

Text for cover flap of Collaborative Way to Divorce

The Collaborative Way to Divorce was written for all those wanting to learn more about Collaborative Practices, an alternative way of dealing with disputes arising when marriages end.

Society now recognizes that neither lawyers nor judges alone are able to deduce what is best for their clients. Therefore, in order to reach solutions that truly meet the interests of all involved in situations of conflict, each individual, as protagonist of their own life-story, should be provided with the means of freely deciding their choices and making decisions that take into account their wishes and those of other parties involved. To address this need, Collaborative Practices emerged in the 1990s in the United States. Stuart Webb, a lawyer who tired of drawn out, exhausting and fruitless court battles, founded a group of lawyers and judges dedicated to working in a collaborative, non-litigious way.

Stu and Ron Ousky (another pioneering collaborative lawyer) wrote this small yet valuable handbook to describe Collaborative Practices for a lay public using clear and accessible language, the process that allows individuals to make better, more informed and strategic decisions with the support of a multi-disciplinary team.

It becomes quickly apparent to the reader that this book was written for people concerned about others in a generous exchange of experiences. After all, while we cannot change the fact that marriages end and that disputes are inherent to life, we can at least change our way of dealing with them and craft creative, positive outcomes.

If the reader is willing to listen and seek creative solutions for seemingly intractable problems, to honestly assess their needs and dedicate the time and resources needed to achieve real results, then this book is for them.

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