

What is the Peterborough Collaborative Practice?

PCP is an association of Collaboratively trained family law lawyers, financial professionals, and family professionals, who work together in a team setting to help separating couples reach a mutually agreed upon settlement outside of the court.

You and your spouse make a written promise to communicate respectfully, to voluntarily disclose all financial and other relevant information, and to act in good faith as you negotiate towards a settlement. There are no affidavits with hurtful accusations, no threatening letters between lawyers, and no stressful court appearances. Additionally, by avoiding court, your personal and financial information remains completely private.

Our goal at PCP is to assist separating and divorcing couples in working towards a mutually fair and equitable separation agreement. We work to protect the integrity of each family relationship without the animosity, anxiety and financial cost that often accompanies family court. The Collaborative Process is an option generating, problem-solving approach and decision-making is solely up to you and the other party. Our team of legal, financial and family professionals are there to help you prioritize and communicate your most important goals and to keep settlement discussions focused on producing creative and customized solutions that leave everyone as whole as possible.



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Through a unique problem-solving approach that is client-directed and family-focused, we help separating couples stay out of the courtroom and find a resolution that works for them.

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Is the Collaborative Approach right for you?

Preserve Your Assets

By choosing the Collaborative Approach, couples are able to rely on the expertise of their collaborative professionals in order to move towards a mutually agreed upon settlement that works for both parties. The assistance of a neutral collaborative financial professional allows spouses to work together to divide marital assets and marital debt, plan for the future financial needs of the parties, and understand the long-term implications of any settlement proposal considered.

Maintain Your Privacy

Most separating couples want to protect their children and themselves from the risks of a high conflict separation and do not want the personal details of their separation to become public knowledge, as they do in the family court system. In the Collaborative Approach, your privacy is always protected. Only you, your spouse and your team of collaborative professionals know the details of your separation.

Remain in Control of Your Separation

Traditional family law litigation places a great deal of control over your affairs in the hands of the court process. Whereas the Collaborative Approach occurs within the family law framework of Ontario, with both parties and their legal professionals designing and managing the process in accordance with you and your family's wishes and priorities.

Solutions Designed For You

By taking control of the process from the outset, the Collaborative Approach offers separating couples an opportunity to ensure a healthy post-separation relationship. Parents are assisted by their family professional to minimize the negative impact of the separation on themselves and their children, and communicate effectively with the other parent. Family professionals also support parents in creating a parenting plan that is in the best interests of their children, including determining the parenting schedule and how decisions will be made.

Families learn how to recognize, manage and reduce anxiety and detrimental behaviours that may occur during separation as well as prepare for navigating new territory by laying the foundation for a successful amicable relationship moving forward.