

Guide to...

...Collaborative Law

Family Law Department



The collaborative process is an alternative to the traditional divorce process and eliminates the need to go to court. It may be for you if you both want more say in what ultimately happens.

Four family lawyers at Hegarty LLP Solicitors have trained in collaborative law, allowing them to offer people who are getting divorced an alternative to the traditional approach of going to court which can be a lengthy and emotive experience.

The experienced family lawyers who can now offer this service at Hegarty LLP Solicitors are Carl Russell, Jane Tatlock, Rachel Strong and Sarah Dawson.

Collaborative law is relatively new, but is now becoming much more popular in this country. It appeals not only because it can potentially save people money and allow them to reach decisions quicker, but people may feel more in control of the process

Couples are often most concerned about financial issues and their children and the impact a divorce could have upon them. Collaborative law allows the couple to speak directly to each other and be guided by the lawyers on reaching the best mutual arrangement for both the children and the parents. People who have gone through the process say that it has allowed them to keep their dignity intact at a very tough time in their life.

What is Collaborative Law?

Very simply, the couple that are separating, and their lawyers, agree in writing to try and reach a reasonable settlement without going to court. The couple and their lawyers have face-to-face meetings to talk through all the issues and come to an agreement.

Is it like mediation?

No, at mediation the mediator is neutral and cannot give you legal advice. With collaborative law, both of the lawyers for each person are present to help

negotiate for their client and provide them with legal guidance.

What are the benefits?

A main factor is that it could help to minimise costs. It can also mean the issues can be resolved more quickly as both parties, with their lawyers, make the decisions between themselves.

Often the couple splitting up feel more in control of events as they can discuss things between themselves at the meeting rather than having to wait for an update from their lawyer.

The couple who are divorcing are confident that their lawyer is doing the utmost to help them reach an agreement, because if an agreement is not reached and they go to court they have to instruct new lawyers.

Can you be sure each party will fulfil their agreement?

Once you have reached an agreement, it is fully binding and becomes the divorce settlement. If either party do not carry out their side of the agreement then it could mean going to court.

Why use Hegarty LLP?

For over 30 years Hegarty LLP Solicitors has provided high quality legal services to a wide range of business and individual clients. The firm has a strong regional presence as well as a growing national reputation in key areas of law. The firm holds the Lexcel Practice Management Standard and ISO 9001:2008 - your independent verification that the firm is reputable and client focused. Lawyers in the family law department are all professionally qualified and have a wealth of experience in this area of law.

Where can I find details of other local collaborative family lawyers?

Please turn over for a list of local collaborative family lawyers.

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All-together better solutions

More information about Collaborative law can be found at the Peterborough Collaborative Law Group website: www.pcfg.co.uk. Please find below a list of collaboratively qualified lawyers:-

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