

# A DIFFERENT WAY TO DIVORCE

A group of Colchester lawyers and financial advisers have launched a method to enable members of the public to find out more information about an alternative way to manage their separation or divorce. The Colchester Collaborative Law Group was formed in September 2005 and since that time its members have assisted many couples in resolving the differences that have arisen in connection with their separation or divorce. They have now launched the voucher, which appears at the

foot of this article, which offers a free 15 minute information session with one of the participating Collaborative Lawyers to explain to individual clients how Collaborative Family Law can help them. Please tear out the voucher and contact one of the people listed below for a discussion.

Collaborative law is a completely different approach. A divorcing or separating couple together with their lawyers sign a

binding agreement to work together to reach an amicable settlement. Rather than communicating solely through lawyers, the couple and their legal representatives get together in the same room to reach an amicable agreement. Rather than fighting tooth and nail, divorcing couples are encouraged to work together to find the best solution for everyone. Everything is conducted in a confidential way. Nothing is binding until both parties

agree. There are no time limits and the process can work as quickly or as slowly as couples decide. There is no need to wait for a Court date and no Judge making decisions which satisfy neither party. The only time that the Court is involved in the process is where both parties have reached an agreement and a Judge is asked to make an order setting out the terms which have been agreed.

Couples can bring in impartial experts such as independent financial advisers who can assist them in making the right financial decisions for them and their family.

An important principle which underlines the whole process is that if agreement cannot be reached, which is rare, the couple must start again with new lawyers by the traditional process. This in itself encourages people to reach an agreement without going to Court.

The benefit to couples is that everybody is working together to reach a solution that it is best for that particular family. Having face to face meetings helps reduce conflict and encourages people to put their differences behind them and focus on what is best for the family as a whole.

Most family lawyers see it as part of their duty to keep their clients out of Court. Most of the most experienced family lawyers in Colchester have undertaken the

collaborative training and offer Collaborative Family Law as a route to assist their clients in resolving the differences that arise on separation or divorce. In order to expand public awareness of Collaborative Family Law, Colchester Collaborative Lawyers have also produced a leaflet which is available on their website at [www.collaborativelawyerscolchester.co.uk](http://www.collaborativelawyerscolchester.co.uk), where there is further information about the collaborative law process.



## The Collaborative Lawyers participating in the voucher scheme are:

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 **Collaborative Lawyers Colchester**  
[www.collaborativelawyerscolchester.co.uk](http://www.collaborativelawyerscolchester.co.uk)

Free 15 minute information session with one of our Collaborative Lawyers  
OR

One of the specialist Resolution Accredited Independent Financial Advisers (IFAs)  
Feel free to cut out this voucher and give it to your spouse or partner

For further information about the collaborative law process visit the website [www.collaborativelawyerscolchester.co.uk](http://www.collaborativelawyerscolchester.co.uk)