

Choose  
a happier  
future.  
Separate  
or divorce  
with dignity.





## Frequently Asked Questions

We have handled thousands of separations and divorces, using both traditional and collaborative approaches. Here are some of the questions that our clients often ask us when deciding which approach to use. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us for more information and the answers to other questions you may have.

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### Q: Is this the right approach for me?

**A:** Everyone's situation is different. Whether the collaborative approach is right for you will depend on your individual circumstances, current arrangements and future goals. As importantly, it will depend on your spouse or partner's willingness to collaborate. The "Is it for you?" section of our website ([consensus-scotland.com](http://consensus-scotland.com)) sets out a series of questions for you to ask yourself that will help you decide if collaboration is best for you.

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### Q: How much will it cost?

**A:** The cost will also be different for each couple. Again, it will depend on individual circumstances. However, there is no costly court action involved, unlike in the traditional adversarial approach to divorce and separation.

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### Q: How will it work?

**A:** The collaborative approach to divorce and separation involves calm, respectful discussions over a series of meetings. These will enable you work through the various issues that need to be resolved. These might include:

- Making arrangements for your children.
- Ensuring you are able to meet your living expenses while the process takes place and in the longer term too.
- Identifying and valuing the assets that will be shared.
- Explore the options for sharing the assets.

The aim will be to reach agreement with your spouse or partner on all the issues, so that a separation agreement can be signed, and a divorce arranged.

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**Q: Who will be involved?**

**A:** Your Consensus Collaboration Scotland lawyer will work with you and your spouse or partner, structuring the meetings and helping you reach agreement. We will also draw on the expertise and experience of Consensus Collaboration Scotland financial specialists and family consultants as necessary.

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**Q: How is it different from conventional divorce?**

**A:** At the outset you, your spouse or partner, and the professionals involved, will sign a contract committing to act with respect and integrity. Crucially, it prevents you and your spouse or partner from instructing your lawyers to raise a court action if the negotiation fails. That way everyone has an interest in reaching a successful conclusion.

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**Q: How long will it take?**

**A:** The period of time needed will again differ from couple to couple. It will depend on factors such as your personal circumstances, whether children are involved, the complexity of your current arrangements, and how the discussions progress.

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**Q: What impact will it have on my finances and financial security?**

**A:** The effect on your financial situation and security will be one of the main issues discussed during the meetings. The aim will be to ensure that you are in a position to meet your current living expenses while everything is sorted out, and in the longer term too.

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**Q: How will it affect my children?**

**A:** Children are a priority. Making the best arrangements for the children, such as where they will live and what contact they will have with the other parent will be paramount in the discussions. We will also be aiming to help you minimise the potentially damaging effects on children's emotions and to maximise their wellbeing, now and in the future.

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**Q: What should my first step be?**

**A:** You may have already decided to use the collaborative approach or perhaps you have more questions. Either way, please get in touch with us for a confidential discussion. We can provide further explanation about what is involved and let you know what your options are.



## Client Stories

Hundreds of couples have already benefited from using the collaborative approach to their separation or divorce. Here are just a few of their stories that have helped them and their family have a better chance of a happier future.

### Couple 1

Sadness, shock, betrayal, fear, anger, resentment... All very negative emotions I experienced at the break up of my marriage and ones which could have had a devastating effect had it not been for the help of our collaborative meetings... Being given the opportunity to be heard by the other party and learning to listen to how they felt, allowed me to slowly uncurl from my instinctive defensive position and certainly helped me, which in turn helped my children. The sadness is still there, but thankfully, hope, calmness and understanding are too, allowing my life to move into a new positive phase... Thank you.

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### Couple 2

The collaborative approach gave my husband and I the opportunity to discuss openly the issues that needed to be addressed. We managed to reach a financial agreement after three meetings and both my husband and I would recommend the collaborative process to any couple who are able to communicate in a reasonable manner. We also both agree that we have a much better relationship now than we had at the beginning of our divorce proceedings, which is very important to us both as it makes life so much easier for our children and my in laws who I am still very close to. It was a very positive experience all things considered and I have come out of the process a much stronger person.

Separation and divorce can be a painful, stressful experience which may continue to have a damaging effect on your and your family's emotional and financial wellbeing years later.

But there's a better way.  
The collaborative way.

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Consensus Collaboration Scotland offers you a non-confrontational approach to agreeing the legal, financial and practical arrangements for your separation and divorce. It's less adversarial, with no court battle, and more focused on positive solutions.

Our collaborative approach will enable you to reach a good agreement together through supported discussions.

Why should you go down this route? There are different reasons for different couples. Generally speaking, the collaborative approach will help you:

- ✓ **Minimise the conflict in your separation or divorce.**
- ✓ **Lessen the stress that you feel as you go through the process.**
- ✓ **Reduce the emotional damage of your separation or divorce.**
- ✓ **Protect your children.**
- ✓ **Make good financial choices for your future.**
- ✓ **Retain control over decision-making.**
- ✓ **Retain your dignity, integrity and respect.**
- ✓ **Ensure everyone involved has a better outcome.**

Give yourself and your family  
the best chance you can of  
a happier future.

Find your nearest member of  
Consensus Collaboration Scotland at:

[consensus-scotland.com](https://consensus-scotland.com)

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