

Is the Collaborative Process for You?

The Collaborative Process is likely to be your best choice if many of the following statements are true for you. Just take the test and see:

1. I understand that minimizing conflict will be very important for us to produce the best possible parenting plan for our restructured family.
2. I value our privacy and don't want the public to know our financial circumstances and other personal information.
3. I recognize that this is going to be tough for us emotionally, perhaps harder for one of us than the other, so I would appreciate someone skilled in dealing with emotional issues to coach us and facilitate our communication.
4. I don't relish having a courtroom battle that results in a stranger making important decisions about my life and the lives our children.
5. I am a busy person and I want to be able to plan any meetings and assignments around my schedule.
6. I want to control how much we spend by doing tasks I can do and making joint decisions about how best to use our resources.
7. I believe that much of the information we need is known to us and what is not can be shared between us informally.
8. I want a process in which we have more control over the costs, the timing and the outcome. I don't want to hand over my family problem to a judge and lose control of it.
9. I would like to understand the short- and long-term financial consequences of the division of our assets and liabilities and the re-allocation of our income and expenses.
10. Having neutral objective experts available to give us specialized advice if we need it makes more sense than each of us hiring an "expert" to say what we want to hear.
11. I recognize that my feelings of wanting to get even, though I feel they are justified, could be financially and emotionally destructive.
12. An amicable resolution that allows us to retain our dignity and to feel that we did the right thing for ourselves and our family appeals to me.

13. I don't like the idea of someone telling me that what works for someone else is going to work for us. I want a solution that fits our unique circumstances.
14. I want to make decisions that have legal consequences with the benefit of a legal advocate who can advise me about the advantages and disadvantages of the choices I make.
15. I think it is best for us to each have a competent advocate who knows how to collaborate, so that we can negotiate effectively.
16. It fits my value system to try to resolve things in a peaceful way rather than to fight about everything.

If you are the kind of person for whom most of these statements are true, you will be very likely to select the collaborative process as the preferred model for resolving your differences or negotiating your agreement.