doctor is highly trained, treats severe injuries everyday, and is an expert in crisis medical care, he does not possess the specialized medical knowledge to increase the odds that you will survive this trauma and minimize long term damage. To meet those goals, the ER doctor brings in a team of specialists (an anesthesiologist, an orthopedic trauma surgeon and a neurologist) to treat the patient’s different injuries. Each doctor brings specialized knowledge, and they work as a team to treat the “whole” patient.

Like the accident victim, divorce clients (even those that choose the collaborative model) are in a crisis. That crisis is multidimensional and

involves legal, emotional and financial obstacles. The lawyer's natural instinct is to try to help the client overcome all of the obstacles. Since the lawyer does not have specialized credentials or skills in the psychological and financial fields, the lawyer's guidance will be more effective if "specialists" in those areas are brought into the process.

For example, the tension and strain in a divorce caused by an affair is more likely to be defused by a skilled MHP than a lawyer. Likewise, the cash flow crisis that often exists when one household is split into two will be more creatively and effectively addressed by an FP than a lawyer.

In both instances, the allied professionals have worked resolutions to these problems hundreds, perhaps thousands of times before and can draw on their specialized education, training and experience to assist the parties. Just like the ER doctor, the wise collaborative lawyer recognizes her limitations and engages skilled allied professionals to bring to the collaborative table the level of proficiency required to achieve the parties' maximized outcome.

3. What is The Power of the Team?

Corporate America has taught us that teams are more effective than individuals. A team is defined as a small number of people with complementary skills who are equally committed to a common purpose and working approach for which they hold themselves mutually accountable. In the lawyer only and lawyer referral models the allied professionals and lawyers do not function as a team. In the Collaborative Team Model they interact as a classic team.

The Collaborative Team Model is a highly effective process because as any sports fan knows, teams outperform individuals especially when performance requires multiple skills, judgments and experiences. A great quarterback will never be effective without a solid offensive line. It is no different in your divorce. Because every divorce client's needs are multidimensional, multiple skills, judgments, talents, and experiences are required to maximize the outcome.

Having a team available to help you with your divorce can lead to more creative and unique resolutions due to the fact that there are other skilled professionals involved adding their expertise/thoughts/ideas to the case. A team can also operate more efficiently when working together to achieve a common goal and that efficiency leads to less time spent on the case (quicker results) and often lower overall costs. Additionally, since the neutrality of the allied professionals decreases the adversarial nature of the case, there is more space available for the parties and the team to think outside the box and to create tailor made solutions to the parties' problems.

VIII. What are Some of the Specific Advantages of Engaging an MHP?

1. Professional Focused on Managing Emotions

In the vast majority of cases, emotions dictate the course of the divorce. Recognizing that emotions overlay all of the issues, including legal and financial, engaging an MHP to focus one hundred percent of his efforts on identifying, addressing and managing emotions is a wise use of your resources. Often cases deteriorate not because the financial or legal options are unacceptable, but because emotional issues block one or both parties from making decisions that are in their and/or their children's best interests.

Additionally, the reality is that most folks, no matter how high functioning they normally are, will operate at a lower functioning level when going through a divorce due to the stresses involved with losing a spouse, restructuring a family and making a major life change. Thus, it makes sense to involve a professional in the divorce whose sole job is to identify, handle, address, and work through the emotions of a divorce.

A. Effective Communication

If you are interested in getting your goals met in your divorce, regardless of what those goals are, effective communication between you and your spouse is critical. The MHP is trained in the complex dynamics of interpersonal communications. The MHP's involvement can improve and maximize communications not only between you and your spouse but also between members of the team. In addition, the MHP can model effective communication skills and provide you and your spouse with constructive techniques to help you resolve your differences.

B. Identify and Defuse Emotions

Lawyers and clients often miss or misinterpret emotional issues. The MHP is trained to identify emotional red flags and defuse "hot buttons" before lasting damage is done. In addition, the MHP can help the clients and lawyers realize that not all emotional issues can be resolved quickly and that needing time or having unresolved emotions is normal.

C. Constructive Feedback

The MHP is in a unique position to provide feedback to the clients and the lawyers. Because the MHP is neutral, the clients and lawyers are more receptive to the MHP's observations and suggestions for improving communications, building relationships between team members and keeping the process on track.

D. Reality Check

It is possible that you and/or your spouse may have unrealistic expectations/ideas relating to the divorce. Often clients need a reality check to help them resolve issues. For example, parents are often misguided about the effect of relocation on their children. A lawyer's attempt to bring her client into reality on this issue is often futile because she lacks the credentials and expertise in the client's mind to give this type of advice. The

reality check offered by the licensed MHP is harder to discount and thus more likely to bring the client around.

E. Cost Effective

Engaging an MHP is cost effective. Although this benefit was mentioned earlier in the article, it's worth repeating. Because the MHP can work with you and your spouse directly without lawyer involvement to address unresolved emotional issues, the reduction of lawyer time spent on those issues can be a huge cost savings to you. Additionally, recognizing and addressing the "hidden agenda items" is often the key to resolving the issues in a divorce and the MHP does this more efficiently thus more cost effectively.

F. Reduces Stress

The mere presence of an MHP makes the environment less stressful. Clients feel safer knowing that the MHP is focused on the best interests of the family and children, if any, as well as on managing the emotions and minimizing the conflicts in the process. Clients also feel safer knowing that when an MHP is assisting them with options for resolution, since he is neutral, he will to the extent possible offer suggestions that are in both parties' interests.

G. System in Place to Resolve Future Conflicts

Once divorced, you will have to co-parent your minor children with your spouse for years to come (depending upon their ages). Post-divorce lawsuits about children are very common and quite frankly, keep lawyers in business. If you run into difficulties/disagreements after the divorce about your children, you and your spouse could agree to return to the MHP to help resolve future child-related conflicts. This built-in system will operate to keep you out of the courthouse in the future and thus will benefit the over-all well being of your restructured family.

IX. We Already Went to Marriage Counseling, so Why Should We Hire an MHP?

An MHP engaged in a collaborative divorce does not provide therapy. That is not their role; however, the MHP is qualified to assess and refer a party to therapy if needed. Most likely if you have been to counseling with your spouse, it was to fix or save your marriage. At the point of filing for divorce, your marriage may be over and you are now facing moving to a new place in your life and restructuring your family if you have children. The MHP's job is to assist you with making decisions about "uncoupling" and restructuring your family in the healthiest way possible.

X. What are the Advantages of Engaging a Financial Professional?

A. One Financial System is Cost Effective

The FP puts one financial system in place at the inception of the case which streamlines the process and eliminates duplicative efforts to gather, organize, analyze and present financial information. Also, when both clients are using the same forms to gather and analyze financial information, and the FP then integrates the information into joint documents, the clients can move more quickly through the process to resolution. In addition, neutral evaluation of assets is less expensive.

B. Reality Check

As with the MHP, the neutral voice of the FP can provide you and your spouse with a built-in reality check. Clients are more likely to hear and accept the limitations of their finances when that information is delivered by the FP versus the lawyers. For example, a wife who desires to maintain the family residence but cannot afford to on her income is more likely to accept this “bad news” when delivered by the FP.

C. Financial Education and Empowerment

Spouses are not always willing to admit that they do not understand their finances, especially in front of the lawyers or the other spouse. FPs often find that clients are more willing to admit this lack of understanding in one on one meetings. A fair amount of settlements do not happen because a spouse does not understand the finances and as a result is afraid or simply unable to make a decision. An FP is in a better position to educate a client about financial matters thus empowering the client to make informed financial decisions.

D. Builds Credibility for the Numbers

Where one spouse is more knowledgeable about the finances than the other, it is often difficult for the less knowledgeable spouse to trust the financial information provided by the more knowledgeable spouse. A spouse is less likely to agree on a financial settlement if that spouse does not trust the numbers. Credibility for the numbers can be built into the process by having the neutral FP involved in the financial information gathering, analysis and presentation.

E. Reigns in the Financial “Know it All”

Many divorce clients are business executives, bankers, accountants, and the like, and often think they know more about the financial end of their divorce than do their lawyers (even if that is not the case). You may be one of these clients. Often these clients come to the process with preconceived ideas about how the financial settlement should be structured and a resistance to engage in genuine option assessment. When the highly skilled FP is involved, the financially savvy spouse may recognize that he does not know everything about financial planning as it relates to divorce, and may be more receptive to considering additional settlement options presented by the FP.

F. Efficiency in Financial Information Gathering

For various reasons, clients often resist giving financial information to the other spouse. Sometimes they feel it is a waste of time or that the spouse will criticize his spending or handling of finances. When a neutral FP is fully integrated into the process, trust is instilled and the parties may be more likely to hand over the information. Additionally, since the FP focuses one hundred percent of her time on the financial issues, the required financial information is gathered in a more complete and timely manner.

G. Reduces Stress

Conflicts about money create tremendous tension in marriages. Money is one of the leading causes of divorce. Money conflicts are carried over and magnified in a divorce. Additionally, clients are often very fearful about their financial futures which only heightens their anxiety. Involving a neutral FP whose main goal is to assist the parties with maximizing their financial security can provide a great source of comfort to and alleviate fears of divorcing spouses.

XI. Why Shouldn't We Wait to Hire an Allied Professional until We Need Him?

If the allied professionals are not brought in at the beginning, by the time the parties get into trouble and realize that they need someone else to help settle the case, it may be too late. Even if the case is salvaged, much of the benefit of the allied professionals is lost or diluted when they are not engaged from the beginning. Additionally, by not assembling the team from the beginning you lose the benefits of the team approach outlined in this article.

The following examples illustrate additional pitfalls of waiting to engage the allied professionals.

A. Late Entry Pathologizes the Parties

Involving an MHP after things "get out of hand" only pathologizes the normal behavior of spouses stressed by divorce. You and your spouse are better off if your lawyers build a process that anticipates and manages the wide range of emotions that are inherent in every divorce. By involving the MHP at the outset, the lawyers will signal to you and your spouse that it is okay to fall and if you do, there will be someone skilled to help you back up.

B. Late Entry Produces Distrust

An FP brought in later may suggest that there is a lack of trust about the financial information. Likewise an MHP brought in later may cause the parties to distrust that the process is going to work. Collaborative lawyers have found that involving an allied professional later in the case often has not helped the matter because the parties felt that at the point the allied was brought in "the damage was done" and/or that the late entry by the allied professional was perceived by one or both parties as "being too late" or

“something must really be wrong if we need yet another professional on our case”.

It becomes obvious how it could take longer (think more dollars paid to your lawyers and your allied professionals) for the parties to repair damage and re-build trust when working with an allied brought in later to “fix” a problem than it would for the parties to have dealt with the difficult issue with the allied on board from the beginning. When the team is in place from the beginning, the lawyers convey the message that involving an MHP and an FP is standard operating procedure. Thus, when a road bump is reached (which it most likely will), working with the MHP and/or FP who is a known and trusted member of the team to resolve the issue will happen with less effort and cost to you.

C. Late Entry Diminishes Neutrality

It is virtually impossible for the allied professional brought in after the fact to maximize the advantage of being a neutral team member. For example, the late entry of an MHP may be perceived as a sign that one of the parties is “dysfunctional” and that the MHP should “fix” her. At that point, the MHP is viewed as aligned with the side seeking to fix the “dysfunctional” spouse which diminishes the MHP’s neutrality.

D. Late Entry Viewed as Outsider

If an allied professional is brought in after the case has started, he is more likely to be viewed as an outsider than an integral team member. When this happens, the parties most likely will marginalize his value, thus reducing or even negating his effectiveness.

E. Late Entry Reduces Synergy

Talia Katz, the Executive Director of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, captured this concept perfectly when she said, “[T]he synergies created by the establishment of the team at the inception of a case can never be replicated when adding ancillary professionals late in the process. We are simply not able to realize the full potential of the team unless we all begin the process together.”

XII. Conclusion

A divorce is a tremendous life stressor and a major life change. You owe it to yourself, your family and especially your children, if you have them, to choose a divorce model that will decrease the stresses of divorce, give you the best chance of success, give your children a smooth transition and inflict the least amount of harm on them. Although the collaborative process without the team provides a divorce without court involvement, it is the team approach that provides skilled professionals who can meet the legal, financial and emotional needs of your divorce and as well as provide an opportunity for you and your spouse to begin to heal the pain and rebuild the trust which is so necessary to your future well being and to the future well being of your children, if any.

The Collaborative Team Model offers you and your spouse an opportunity to be involved in a value added process that increases the likelihood of success, is more efficient and cost effective than the other collaborative models and produces more creative and tailor-made resolutions to your divorce issues. If you are interested in having a better divorce experience and one that is more efficient and cost effective, you should strongly consider the Collaborative Team Model.

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