

Clarion

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Leeds lawyers stage play to highlight non-confrontational divorce



A group of collaborative law solicitors in Leeds is staging an unusual event to demonstrate that divorce cases do not have to be confrontational.

Leeds Collaborative Family Law Group is putting on a production at the Carriageworks, The Electric Press in Leeds at 5pm on Thursday 21 June with lawyers and other advisers acting out three scenarios of the same case to show the differences between the court process, mediation and collaboration. The free event aims to raise awareness among other professionals such as independent financial advisers, HR managers, counsellors, faith leaders and others involved in family welfare.

Justine Osmotherley, partner and collaborative lawyer at Leeds law firm Clarion, said: "The Harrogate, York and Hull groups have already staged the play and the feedback has been amazing. Through role playing, we give a vivid demonstration of the benefits to couples of following a non-confrontation course through mediation and a collaborative approach, avoiding acrimonious, costly and time-consuming court proceeding and making the process considerably less traumatic. We

hope it will open advisers' eyes to the fact that there are alternatives to traditional confrontational divorce and encourage them to promote this approach to their clients."

To book, email hannah.spink@lakelegal.co.uk.

Collaborative law is a relatively new approach to dealing with family disputes, such as divorce. Each person appoints his or her own collaborative lawyer and the couple and their legal representatives meet face to face and reach agreement on all issues as amicably as possible, thereby avoiding disputes.

The couple will be asked to give a commitment not to involve the courts in contested proceedings by signing a participation agreement. The Collaborative Law process is non-confrontational and flexible, allowing the couple to control the pace of the process as opposed to an imposed court timetable.

The Leeds Collaborative Law Group includes a number of collaboratively trained solicitors, accountants, IFAs and life consultants. To find your nearest collaborative lawyer visit www.resolution.org.uk or call Resolution on 01689 820272. For more information on the local group, visit www.collabfamilylawyorks.co.uk

Ends

Please contact: Susan Reid at Appeal PR on 01423 569 999 or email susan@appealpr.com

Notes to editor:

Collaborative Law

Collaborative Law is built on the concept of 'communication not confrontation' for resolving divorce. It does not involve the court, other than to deal with legal formalities and to approve the financial settlement a couple reaches.

Collaborative Law is a process where each party appoints a legal representative who is collaboratively trained and approved by Resolution – an organisation of approximately 5,500 lawyers throughout England and Wales who are committed to dealing with family cases in a constructive and non-confrontational manner.

Further details about Collaborative Law and how to find a Collaborative Law Lawyer can be found at: www.resolution.org.uk