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Collaborative Divorce is a Team Sport

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There is a new option in the arena of divorce. An option that allows the parties to be in control of the ultimate outcome and finalization of their marriage; an option that is aimed at generating a sense of joint understanding, ownership and control over their lives. Most importantly, an option that keeps the emotional welfare of the family and best interest of the children center and paramount.

Only two percent of divorce cases actually go to trial. While I enjoy litigating, what I appreciate even more is helping clients achieve a sense of finality, where at the end of the day they are healthy, emotionally stable and have the ability to work together for the good of their future and that of their children. The traditional "legal process of divorce" has a hard time achieving those results. I don't want to mislead you - I don't have the formula for a happy divorce. But I have been trained in a process that may be the best possible alternative. A process that: 1) honors the clients' desire to maintain control over their own lives; 2) understands the power of compromise; 2) alleviates fears instead of fueling them; 3) supports full disclosure of assets and looks closely at actual family needs; and 4) focuses on positive closure. It is called Collaborative Divorce.

Collaborative Divorce is a team sport. It's no longer "me against you" with the children in the middle. The collaborative approach makes the parties part of the team, together with a 'coach' who is a mental health professional and two attorneys (one for each party), and if necessary a child mental health professional, a financial advisor, clergy or other chosen individuals or professionals, all specifically trained in the collaborative approach. The parties are protected by a mutual promise, of the team, that they won't go to court, that their concerns can and will be expressed and addressed rather than used against them, and that they will be supported throughout the entire process by their team.

Why utilize a team to get divorced? First, the coach is a mental health professional trained and skilled at recognizing and dealing with the emotions that come with divorce. The collaborative approach recognizes that divorce is an emotional endeavor with legal ramifications. It places the clients' emotional concerns first, resulting in legal solutions that work for the whole family, not just one party. It is cost effective and provides numerous opportunities to teach and model cooperation and effective communication. The clients' concerns are voiced, heard and addressed. As a result, the collaborative approach is efficient at addressing all aspects of a divorce in a manner that allows the clients to retain control over their decisions, their life and the ultimate results.

If you would like more information on Collaborative Divorce, I would be happy to help explore this process with you.