

Build Your Future: Using the Collaborative Process to Negotiate Cohabitation Agreements/Marriage Contracts

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1. Introductions (3 minutes)
2. Poll (3-5 minutes)
 - Q1 who has used collab process for marriage contract?
 - Q2 who has used team for marriage contract negotiations?
3. Goal of and Three Key Features of Successful Marriage Contracts/Co-Habitation Agreements_(12 minutes)
 - Reflects values and goals of both spouses, what are they building - Caroline.
 - Full and clear picture of financial situation – Terri.
 - Understand the legal implications of the agreement - Cori.
4. Challenges of negotiating (12 minutes 4 each)
 - Legal
 - Financial
 - Emotional/Family
5. Values exercise – make it personal, help participants understand what can be going on in the various realms of the family life, what are the relationship features that may come up, what are the approaches that may come up, why do we need to be mindful of these things ASK some questions to the audience, would this have been helpful in a past case? ? why do we need to understand peoples values (20 minutes)
6. Discussion – Eric and Andrea fact scenario: (15 minutes)
 - Review facts,
 - How would you design a collab process to help this family?
 - How would you ensure process build in the features of a successful MC?
 - Develop questions to prompt discussion,
7. With participants, build what would an ideal collab process look like? (Big Flip chart/Sticky Notes) (15 minutes)
8. Discussion - are participation agreements useful? Why/why not? (5 minutes) if you use a PA, what would you include or take out from the PA? Would you adapt your retainer agreement? Refer to Expectations in Collaborative Marriage Contract Negotiation.
9. Exit poll - how many now see the value in a full team collaborative approach and will consider in the future? (5 minutes)
10. Summary and any Q and A's

Materials to be Provided to Participants:

- Paper with precedents attached: Build Your Future: Using the Collaborative Process to Negotiate Cohabitation Agreements/Marriage Contracts (Precedents include Participation Agreement, Goals and Concerns Questionnaire, Sample First Meeting Agenda)
- Expectations in Collaborative Marriage Contract Negotiation sample
- PowerPoint presentation