

# There is a Better Way to Divorce

By Barbara K. Roman

The end of a marriage can be as stressful as coping with the death of a loved one. It is a high stakes, life-changing event for all involved. You may be surprised to know there is a better way to divorce where your spouse and his/her attorney do not have to be adversaries and the process does not have to be a battleground. The results can be a “win-win.”

Collaborative divorce is the new solution. It is a team approach that pledges to resolve marital and child-related issues through a respectful and honest process. The Collaborative divorce is an “interest based” approach, which utilizes attorneys, neutral mental health professionals, and financial advisors to arrive at workable solutions for divorcing families. The Collaborative process strives to avoid unobtainable positions, and focuses on sound, reasonable goals and interests for all parties, while minimizing their fears and concerns. The Family Law attorneys at Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis will customize the outcome to each family’s needs.

The skills employed in an “interest based” approach minimize conflict and expense and optimize the chance for a positive outcome for the parties and their children. Divorcing couples with children will need to maintain a civil relationship for the sake of the children and,

therefore, it is critical for them to foster positive future interactions.

An example of an “interest based” approach is the following: Wife insists on keeping the house and Husband demands the house be sold. When the parties and their attorneys work together to identify issues and concerns, they realize that Wife wants to retain the house so that their teenage son can graduate from his current high school and Husband wants to sell because he can’t afford the house and all the support obligations. When the group brainstorms options, they realize that they can agree to sell the house and buy a smaller house in the same school district and allow the son to graduate. This satisfies the interests of both parties because it turns out that Husband also wants the son to stay at his current school. This solution would rarely be discussed without a collaborative, interest-based approach. The parties have worked out a solution that takes into account their mutual common interest – “win-win.”

People often think they need to “win” in divorce. However, the definition of winning must be redefined! The true objective of the Collaborative divorce is to “win” by moving both clients on to their next best life – one with health, happiness and security.

The attorneys at Meyers, Roman provide experienced, honest and caring advice to provide you with the best possible future.



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BARBARA K. ROMAN  
Chair, Family Law & Divorce  
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28601 Chagrin Blvd., Suite 500 • Cleveland, OH 44122

Phone 216.831.0042 • Fax 216.831.0542

[www.meyersroman.com](http://www.meyersroman.com) • [attys@meyersroman.com](mailto:attys@meyersroman.com)