## Progression of the Collaborative Process

## •Start the process and set ground rules

- Share and understand information that will be needed for decisions—resources available, future needs of each, etc.
- Understand tasks to be accomplished
- Define realistic goals for the future

Setting the Foundation

## Addressing the Issues

- Understand each person's priorities and concerns
- Define what needs to be addressed
- ·Discuss options to address the issues
- Select promising options to co-create a scenario that could be mutually acceptable

- Reflect on and review the scenario in light of the priorities and needs of each
- •As needed, refine the scenario to better address priorities, needs, and concerns
- •Reach agreement in principle
- Prepare legal documents and implement agreements

Finishing the Agreement

The Collaborative Process typically follows this progression.

**SETTING THE FOUNDATION**. This phase is about the necessary preparation to successfully engage in the work to come. It includes signing the Participation Agreement, sharing goals, ensuring all understand the financial, parenting, and legal information, and understanding the tasks to be accomplished prior to making long-term decisions. In this phase we also start to transition thinking to what your post-divorce future might realistically hold. Short-term agreements can be made so everyone can focus on the task ahead.

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES. Before anything, we focus on what needs to be addressed—the important parts that can be included in your divorce agreement. We discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different options to address the issues and select promising possibilities to create a scenario that has a likelihood of being mutually acceptable.

**FINISHING THE AGREEMENT.** After reflecting on the scenario, it is refined and updated as needed until it's mutually acceptable. Then, the formalities are completed to conclude the divorce, including the necessary agreements and other legal paperwork.

