

## SUMMARY OF COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

(Time & Number of Meetings at each stage varies for each case)

**Establishing the framework:**  
Review process and The Help List  
Commitment to process and sign agreements  
Determine team composition



**Gather information:**  
Determine information and documents to gather  
Assign responsibility for gathering  
Share each person's interests, needs and values



**Evaluate for choices and limitations created by:**  
Law, Real World, Parties



**Brainstorm settlement options**  
Evaluate for consequences



**Negotiate to resolution**



**Completion:**  
Marital Settlement Agreement  
Court Required Pleadings  
Signing Documents and Closing

## DESCRIPTION OF COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

### 1. What is Collaborative Process?

*A new process in which anyone involved in a legal dispute, whether it involves divorce, civil or probate cases, works with trained professionals, in addition to attorneys, as part of a team to resolve issues respectfully, without going to court.*

### 2. How does the Collaborative Process work?

- *By considering each person's needs*
- *By the open and complete sharing of information*
- *By utilizing the skills of a team which may include coaches, financial professionals, child specialists, vocational counselors, etc.*
- *By teaching the skills necessary to negotiate and problem-solve difficult issues*
- *By creating a safe environment for difficult conversations*

### 3. What distinguishes Collaborative Process from other methods for resolving legal disputes?

- *The support of an attorney through the entire process*
- *A customized team of professionals addressing legal, emotional and financial topics*
- *A private more cooperative process which will create the opportunity to*
  - (1) make well-informed and appropriate decisions;*
  - (2) develop satisfactory and long-lasting solutions which result in less conflict in the future;*
  - (3) in divorce cases, it protects the children from the power struggles of a court battle and allows parents to truly address their needs*

### 4. What are the key benefits of Collaborative Process?

- *Mutually created and satisfying solutions to difficult issues*
- *Durable agreements*
- *Reduces hostility between parties*
- *Saves time*
- *Saves money*
- *Reduced anxiety*
- *Security and privacy*
- *Less conflict in the future*
- *New tools for effective problem-solving in the future*
- *More control of the outcome*