

Collaborative Law



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Collaborative practice is a new approach to the resolution of divorce and parenting disputes, which has recently arrived from the US and Canada, and it has become an integral part of the Family Law service at Anthony Gold.

There is nothing new in simply resolving family disputes outside the courtroom – more than 90% of our cases are settled in this way. What is so different about the collaborative process is the participation agreement, which is signed by both clients and their respective lawyers. The couples and their lawyers agree **not** to go through the court system unless negotiations break down totally and enter into a contract (the participation agreement) in these terms.

The couple dictate the timetable and cases are typically dealt with through negotiations taking place in roundtable meetings.

The clients' needs, concerns and the best outcome for the family as a whole become the priority.

What issues are appropriate for collaborative practice?

- Decisions about separation or divorce
- Housing and property arrangements
- Parenting arrangements
- Financial support

One other valuable feature of the process is its ability to allow clients to benefit from the participation of other professionals, such as child development specialists, accountants and actuaries, when their distinct set of skills add value and meet the clients' needs.



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