

## 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 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 & 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:
  - make well-informed and appropriate decisions;
  - develop satisfactory and long-lasting solutions which result in less conflict in the future;
  - 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