

COLLABORATIVE LAW: IS IT FOR ME?

(Questions lifted from the Association of Collaborative Practitioners – acknowledgment and permission to use)

How do I decide whether Collaborative Practice is the best choice for me?

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I want a civilised, respectful resolution of the issues?
- Do I want to keep open the possibility of civil contact with my spouse/partner in the future?
- Do I want to have the best co-parenting possible with my spouse or partner?
- Do I want to protect my children from the fallout associated with traditional court cases?
- Do we have friends and /or extended family in common that each of us wants to keep in contact with?
- Do I want to take personal responsibility for handling this conflict with integrity?
- Do I want to retain control over the decision making as opposed to leaving it to a Judge?
- Do I want to reach an outcome more specific and suitable to my personal family situation?
- Do I understand that conflict resolution with integrity involves not only achieving my goals but also finding a way to achieve the reasonable goals of my spouse/partner and our children?
- Will I commit all of my resources and energy towards creative problem solving rather than towards seeking recrimination and/or revenge?
- Am I ready to fix the problem rather than to fix the blame?