



Collaborative Family Law – A new approach to divorce.

Stewart and Watson now has a lawyer trained in collaborative family law. This is a relatively new way of dealing with family disputes. Each person appoints their own lawyer who is trained in collaborative family law. Instead of negotiations between you and your partner by letter or phone you meet to work things out face to face. This prospect is easier for some than others but our family lawyer is trained to handle the difficulties that can arise.

Each of you will have your lawyer by your side and will benefit from legal advice as you go. The aim is to resolve family disputes amicably without going to court through discussions between the parties rather than by threats of court.

You will meet individually with your separate lawyers to talk about what to expect in the collaborative meetings and in order to prepare for the first 'four way' meeting.

At the first four way meeting the lawyers will make sure that you both understand that you are making a commitment to working out an agreement without going to court and all four sign an agreement to this effect.

You and your partner will be invited to share your own objectives in choosing this process and you will all plan the agenda for the next meeting. This will depend on your own individual circumstances but might typically include a discussion about how the children are responding to the separation.

Subsequent meetings will typically deal with you and your partner's particular priorities and concerns. You might look at involving other professionals such as specialists in pensions and financial planning, or people trained to assist children in understanding and coping with the changes that divorce or separation bring to their lives. The meetings will enable you to reach agreement on how the finances will be shared or what arrangements need to be made for any children.

Mediation – Resolving issues together

In addition our family lawyer is trained in mediation. Typically this involves meeting both parties together, using legal knowledge and mediation skills to go through the issues in dispute to see if parties can mutually agree how they are going to deal with such issues as contact to their children or the parties finances. Mediation seeks to have one solicitor and the parties work together in resolving how they separate rather than each having to go to the expense of getting their own solicitors.

Contact:

Alan Duffill, Family Lawyer on



(01261) 815493



aduffill@stewartwatson.co.uk