

CONTRACT

Collaborative Family Relations Specialist

GOAL: The goal of the Collaborative Family Relations Specialist is to help the couple work successfully within Collaborative Law to achieve a positive resolution that minimizes the negative economic, social and emotional consequences the family often experiences in the traditional adversarial divorce process.

THE ROLE OF THE COLLABORATIVE FAMILY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

1. Identify and prioritize the concerns and interests of the parties.
2. Encourage dialogue and promote compromise between the parties.
3. Work collaboratively with the parties and the team to enhance communication and reduce misunderstanding.
4. Direct best effort towards keeping the collaborative process moving to resolution.
5. Provide parents with information and guidance to help their children through the process.
6. Assist the parties in creating a shared parenting plan and developing effective co-parenting skills.
7. The Collaborative Family Relations Specialist acts as a facilitator, not a therapist.

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. All communications and materials within this Collaborative process remain closed and confidential in accordance with Ohio and U.S. Federal laws. Privileges may be waived in the following situations:
 - A. If there is reason to believe that you are in danger of hurting yourself.
 - B. If you express an intention to hurt someone else.
 - C. If there is a reasonable suspicion that a child or an elderly adult is being abused.
2. All information presented to the Collaborative team will be shared freely among the team. When parties retain Collaborative Family Relations Specialists, the team may have discussions among themselves to assist the parties to resolve their differences.
3. Should either party elect to move from the Collaborative Process toward and initiate a law suit in the court system, **all material including content (both written and oral) of the Collaborative Family Relations Specialist's sessions remain confidential and may not be used in any court proceedings.**
4. The Collaborative Family Relations Specialist will not make herself available for interview or other communications by custody evaluators or other professionals involved in the court case.

FEES:

All meetings will be billed at _____ per hour. A retainer of _____ is to be paid at the beginning of the first session.

There will be charges for the following:

Team and Individual Meetings

Communications, written and verbal, between the team members

Review and creation of written reports pertinent to this process

Phone conversations lasting longer than 10 minutes

Travel time to and from the collaborative team meetings

The above items will be billed in 15 minute increments in proportion to the hourly rate of _____ per hour.

After the _____ retainer is used in services, session are payable on a pay-as-you-go basis at the end of each meeting.

CANCELLATIONS:

A **24-hour** advance notice of cancellation is required. You will be charged a **full fee** for a late cancellation or missed appointment.

ELECTION TO TERMINATE:

If either party decides that they do not wish to continue in the Collaborative Process, he/she agrees to, in writing, inform the other party and the team members.

_____, Collaborative Family Relations Specialist, reserves the right to withdraw from the case if she so chooses.

In the event of termination, all incurred fees are due and payable.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENTS IN ITS ENTIRETY, UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

Party

Date

Party

Date

Collaborative Family Relations Specialist

Date

Attorney

Attorney