

### Collaborative Divorce and the Family Home



There are many sensitive subjects to discuss and make decisions around when navigating a divorce. However, few are as emotional and difficult as deciding what is best to do with the family home. As the center of family activity, a house is not just a shelter, but a place where memories have been created and shared, and it is not an easy task to come to a decision that will feel equitable to all parties involved. Due to the delicate nature of the matter, it is highly beneficial if both individuals in the partnership can commit to compromise and dialogue when making the decision. A collaborative divorce

supports this type of interaction, and your collaborative team can help you make a decision that puts the health of your family above all else.

So what are the most important factors to consider when deciding on what to do with the family home? In the past, this was an easier topic to navigate, as roles in a relationship were oftentimes dictated by social norms. The man worked, the women took care of the home and the children, so in the case of divorce, the man would move out and leave the home to his ex-spouse and children. Times have changed, however, and every family is unique and different.

There is no “right” answer as to what to do, and there are many options. One person can keep the home and buy the other partner out, the home can be sold and profits shared, or perhaps there is even room for creating an agreement where both individuals can share the space. In a collaborative divorce, your team will look at all factors involved, listen to all of the needs and concerns around the decision, and help guide you to a choice that honors your individual situation. While this will not necessarily be easy, it will be supportive and flexible, with all parties committed to negotiation and compromise for the sake of the family.

It is easy to feel a great sense of loss when you decide that divorce is the best option. It can feel as if the years spent building both a family and home are suddenly being disassembled. The good news is that there are options--if there is an intact sense of mutual respect between you and your former partner, you can continue to work together to honor each other and your respective needs. With the right legal team supporting you, a difficult time can be tempered by a feeling of cooperation and hope that can help ease the pain of starting a new chapter in your life.