

The Process Roadmap

People picture divorce as a fight with a finish line somewhere in a courtroom. Collaborative moves differently. Here's the whole path, plainly: six stages, start to finish, in the order they actually happen, so you can see where you are and what comes next.

START

Where every case begins

1

Agree to the process

Before anything else, everyone agrees to how this will work: full honesty, and no running to court while you're in it. Then you sign the agreement that makes those ground rules binding.

Review the ground rules

Sign the participation agreement

2

Identify interests and issues

You get clear on what actually matters to each of you, and sort what needs handling right now from what gets decided at the end.

Interests & goals

Temporary & interim issues

Final issues

3

Gather information

Everyone puts their cards on the table. You get the facts you need (financial, legal, practical) so the decisions rest on reality instead of guesses.

Be transparent

Get educated

4

Generate options

Before anyone picks anything, we lay out a range of ways this could go: what a court would likely do, what the two of you design yourselves, and what actually works in real life.

Law model

Client-generated model

Real-world model

5

Evaluate options

We walk each option through its real consequences and weigh how well it meets what matters most to your family.

What are the consequences?

What meets the most interests?

6

Negotiate and finalize

You reach an agreement you can both live with, put it in plain writing, and sign the final documents together at a closing meeting.

Agree on the best option

Memorialize the agreement

Sign at the closing meeting

FINISH

A resolution you helped design

It's a roadmap, not a contract. Your path can adapt as things get clearer.

Real cases don't always march straight down the list. You might loop back to gather more information, or bring in a neutral to get unstuck on a single issue. The order holds; the pace is yours. (Your lawyers handle the legal drafting and filing along the way. This is your view of it.)