

Your Attorney is Your Advocate

Some people may wonder whether they will receive one-on-one attention from their MMCCLA member attorney.

The answer is yes. Attorneys who are members of MMCCLA meet individually with their clients to understand what is of most importance to the client.

MMCCLA member attorneys represent only their clients, although they will work with the other party and attorney to try to satisfy needs in a way that works for all the parties.

This can be especially important for divorcing parents with young children who need to work together after the divorce.

This can also be very important to businesses who want to maintain a working relationship with other parties.

MMCCLA member attorneys will advocate for their clients to help negotiate an agreement that meets their clients' needs.



If you are an attorney and interested in learning more about Collaborative or Cooperative Law, please contact any of the MMCCLA members.

If you currently have legal representation, please consult with your attorney about Collaborative or Cooperative Law.

For up-to-date information about MMCCLA and its members, as well as additional information about the Collaborative and Cooperative Law Processes, please see our website at <http://www.mmcccla.org>.

Note: The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertisements.

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Collaborative and Cooperative Law

Preserving Relationships



Effective Settlement Process



Creative Solutions



Mid-Missouri Collaborative and Cooperative Law Association



<http://www.mmcccla.org>



The MMCCLA is an organization of individual, unaffiliated attorneys who support the offering of collaborative and cooperative law options to clients.

Reaching Reasonable Agreements is the Goal of the MMCCLA

From the start, MMCCLA member attorneys and their clients are at the table, talking about the real issues for the clients and their families.

MMCCLA members are trained to help people work out creative solutions without going to court. MMCCLA members can assist in helping you find solutions that work for you.

To get started, clients meet with an MMCCLA member to see if Collaborative or Cooperative Law would be right for them. Your attorney will also want to understand your interests in the disputed matters.

If both parties decide after consulting with their individual attorney to use Collaborative or Cooperative Law, they sign a contract saying how they will negotiate constructively together.

Your attorney is there to give you legal advice and help negotiate a workable solution.

The parties and attorneys meet together to work out a binding agreement that can be presented to the court.

What is Collaborative Law?

Collaborative Law is designed to help people reach agreement.

A collaborative law contract commits the parties to negotiation so that if a party decides to litigate, the Collaborative Law attorneys cannot represent either party in court.

This arrangement gives everyone an extra incentive to reach agreement.

What is Cooperative Law?

Cooperative Law is like Collaborative Law except Cooperative Law attorneys can represent clients in court if needed.

Negotiated solutions are preferred and Cooperative Law attorneys work with their clients to reach agreement without going to court.

However, some people prefer to be able to keep the same attorney if they need to go to court, and Cooperative Law attorneys can represent their clients in court.

It is up to the parties to decide whether they prefer Collaborative or Cooperative Law.

What are the Benefits?

Collaborative and Cooperative Law can help parties:

- ◆ solve problems together
- ◆ focus on needs and interests, not positions
- ◆ communicate respectfully
- ◆ keep cases private
- ◆ get individual legal advice
- ◆ exchange all relevant information
- ◆ make well-informed decisions
- ◆ make binding agreements tailored to fit needs
- ◆ use time and money efficiently

Will This Work for You?

Collaborative and Cooperative Law work when parties are willing to meet together to work through problems constructively. These processes are not for everyone. Talk with an MMCCLA member attorney to see if Collaborative or Cooperative Law is right for you.

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