



# Collaborative Law

Call us on **0333 344 4885**

[www.stephensons.co.uk](http://www.stephensons.co.uk)

working  
with you,  
for you

# Stephensons

# Collaborative Law

**When a relationship is breaking down, there is usually much to resolve. At the top of the list of priorities are, agreeing fair arrangements for the children and how to divide the assets. With so much at stake and with emotions running high, the prospect of reaching an amicable agreement with a former partner can often seem daunting.**

This is where a new approach to relationship breakdown can help. This new approach is called collaborative law. It is an increasingly popular option for couples who wish to minimise cost, avoid Court (an expensive process) and the potential war of words that can characterise the separation process. Collaborative law is about working things out together through dialogue rather than confrontation. It involves a couple working together with their lawyers as part of a four way team, rather than through the traditionally conflict based approach.

The aim is to resolve differences through discussion rather than in Court. The lawyers sign an agreement preventing them from representing the couple in Court if the collaborative process breaks down. The result is all involved are committed to helping find the solutions by agreement rather than through conflict. Collaborative Law is a process that leaves a couple in control as they dictate the agenda, the pace of discussions and the decisions that are made.

Collaborative law is not a solution for everyone, but it can be beneficial if the couple are:

- Looking to resolve relationship differences as amicably as possible
- Wishing to avoid going to court with the emotional and financial implications of that process
- Concerned about the impact of conflict on the welfare of children
- Wishing to remain in control of the decisions that are made in relation to their finances and childcare
- Are prepared to enter the process in good faith and with an open mind to make it work

We are regularly approached by couples to help them through the collaborative process. To speak to us confidentially call us on:

**0333 344 4885** or email **[enquiries@stephensons.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stephensons.co.uk)**.

**[www.stephensons.co.uk](http://www.stephensons.co.uk)**

# Collaborative Law

Stephensons has specialist solicitors who are accredited and trained collaborative lawyers and who are regularly approached by couples to help them through the process. Collaborative law needs specialist lawyers who are experienced in working in this new way as well as having all the traditional expertise in family law that clients expect.

We have the facilities to invite couples to meet in a safe, calm and comfortable environment, to talk freely and to work through any difficulties surrounding the ending of the relationship. Having reached an agreement, we are able to formalise decisions reached and bring to a conclusion the process of separation, financial settlement and agreements concerning the children.

## Tips for the collaborative process:

- Try and keep the lines of communication open
- Keep things in proportion
- Consider being able to compromise
- Enter the process in good faith and be open-minded
- Stay balanced, positive and productive

It is important to choose the correct option for your situation and our team can help you in making the right choice.

**For more information on collaborative law or any aspect of family law speak to our legal advisers on [0333 344 4885](tel:03333444885).**



# Working with you, for you

At Stephenson's our clients are real people and they live and work in the real world - which at times can be an unpredictable place. But whatever it throws at them we're never far away to help. Because we're real people too and we understand our clients' needs. Our similarities mean we can work side-by-side to get the best outcome possible. It also means we can tailor our legal costs and services to lots of different circumstances. Ensuring everyone gets the representation and result they deserve for their individual circumstances. Our business is to deliver legal services that work for our clients, so you can trust our specialists to take care of things on your behalf.

Call us on **0333 344 4885** or email [enquiries@stephensons.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stephensons.co.uk)

[www.stephensons.co.uk](http://www.stephensons.co.uk)