

BENEFITS OF MEDIATION & COLLABORATIVE LAW

1. ***Privacy:*** Collaborative Law and Mediation allow the parties to resolve their differences in the privacy of their lawyers' offices. Unlike litigation, the couple does not rely upon a Judge to decide their case and therefore, their personal matters are not public record.
2. ***Cost-effective:*** Collaborative Law and Mediation give the parties an opportunity to utilize their attorneys or mediators as tools in the process, rather than zealous advocates. As such, the parties can lower their costs to resolve their matter. The typical NJ divorce is \$50,000.00. Typical Mediations and Collaborative cases are a fraction of that cost and the parties ultimately determine how costly the matter will become.
3. ***Control:*** Collaborative Law and Mediation put the power of decision in the hands of the couple, rather than the attorneys or the Judge. The parties work together to develop comprehensive solutions tailored to meet their goals. The focus is on win/win scenarios that do not injure either party financially or emotionally.
4. ***Document Production & Expert Costs:*** In traditional litigation, the parties engage in extensive discovery issuing subpoenas and hiring experts. In Collaborative Law and Mediation the parties voluntarily exchange only those items needed to resolve the matter.
5. ***Interest-based Negotiation:*** Collaborative Law and Mediation allow the parties to determine their destiny and select assets or issues that are most important to them. For example, traditional litigation may divide a home or retirement account in a 50/50 manner. In Mediation or Collaborative Law, the parties may decide that one wishes to retain the home while the other will accept a payment from retirement funds to waive his/her interest in a home.
6. ***Minimizing Psychological Trauma:*** Litigation allows attorneys to use fear to fuel costs and drive parties in opposite directions. Collaborative Law and Mediation seeks to reduce fear and work towards meaningful resolutions that are beneficial for both parties