

IS COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE RIGHT FOR ME? YES, IF . . .

1. I know I'll be better served in the long run, if my partner and children are also well served. I want my children to be at the center of our concerns, rather than torn between us.
2. I want to speak and act from my best self, although at times my words and actions may come from my worst self.
3. I want my lawyer to be a wise legal counselor and an engaged ethical agent, rather than a hired gun and alter ego for my worst self.
4. I am willing to be in the same room with my partner, and to speak up for myself and my own legitimate self-interests, with the support of one or more collaborative professionals.
5. I am open to solutions that respect my own and my partner's needs and interests.
6. I want to make decisions affecting my own and my family's future from a place of calm, considered wisdom, rather than from a place of anger, humiliation and fear – even if I may be experiencing such difficult feelings, now and during the process of dissolving our union.
7. I prefer a deeper, more respectful resolution than a shallow peace, whenever this is possible.
8. I know that at times things will be difficult and uncomfortable, and still I am willing to tolerate that discomfort enough to persevere through a kinder divorce process, with professional support.
9. I want to act ethically for my self, my partner and my children, and recognize that it is far less likely I will be able to do this if we are pitted against each other in a litigated court battle.
10. When the divorce is complete, I want to be able to look back and feel positively about the outcome and proud of how I handled myself and addressed our family's concerns in the process.

**MANY THANKS TO NANCY J. FOSTER,
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDIATION CENTER, NCMC-MEDIATE.ORG**

From George B. Richardson – Streamlined Protocols for Collaborative Divorce
6/13/14 - Adapted by Ria Severance to use more inclusive language