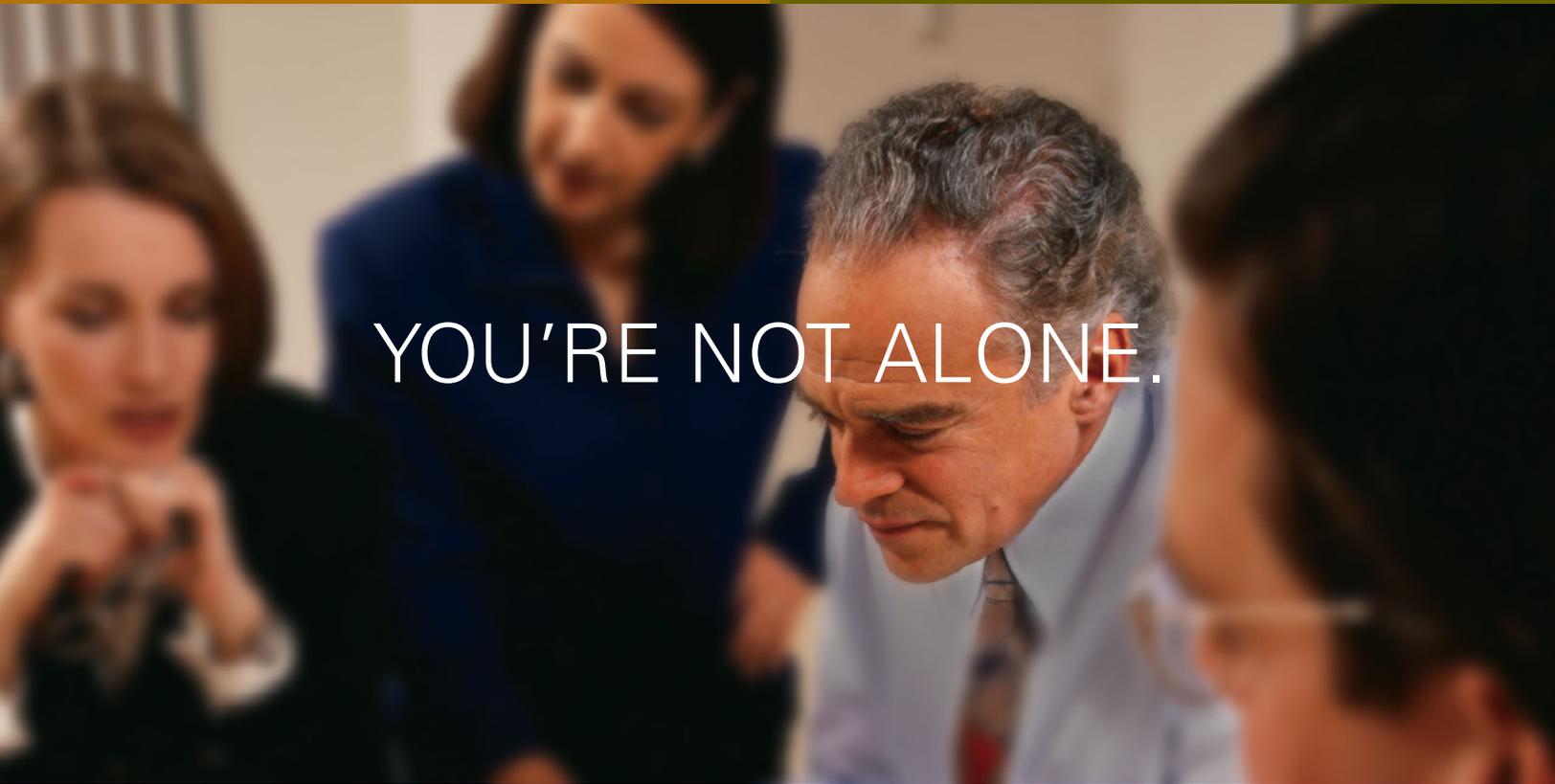


IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN
ALTERNATIVE TO LITIGATION,



YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

A different way to resolve civil disputes.



COLLABORATIVE
PRACTICE

Resolving Disputes Respectfully.

INTRODUCING COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

A SOLUTION— ORIENTED APPROACH



FOR DISPUTES AFFECTING:

- **Businesses**
- **Partnerships**
- **Employment Issues**
- **Probate & Estate Matters**
- **Medical Malpractice**
- **Non-profit Organizations**

A CLIENT-CENTERED
INTEREST-BASED
APPROACH.





Collaborative Practice. It begins with something both sides can agree on: settlement by design.

Disputes affecting businesses, partnerships, employment issues, medical malpractice and probate and estate matters are financially and emotionally disruptive for all parties. Litigation often adds to this by creating entrenched positions, damaging or severing relationships and imposing solutions that are not effective or responsive to the needs of the parties.

But it doesn't have to be this way. A growing number of professionals including, lawyers, financial consultants and coaches have sought a more constructive alternative. These professionals have developed the Collaborative Practice model.

Collaborative Practice is a reasonable approach to dispute resolution based upon these principles:

- A commitment by the parties and their attorneys to resolve their dispute outside the court system
- A process that intentionally pursues settlement from the outset
- An open, honest, yet confidential exchange of relevant information by the parties
- A approach that focuses on the interests of the parties.

Parties will have disputes, but that does not prevent them from working through the dispute together in a process of interest-based negotiation, seeking responsive solutions. Mutual respect is fundamental to the collaborative way. This process is focused on the interests of the parties, not their positions. The results of the Collaborative Process are more productive discussions, more creative negotiations and a greater likelihood of reaching a meaningful agreement.



ACHIEVING A HIGH QUALITY AGREEMENT.

Collaborative Practice focuses on attaining resolution. The collaborative process emphasizes identification of suitable solutions to your dispute. Instead of the airing of grievances and the polarizing of parties against each other, Collaborative Practice creates a vehicle and an environment to help parties reach a superior settlement by building on areas of mutual agreement.

TEAMWORK.

Conflict resolution involves many considerations from financial issues to public image to future relationships. Managing the process of dispute resolution is challenging and time consuming. When necessary, Collaborative Practice offers you a team approach. You and your lawyer work as a team along with other professionals including financial consultants, coaches and other specialists as needed. Scheduling is on the parties' terms. Your team will work together to streamline the process, control costs, and craft constructive solutions for the range of issues associated with your dispute.



A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE.

Disputes can be resolved without burning bridges or severing key relationships, which is especially important when long-term responsibilities and connections remain after the dispute is resolved. By preserving respect, encouraging cooperation and working together to develop options and workable solutions, Collaborative Practice preserves the health and continuity of important relationships.

To find lawyers and other professionals trained in Collaborative Practice in your area, call the collaborative professional whose contact information is shown on the attached business card.

A PLEDGE TO COLLABORATE.

With Collaborative Practice, the goals are to solve problems mutually and privately, preserve key relationships and prevent a draining and costly court battle. The key difference between Collaborative Practice and conventional litigation is the commitment to reach an agreement without going to court. The parties keep control of the process and the decisions, rather than giving them up to a judge or jury. In order to accomplish this, all of the parties make a commitment not to seek court intervention, to stay in the negotiation process and to focus on settlement by design from the onset.



OPEN COMMUNICATION.

Even under the best of circumstances, a dispute can strain communication between parties. Yet keeping the lines of communication open is essential for agreement. Collaborative Practice provides for face-to-face meetings among the parties with their respective lawyers and other advisers and neutral experts as needed. These sessions are intended to produce an honest exchange of relevant information and expression of priorities and expectations. When the issues are openly discussed, problem solving can be direct and solution oriented.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AT A GLANCE:

- Reduces financial, time and emotional costs.
 - Avoids going to court.
- Helps to maintain important relationships.
 - Protects confidentiality and privacy.
- Keeps control of the process with the parties.
 - Encourages mutual respect.
 - Provides for open communication.
 - Utilizes a problem-solving approach.
- Identifies and addresses interests and concerns of all.



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www.collaborativepractice.com

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals