

Central London Collaborative Forum

A new way of resolving family law disputes including divorce, separation and parenting

The Central London Collaborative Forum (CLCF) has been launched by some of London's leading family lawyers with the aim of encouraging those involved in complex family disputes to adopt the collaborative approach which has already revolutionised the practice of family law in America.

Collaborative family law practice is relatively new to the UK, the first family collaborative lawyers having trained in October 2003. Now there are over 1,000 trained collaborative family lawyers in the UK and Ireland.

The collaborative approach has proved to be one of the best ways to achieve a dignified resolution of all types of family disputes, including divorce.

The central feature of collaborative work is a pledge by the couple and their lawyers not to litigate the issues in court, but instead to commit to resolve the dispute through co-operative and respectful negotiation, allowing those involved to focus on what is important to them rather than the strict requirements of the court's procedure and timetable.

The collaborative process can reduce costs by avoiding expensive litigation but its main advantage is flexibility allowing people to go at their own pace and to deal with the issues that are most important to them.

All negotiations are done face to face in meetings between the couple and their lawyers. This gives the couple a sense of control often lost in the conventional litigation process. This has been shown to promote negotiated settlements and preserve family relationships for the future. It is of enormous benefit where children are involved since all the evidence shows that children fare much better after their parents separate if parents are able to co-operate over their care and upbringing.

An important element of the collaborative process is the ability to involve other experts, where appropriate, including accountants, independent financial advisors and family consultants with a therapeutic or counselling background who can work with the couple to help deal with the emotional problems arising from the relationship breakdown and the arrangements for the care of the children.

All members of the CLCF are fellows of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, an organisation of 500 of the world's leading family practitioners. Our expertise in dealing with complex family disputes, often with an international element, enables us to ensure that the collaborative process can be used as an effective tool to achieve a dignified resolution of the practical problems, however complex, which arise following the breakdown of a relationship or marriage.

www.centrallondoncollaborativeforum.com

Further information

www.centrallondoncollabrativeforum.com



DOUGLAS ALEXIOU
Alexiou Fisher Philipps
dalexiou@afp-law.co.uk

TIM AMOS, QC
QEB Chambers
t.amos@qeb.co.uk

CHARLOTTE BRADLEY
Kingsley Napley
cbradley@kingsleynapley.co.uk

SIMON BRUCE
Farrer & Co
sjb@farrer.co.uk

ALEX CARRUTHERS
Hughes Fowler Carruthers
a.carruthers@hfclaw.com

DEBBIE CHISM
Stewarts Law
dchism@stewartslaw.com

PAMELA COLLIS
CKFT
pcollis@ckft.com

JANE CRAIG
Manches
jane.craiq@manches.com

DAVID DAVIDSON
Charles Russell
david.davidson@charlesrussell.co.uk

MICHAEL DRAKE
Collyer Bristow
michael.drake@collyerbristow.com

MICHAEL GOURIET
Withers LLP
michael.gouriet@withersworldwide.com

NICOLE HACKETT
Family Law in Partnership
nh@flip.co.uk

MARK HARPER
Withers
mark.harper@withersworldwide.com

EMMA HARTE
Alexiou Fisher Philipps
eharte@afp-law.co.uk

EMMA HATLEY
Withers
emma.hatley@withersworldwide.com

ANN ISON
Hughes Fowler Carruthers
a.ison@hfclaw.com

ALAN KAUFMAN
Finers Stephens Innocent LLP
akaufman@fsilaw.co.uk

JANE KEIR
Kingsley Napley
jkeir@kingsleynapley.co.uk

SUZANNE KINGSTON
Dawsons
s.kingston@dawsons-legal.com

LISA FABIAN LUSTIGMAN
Withers LLP
lisa.lustigman@withersworldwide.com

WILLIAM MASSEY
Farrer & Co
wmm@farrer.co.uk

DIANA PARKER
Withers
diana.parker@withersworldwide.com

SUSAN PHILIPPS
Alexiou Fisher Philipps
sphilipps@afp-law.co.uk

MAGGIE RAE
Clintons
mrae@clintons.co.uk

NIGEL SHEPHERD
Mills & Reeve LLP
nigel.shepherd@mills-reeve.com

JANE SIMPSON
Manches
jane.simpson@manches.com

JAMES STEWART
Manches
james.stewart@manches.com

LIZ VERNON
Clintons
lvernon@clintons.co.uk



A better way to divorce