



All's fair in collaborative law

With Family Court delays being at an all-time high, separating couples may be looking at alternative processes. Vanda James, partner at law firm Cripps Pemberton Greenish, explains more about the process of collaborative law.

What is collaborative law?

Collaborative law is a solution for separating couples who wish to avoid an acrimonious and lengthy Court process.

What are the benefits?

The breakdown of a relationship, regardless of the circumstances in which it happens, is often very stressful. The aim of the collaborative law process is to minimise stress during divorce whilst also helping couples to agree what will happen regarding the care of their children, where they will live, and how assets can be shared fairly. It is also much quicker and cost effective than formal contested court proceedings.

Is collaborative law right for me?

Not all circumstances are right for the collaborative law process, but it is appropriate for those who:

- Want to avoid the uncertainty and lengthy delays of the court system.
- Are committed to reaching an amicable agreement
- Wish to find a solution that is in the best interests of their children and one that results in a fair outcome

What is the process?

The first step is for you and your partner or spouse to meet separately with a collaboratively trained lawyer to discuss your situation. The purpose of this meeting is for your lawyer to find out more about any worries you may have and ensure the process is right for you.

Your collaborative lawyers would then make contact with each other to consider the issues, and prepare an

agenda of the things to be discussed. Following this, there will be a series of meetings at which you and your partner or spouse will attend with your collaborative lawyers to discuss matters. The process is designed to be respectful to all involved and is completely flexible.

How can I find out more?

At Cripps Pemberton Greenish, our collaboratively trained lawyers have extensive experience in working with couples through this process. If you would like to discuss this, or any other aspect of your separation further, contact [Vanda James](#) on vanda.james@crippspg.co.uk or [+44 \(0\)1892 506 184](tel:+441892506184).