

## How to Get Started

If you think the collaborative process may work for you, these are the steps to take:

1. Talk with the other party about the collaborative process and share the information on this website.
2. Each of you independently make an appointment to meet with a Collaborative Lawyer of your choice. It is a good idea for the two of you to work together to select lawyers because you want to hire two lawyers who have experience working together collaboratively for opposite parties. You want to avoid hiring lawyers who have never worked together, or don't even know each other. The members of a Collaborative Law Practice Group are independent lawyers who regularly work together. Go to our [Lawyers page](#) to find the members of the Collaborative Law Practice Group of The Kootenays. Go to our [Articles/Links page](#) to find Collaborative Practice groups in Vancouver, Victoria, the Okanagan, Alberta and other centres throughout North America.
3. After each person has met with his or her Collaborative Lawyer, both of you, together with your respective lawyers, attend the first 4-way Collaborative Law meeting. The [Participation Agreement](#) is usually signed at the first 4-way meeting.
4. When all the legal issues have been resolved by agreement through a series of 4-way meetings, one of the lawyers will usually draft the Separation Agreement.

We highly recommend that you read the book called *The Collaborative Way to Divorce* by Stuart G. Webb and Ronald D. Ousky. This book will help you make the best decision about how to approach your separation. You can order this book through Amazon or EBay.

### Contact Us

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Alternative Dispute Resolution



COLLABORATIVE  
PRACTICE

Resolving Disputes Respectfully