

Mediation & Collaborative Family Process...

both facilitate a cooperative out-of-court, restructuring of the family in the dissolution of a significant relationship. Mediation and Collaborative Process help you and your spouse or partner resolve key issues, develop solutions that meet your needs, and negotiate a fair and livable agreement that supports a healthy emotional and a healthy financial life without the Court making the decisions.

What is Collaborative Process?

A solution-finding approach which genuinely and realistically addresses the needs of all family members in a timely manner. A team of specially trained collaborative professionals assists in developing workable agreements, tailored to your own particular needs and interests, and those of your family, spouse, partner and children. A promise to stay out of court is signed by all participants at the outset of the Collaborative Process and the Court accepts and grants its judgment based on your settlement agreement.

The Collaborative Team Approach Costs Much Less

Collaborative Process, with its careful and coordinated use of affordable neutral team specialists, cuts legal fees and provides more lasting value for the money you must spend. You pay your collaborative attorney to help you negotiate a coherent and livable settlement agreement and get you through necessary legal procedures in the shortest time possible.

Which Family Law Disputes Can Be Resolved with Collaborative Process?

- ✓ Separation and Divorce
- ✓ Child Custody and Visitation
- ✓ Spousal and Child Support
- ✓ Equitable Property Division
- ✓ Domestic Partner and Significant Relationship Break-ups
- ✓ Guardianships & Conservatorships

Choosing Martie as Your Mediator

Mediation is a voluntary process leading to an amicable dissolution of your marriage or domestic partnership. To work effectively, both parties must intend to be honest, fair and cooperative in working with Martie. Martie facilitates both parties in maintaining a level playing field, raising concerns, sharing openly all information, and coming to a mutually agreeable settlement agreement covering all necessary and relevant issues. As your Mediator, Martie does not represent either individual party. If you wish, Martie will prepare and submit all necessary filings with the Court.

Choosing Martie as Your Collaborative Attorney

Collaborative Process is appropriate when you know you do not want to go to Court and feel the need for individual support before and during settlement negotiations with your spouse or partner. You are empowered by specially trained skilled coaches, neutral child specialists and financial specialists who, as needed, inform and guide you in creating new workable options, and assure equal understanding of complex information and complex issues.

Collaborative Team Members include Martie, you and your partner or spouse, their collaborative attorney, and, neutral professionals working together to build an effective settlement.

How Can Your Spouse or Partner Find A Collaborative Attorney?

The Collaborative Council of the Redwood Empire (CCRE) website is a resource your spouse or partner can use to find their collaborative attorney and where you can read about other specially-trained prospective collaborative team members.

www.collaborativecouncil.org

How Do I Get Started on a Collaborative Process Divorce?

- ✓ You schedule an appointment with Martie to discuss your case and the details of your collaborative process.
- ✓ You talk with your spouse or partner about Collaborative Process and share this brochure. (A downloadable copy is available at www.divorcewithcare.com)
- ✓ Your spouse or partner chooses an attorney committed to keeping the collaborative process on track.
- ✓ You and your spouse or partner and both attorneys sign a collaborative agreement not to go to court.
- ✓ All attend the first informal four-way collaborative meeting to create short-term agreements for present needs and plan the next steps in your collaborative process.

To schedule your initial consultation with Martie, please call:

707-789-0390

www.divorcewithcare.com

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DIVORCE WITH CARE

What are the Benefits of Collaborative Family Process?

Conscious

You have the support you need to be self-aware and calm.

Self-Responsible

You take responsibility for making healthy decisions.

Non-Adversarial

A Team Approach assists in understanding perspectives and building consensus.

Private Process

No Court Appearances • No Trial

Private informal meetings meet your process needs, according to your schedule.

Less Expensive, A More Efficient Personalized Process

You pay for fewer billable hours, and you get better value for the money you spend. Your Collaborative Process and Team are tailored to meet to your needs and budget.

Protects Children

You are supported in addressing your children's essential needs. A Child Specialist may be part of the team to help you and your spouse or partner understand and serve your children's specific requirements and build the best co-parenting plan.

Reduces Conflict and Stress

Divorce Coaches assist you in saying what needs to be said with clarity and respect.

Practical Financial Results

A Financial Specialist assists you and your spouse or partner in finding practical and effective financial options.

Builds A More Creative, Workable Settlement Agreement

You and your Collaborative Team work out settlement terms you can say yes to.



Martie H. Leys
Collaborative Attorney and
Mediator

Martie H. Leys' legal approach as a collaborative family law attorney and mediator is informed by earlier careers as a social worker and educator.

Martie graduated from the USF School of Law and was admitted to the California bar in 1994. While in law school, she served as an intern mediator with Alameda Co. Family Court Services, where she mediated custody disputes and made recommendations to the Court. She also clerked for the Law Offices of Margaret L. Anderson in Santa Rosa and the Law Offices of Irv Piotrkowski in Petaluma.

In addition to her J.D. degree, Martie holds a B.A. from Antioch College and an ESL teaching certificate from Sonoma State University.

She is an active member of the Collaborative Council of the Redwood Empire, and chairs the Speaker's Committee. She is an active member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, the Bar Association's Family Law Section, Women-In-Law, and the Petaluma Chamber of Commerce. Martie also serves as a Sonoma County Superior Court Case Management Panelist and works with the nonprofit service organization, Lawyers with Heart, which raises funds for free and affordable legal services in Sonoma County. Martie is currently serving on the Sonoma County Bar Association Board of Directors.

Martie is the mother of four grown children. She lives and Scottish dances with her life-long partner, Robert, in Cotati.

www.divorcewithcare.com



DIVORCE WITH CARESM

A New "Out of Court" Settlement Approach To Divorce with Dignity and Respect

"My mission is to help you reach a workable settlement in a calm and respectful manner, maximizing the emotional well-being and financial security of your whole family."

Martie H. Leys
Collaborative Attorney and Mediator

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