



COLLABORATIVE LAW

“AT THE END OF THE DAY, WORKING WITH A LAWYER TO GUIDE US THROUGH THE PROCESS MADE THIS LIFE CHANGING TRANSITION MUCH EASIER THAN I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED.”



SINCE 1982

WHAT IS COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW?

Collaborative law is a relatively new and innovative method of dispute resolution in which the attorneys and the parties work collaboratively to achieve an outcome that is fair and acceptable to both parties. Unlike traditional litigation, parties agree to work collaboratively to control the process and make final decisions together, without litigation. Although the collaborative law method is not for all cases, several of our attorneys are qualified to act as collaborative attorneys for those clients who are looking to for an alternative to the traditional litigation model.

OUR APPROACH

In collaborative family law, two attorneys work with each respective party, as a team, to generate options for a mutually beneficial and acceptable settlement. If necessary, the team can include coaches, therapists, or other professionals to help the parties reach resolution. Ultimately, both clients are agreeing to work together to drive the decisions of their case, rather than turning it over to a judge through traditional litigation. Throughout the process, our collaborative family law attorneys provide information and guidance, helping you and your spouse informed, mutually beneficially solutions.

BENEFITS TO YOU

Clients who opt for collaborative, mediated dispute resolution find that they are able to address their particular needs. After all, no one understands the situation better than those directly involved. Here are a few of the benefits:

- Keeps control of the process and timeline involved
- Promotes open communication between parties and encourages mutual respect
- Emphasizes the needs of children
- Protects privacy
- Prevents court battles and presents a more cost effective approach to litigation

THE PROCESS

The process typically begins with each client meeting with his or her respective attorneys. From there, the two qualified collaborative family law attorneys meet to lay out the ground work for the case and ongoing meetings between the two parties. At the first

meeting, clients and attorneys sign the Collaborative Participation Agreement, which is an enforceable binding contract. The team then continues to meet until full resolution has been reached on all issues. Once a plan is in place, a final judgment is drafted and filed with the court. Although the collaborative law method is most popular for divorce matters, it can also be applied to many other family legal matters such as custody and parenting time issues, child support, domestic partnership or prenuptial agreements, grandparent rights, same-sex marriage issues and more.

IS COLLABORATIVE LAW RIGHT FOR ME?

Collaborative Family Law is for couples who:

- Want an amicable end to their marriage, for the sake of all family members
- Understand the importance of future relations, even after divorce
- Believe it's important to protect children from the emotional conflict divorce can sometimes present
- Want control of their own divorce process

WE CAN HELP.

CONTACT US TODAY TO GET STARTED

Many of our Oregon and Washington attorneys are qualified—and take great pride in providing collaborative law as an option for clients who are exploring family legal issues. If you're interested in learning more about Collaborative Law, or other alternative dispute resolutions—or to find out if it's the right fit for your situation—give us a call at (503) 227-1515 in Portland, or (360) 823-0410 in Vancouver, or request a consultation online.

FOUNDED ON FAMILIES

Gevurtz Menashe is dedicated to family law and estate planning in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. For 40 years, we have built a practice around the core belief that quality care for our clients produces the best outcome when paired with our expertise in the law. We pride ourselves in a reputation for attentive representation of families coping with crisis or preparing for change. Today's families are full of complexity, and we're here to help guide you through it.

Gevurtz Menashe

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