

## **Road Map to Resolution Using Collaborative Law Process (Children)**

1. Understanding and Agreeing to the Process
  - A. Reviewing and signing the Collaborative Agreement
  - B. Reviewing and agreeing to the ground rules
  - C. Discussing and setting up additional protocols or ground rules
  
2. Discussing Interests and Goals
  - A. Preparing for discussing of Interest and Goals
    1. Reviewing summary information
    2. Reading material
    3. Preparing with each collaborative lawyer
    4. Determining time and place
  - B. Meeting to discuss interest and goals – at first four-way meeting
  
3. Dealing with Interim Issues
  - A. Temporary Parenting Issues
    1. Sharing of parenting time
    2. Sharing of parental responsibilities
  - B. Temporary Financial Issues
    1. Cash flow
      - a. Expenses
      - b. Income
    2. Status quo
      - a. Limitations on spending
      - b. Management of assets
      - c. Mutual injunctions
  - C. Temporary Housing Issues
    1. Use and access to residences
    2. Moving and set up expenses
  - D. Temporary use of personal property, furniture, furnishings, etc.
  
4. Gathering Information
  - A. Deciding which “Documents We May Need” are requested
  - B. Preparing initial lists or spreadsheets of assets and liabilities
  - C. Providing and review certain basic financial information
  - D. Exchanging/completing draft(s) of Sworn Inventories and Appraisements
  - E. Reviewing underlying documents on Inventory items
  - F. Reviewing additional requested financial information

- G. Reviewing Inventory or Spreadsheet to reach consensus and identify differences
  - 1. Work through differences
    - a. Gather additional information if needed
    - b. Reach compromises for settlement purposes
  
- 5. Generating Possible Resolutions
  - A. Preparing for presenting possible resolutions
    - 1. Looking at summary of information gathered, especially Inventories and Spreadsheets
    - 2. Preparing with one's own collaborative lawyer
    - 3. Determining time and place for discussion
  - B. Brainstorming possible resolutions (as many options and alternatives as can be creatively generated) – Anything goes!
  
- 6. Reaching Agreement
  - A. Beginning to analyze the “brainstorming possible resolutions” in the context of each party's interests and goals
  - B. Evaluate the consequences of choosing the various possible resolutions
  - C. Eliminate resolution ideas which do not sufficiently meet important goals of either party
  - D. Narrow the resolution ideas to those which meet the most of both parties' interests
  - E. **Finalize the agreement** to yield the best possible outcome with the lawyers' input as to legal consideration.