A person with curly hair, wearing a striped shirt and overalls, is carrying a child on their shoulders. They are walking away from the camera in a field of tall grass. The image is overlaid with a dark blue tint.

Resolving Family Disputes with Respect

– A Different Way

CLA | Collaborative
Law Alliance

Resolving Disputes Respectfully



**Many people seek an
alternative to a traditional
divorce process.**

The Collaborative Model offers a respectful,
solution based path forward.

CLA

The end of a marriage or relationship can be traumatic. Often, the divorce process only adds to the pain. You and your spouse may come to see each other as adversaries and the divorce as a battleground. You may experience feelings of confusion, anger, loss and conflict. Under such circumstances, you may find it difficult to see an end to the divorce, much less imagine a hopeful future afterwards.

But it doesn't have to be this way. A growing number of parting couples, along with other professionals such as lawyers, mediators, psychologists and financial consultants, have been seeking a more constructive alternative by adopting a collaborative approach.

The collaborative model is a reasonable approach to divorce based on three principles:

01.

A pledge not to go to court

02.

An honest exchange of information by both spouses

03.

A solution that takes into account the highest priorities of both spouses and their children

Mutual respect is fundamental to the collaborative approach. You may stop being spouses, but you don't stop being worthy human beings. When respect is given and received, discussions are likely to be more productive and an agreement reached more easily.

From Fighting To Resolving

When couples separate, they believe they're fighting about finances and custody arrangements. They see court as inevitable.

What collaborative lawyers understand is that couples are actually fighting deeper emotional battles that legal proceedings cannot resolve.

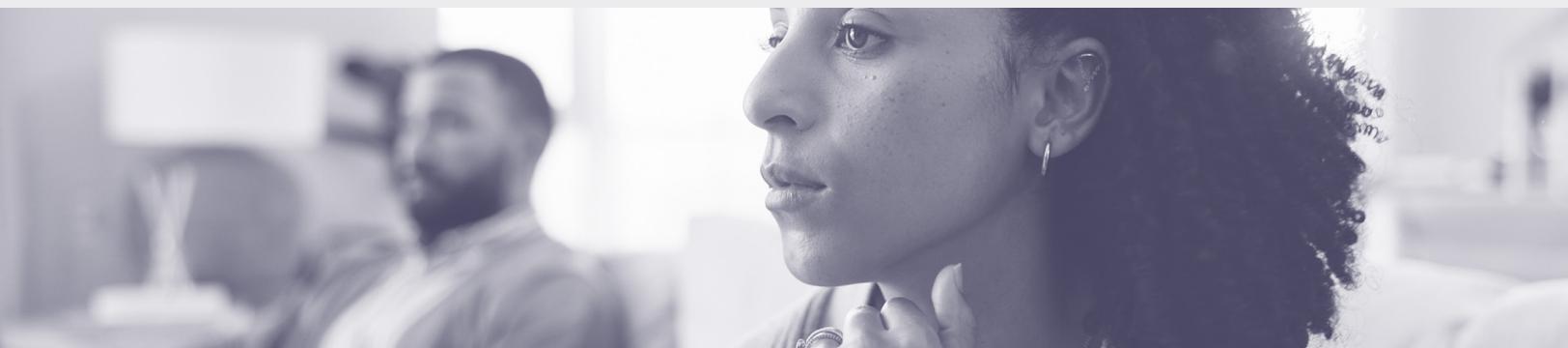
The real issues beneath the surface:

- Fear of losing their children
- Feeling unheard in the relationship
- Unexpressed anger at themselves or their spouse
- Grief for the life they thought they'd have
- Fear about their future

Court does not resolve emotions. When emotions go unmanaged, resolution drags on, legal fees rise, and everybody suffers.

The most powerful legal strategy? Manage the emotions first. When people feel heard and the focus shifts from winning to resolving, everything changes

The collaborative process allows for this shift. By addressing what's really driving the conflict, families find sustainable solutions together outside of court.



A Client-Centred Approach To Divorce

A Pledge To Collaborate

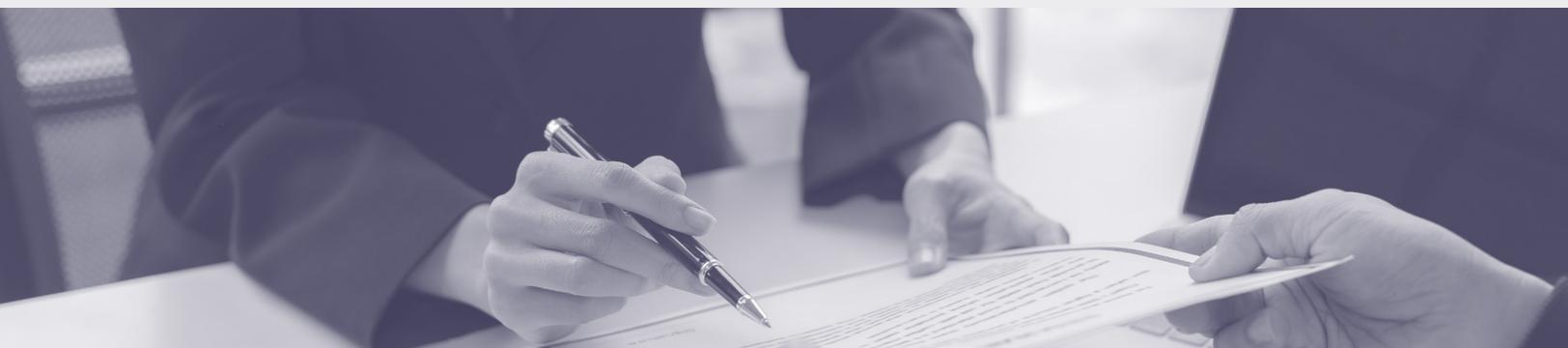
The key difference between the collaborative model and the conventional divorce process is the pledge to reach an agreement without going to court. You and your spouse keep control of the decisions yourselves, rather than giving it to a judge. In order to accomplish that, all of the parties consent in writing to be part of a respectful process that leads to an out-of-court resolution. With the collaborative model, the goal is to develop effective relationships, solve problems jointly, and prevent a court battle.

Open Communication

Even under the best of circumstances, communication can be strained as a relationship is ending. Yet keeping the lines of communication open is essential for reaching an agreement. The collaborative model provides for face-to-face meetings between you, your spouse and your respective lawyers and other advisers as needed. These sessions are intended to produce an honest exchange of information and expression of needs and expectations. When the issues are openly discussed, problem solving can be direct and solution-oriented.

An Agreement Everyone Can Live With

If you've reached a decision about divorce, you may be reassured to know that the collaborative model focuses on achieving resolution. It is designed to protect the interests of children and help you and your spouse move forward with new lives. Throughout, the collaborative process emphasizes cooperating to find solutions. And instead of being an endless airing of grievances, the collaborative model encourages spouses to reach a workable settlement by building on areas of mutual agreement.



Support When You Need It The Most

Divorce usually involves many considerations, from concern for children to financial questions and property matters. Along with handling the overall emotional impact, managing by yourself can be difficult. The collaborative model offers you a supportive approach. You and your lawyer work as a team. Other professionals, including divorce coaches, child specialists and financial consultants, can become part of your team, helping find constructive solutions for wide-ranging issues that arise during divorce and establish goals for the future.

A Focus On The Future

Divorce ends a marriage but need not sever family ties or relationships. Especially when children are involved, lifelong responsibilities remain. By preserving respect and encouraging cooperation, the collaborative model helps parents and children keep family bonds while embracing new lives. Divorce will always remain a significant life event but the collaborative model can lead you and your families to a compassionate and dignified solution and a healthy new beginning.

Collaborative Model At A Glance:

- Encourages mutual respect
- Emphasizes the needs of children
- Avoids going to court
- Keeps control of the process with the individuals
- Provides for open communication
- Utilizes a problem-solving approach
- Identifies and addresses interests and concerns of all
- Prepares individuals for new lives



Lawyers

Name	Tel	Email
Katie Richards (Chair)	441 525 4444	katie@richards.bm
Jacqueline MacLellan	441 504 6467	jackie@maclellan.bm
Nicole Cavanagh (Secretary)	441 542 4511	nicole.cavanagh@careyolson.com
Alma Dismont	441 295 7105	alma.dismont@law.bm
Sarah Bailey-Munroe	441 524 4444	sarah@richards.bm
Jonathan Casey	441 295 1422	jonathan.casey@conyers.com

Coaches

Name	Tel	Email
Lorrie Peniston	441 704 5411	lorrie@synergybda.com
Miriam Shaya-King (Vice Chair)	441 292 3456	miriam@solstice.bm
Robert King	441 737 8813	robert@solstice.bm

Financial Planner

Name	Tel	Email
Dianne McLeod Blais	441 524 0039	dianne.blais@butterfieldgroup.com