

Working **together**
to find a solution
RAYDENSOLICITORS



ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION | **COLLABORATIVE LAW**



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Choosing the right family lawyer for your matter is crucial. Paula Butterworth, Lehna Gardiner and Marc Etherington are specialist collaborative lawyers with significant experience in all aspects of family law. As qualified collaborative lawyers, Paula, Lehna and Marc can assist you in finding a positive outcome for you and your family, without the need to attend court.

COLLABORATIVE LAW

Collaborative law offers a more holistic and non-confrontational approach to resolving family disputes. It offers the opportunity to find more creative and flexible solutions than may occur through formal court proceedings and allows couples to focus on the issues that are important to them rather than the issues that a court might prioritise.

Collaborative law can also help separating couples stay on more amicable terms and can be instrumental in maintaining channels of communication which are particularly important if children are involved. Participants have found that it can lead to sounder, longer lasting solutions without the need to attend court.

As part of the collaborative process, each party retains their solicitor, but instead of solicitors corresponding on the issues that arise, both parties come together with their legal representatives, meeting face-to-face to negotiate and discuss the issues. The ultimate aim is to reach an agreement around the table, finding a solution that is tailored to the individual needs of the couple. Collaborative law offers the flexibility to find solutions that a court could not explore or achieve.

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THE BENEFITS OF COLLABORATIVE LAW

- It ensures a fair outcome for both parties and the children.
- It gives you the best chance of maintaining an amicable relationship especially where children are involved.
- You can focus on what is important to you and resolve matters quickly. You remain in control of the process.
- It avoids court proceedings.
- You can achieve a more flexible and creative solution tailored to your family's needs.
- You set the agenda, so you talk about the things that matter most to you and your family.
- As you are not bound by a court timetable, you have the freedom to work through matters at your own pace.
- It is suited to discuss almost all aspects of family law including divorce proceedings, financial settlements, child arrangements and pre and post nuptial agreements.

HOW DOES COLLABORATIVE LAW WORK?

For the process to work successfully, it requires you and your former partner to have a genuine desire to reach an agreement that is fair to the whole family. It also requires a shared commitment to avoid litigation. This commitment will be put into writing.

Collaborative law involves the following steps:

1. You and your partner each instruct a specialist family collaborative lawyer.
2. You both agree with your lawyers to work together as a team to resolve the issues without going to court. Once this has been agreed, all parties sign a Collaborative Participation Agreement reflecting this.
3. There will be a series of meetings with you, your partner and each of your solicitors and other experts if required.
4. You will all work together in a constructive way to find a solution that works for your whole family. The final agreement will be the result of mutual problem-solving.
5. The settlement agreement is drafted by the lawyers and the relevant parts of the agreement will be put into a binding Consent Order.

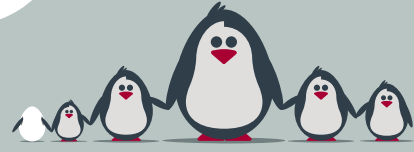
The collaborative process is not for everyone. However, with an open and transparent approach and a genuine desire to achieve what is best for the whole family, lasting solutions can be found. Paula, Lehna and Marc can discuss with you at the outset whether your case is suitable for the collaborative process.

If you would like to find out more please contact **Paula** via email at pab@raydensolicitors.co.uk or telephone **01442 819144**, **Lehna** via email at lfg@raydensolicitors.co.uk or telephone **01727 734260**, or **Marc** via email at me@raydensolicitors.co.uk or telephone **020 3925 4809**.

RAYDEN SOLICITORS

Specialist family lawyers.

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TESTIMONIALS

"Paula is really resilient and pragmatic, and she just deals with things. Very good to deal with and very sensible. Paula kept the client informed and explained things very clearly, ensuring the client understood everything."

Chambers and Partners

"Throughout my long, difficult case Paula has not only been a great lawyer, offering well thought through advice and managing my expectations, but she's also always been calm, caring and supportive, making a difficult process much less stressful and painful for myself and my family."

Client

"I just wanted to say how impressed I was with Lehna, her advice and actions were absolutely fantastic and a credit to the company. Very impressed."

Client

"I cannot thank you enough Lehna for all you personally did and the support you gave me, especially on some of the really difficult days. Without you I doubt I would have got through it all in one piece. You went beyond the call of duty, you are an extremely professional solicitor with compassion and a wonderful heart."

Client

"Marc guided me thoroughly during my children's hearing. He really took the time to calm my nerves and managed my expectations really well. His style of communication was amazing and very paced."

Client

A silver lining
with every dark cloud.
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