

What makes Collaborative Law different from Litigation?

Collaborative Lawyers:

- Shift our perspective, increase our skills, make different use of old tools.
- Move from a view of conflict as a battle of wills to the creation of opportunities.
- Are less concerned with rights than discovering interests and fulfilling needs.
- Detach from the outcome, allowing our clients to choose unpredictable outcomes.
- Accept that the legal answer is only one possible answer, because a judge is required by law to rule in a certain way, it does not control clients' decision making.
- Use their legal knowledge as a guide, not an absolute.
- Trust that clients know what is best for them in the long term.
- Guide clients from anger and disappointment to higher intentions and long-term views.
- Plan forward, not look backwards.
- Use community resources and focus on working together toward solutions.
- Rely on the team for answers. The lawyers don't have to know it all.
- Know that threatening to go to court is a violation of the principle that clients know what they want and need and have power to invent solutions that work.
- Do no harm.