

# Family Law Update



## Divorcing with Dignity

**Media stories of celebrity divorces would have you believe that public showdowns, acrimonious and bitter break-ups are the norm – nothing could be further from the truth. There are a number of ways of reaching a divorce settlement in a dignified manner. These include Mediation and Collaborative Law.**



Family mediation is a confidential process in which a qualified and impartial Mediator can help you to reach joint decisions about family and financial issues. Some Mediators are qualified lawyers which can assist if you decide to formalise your Agreement by way of a Court Order. In any event, taking legal advice alongside Mediation can be useful as lawyers can talk you through your rights and options, before you enter into a final Agreement.

Collaborative Law involves a series of 'four way' meetings. Each person appoints their own lawyer but instead of conducting negotiations between you and your partner by letter or phone you meet together to work things out face to face. Each of you will have your lawyer by your side throughout the process and therefore you will benefit from legal advice as you go. The aim of Collaborative Law is to resolve family disputes without going to court.

Both Mediation and Collaborative Law can be much less lengthy and less costly than the Court process, and can help to improve communications between you so that you are able to build an amicable relationship for the future ahead – this is particularly important if you have children, who will benefit from your ability to co-operate as parents.

Our dedicated family law team has qualified Mediators and trained Collaborative Lawyers, who can guide and assist you through what can be a traumatic and stressful time, with a sensitive and pragmatic approach.

For further information on any aspect of Family Law, contact Bina Modi via email at [bina.modi@smithpartnership.co.uk](mailto:bina.modi@smithpartnership.co.uk) or call 0116 247 2000.



**SMITH PARTNERSHIP**

*Solicitors*

0116 247 2000

[smithpartnership.co.uk](http://smithpartnership.co.uk)