

## **Divorcing? Have You Considered a Collaborative Approach?**

No matter what anyone says, getting divorced is difficult and there's no easy way to do it. It involves a great deal of time, energy, emotion, and money.

We've all heard nightmare stories of litigated divorce where parties fight each other to try to get what they want. But not having control of the process leads to courtroom appearances, discovery of documents, depositions, affidavits, and ultimately, a judge decides what's to happen with your marriage, division of assets, maintenance, etc.

That's the key point; it is your marriage and it is your divorce. You should own it. Most importantly, you should own the process and the negotiations.

### **So, what is Collaborative Divorce?**

As a practice, collaborative divorce was a methodology developed in the 1990's by Stuart Webb of Minnesota. Through various iterations and developmental initiatives, domestically and internationally, this collaborative divorce process has evolved to where we are today.

A collaborative divorce involves a divorce team, which includes a mental health coach, two attorneys, and a financial neutral; a team to help guide the divorcing couple to a negotiated settlement, built on the goals and objectives they set forth. Although divorcing is difficult, this process gives you control.

The IACP, (International Association of Collaborative Professionals), is comprised of professionals working in collaborative practice who are committed to:

- Negotiating a mutually acceptable resolution without having courts decide issues
- Maintaining open communication and information sharing
- Creating shared solutions acknowledging the highest priorities of all

If you're considering a divorce, please be sure to evaluate **ALL** your options.

Feel free to [email me](#) if you have questions about how the process works, or to find out more about collaborative divorce professionals working in the Kansas City Metro, check out [Collaborative Divorce Professionals of Greater Kansas City](#).