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Legal solutions to help you achieve closure.



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Australia's leading team of accredited law experts.

## COLLABORATIVE LAW

Collaborative Law is a form of Dispute Resolution where clients and their respective lawyers agree to work together to find a fair solution without involving the Court system.

In a family law context this involves all parties and their lawyers collaborating to achieve an agreement to their financial and/or parenting related issues arising from a separation. The majority of the negotiations take place in "4 way" face to face meetings between the parties and their lawyers where the important issues are identified and negotiated. Once an agreement is reached the lawyers will draw up a document which may be submitted to the Court to become a Consent Order. The parties and their lawyers can be assisted by other professionals (eg. an accountant in property matters or a counsellor in parenting matters).

### Advantages to Collaborative Law

- A dignified, non-aggressive resolution of the issues can be achieved;
- A child's best interests can be put at the forefront;
- The costs of animosity generated by court litigation, both emotional and financial can be avoided;
- The parties' retention of control over financial and parenting decisions can be achieved;
- The timing of the collaborative meetings can be arranged at the convenience of all the participants, not at the Court's convenience; and
- In the true model the parties and lawyers agree that if an agreement is not reached in collaboration the lawyers cannot represent the parties in subsequent litigation. This tends to mean that the participants tend to try harder to reach a satisfactory resolution.

“Settle <sup>disputes</sup>  
without  
a court hearing”

[Click here](#) to see "Why choose a Watts McCray Family Law Mediator, Arbitrator or Collaborative Lawyer?"

Contact us on +61 2 9283 5877 (Sydney/Parramatta/Norwest)  
or our Canberra office on +61 2 6257 6347 for further information