



The Family Law team at Munro & Noble is headed by our Court Partner Mary Nimmo, who leads an experienced team of solicitors and paralegals. Mary is also a Bar Reporter for the Courts, a Highland Council Safeguarder, an

Accredited Mediator and Collaborative Lawyer.

E: [maryn@munronoble.com](mailto:maryn@munronoble.com)

T: 01463 221727

#### Testimonials

- *'Thank you for guiding us through the mine field of our separation using the collaborative process.'* Separated couple
- *'We have done the right thing and it is thanks to you and the collaborative process.'* Clients



Published by Munro & Noble  
© Munro & Noble 2017

Supportive

Considerate

Sensible

Constructive

Mutual

A different way to separate.



[www.munronoble.com](http://www.munronoble.com)

[www.scottish-collaborativelawyers.com](http://www.scottish-collaborativelawyers.com)



**MUNRO & NOBLE**

SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS

Munro & Noble are an established local firm dedicated to providing an excellent service as we assist clients through the difficulties associated with the breakdown of a relationship.



**Mary Nimmo, Partner**

**01463 221727**

**e-mail: [maryn@munronoble.com](mailto:maryn@munronoble.com)**

## *for you - with you*

### **What is Collaborative Law?**

The breakdown of a relationship is never easy and separation and divorce / dissolution can be very difficult for a family. The stress generated by the process can often push a separating couple even further apart and leave them feeling damaged not only by the breakdown of the relationship but by the legal process which follows.

If children are involved this can cause problems for the entire family and these problems can last for many years to come.

Experience shows that making the process less stressful can make a huge difference to how matters are dealt with and how issues can be resolved. The way that the separating couple cope on a personal level can help in managing ongoing family relationships.

Collaborative Law is a relatively new approach which offers a better way of dealing with separation. It aims to avoid litigation and allows the couple a mechanism by which to work through their difficulties. Most importantly it allows a separating couple to communicate in a safe and structured environment.

Collaborative lawyers believe that even the most difficult disputes can be resolved if the

separating couple buy into the process and recognise and understand the need to conduct themselves in an honest and mutually respectful manner.



### **How does it work?**

Collaborative lawyers are highly experienced family solicitors who have undergone training to an internationally recognised standard in the process and who value this approach as a means of helping clients make a major life transition.

- In a collaboration, the exchange of information and discussions take place at meetings attended by both the separating couple and their respective lawyers. In addition to advising and supporting their own clients, the lawyers work together to assist the couple in agreeing to terms of separation which are beneficial to all the family moving forward.
- In Collaborative law, a contract is signed by all involved at the beginning of the process which states that the lawyers cannot raise

court proceedings on behalf of their client if the process fails. This ensures that the atmosphere of collaborative meetings is as non-threatening and as productive as possible. It gives everyone, including the lawyers, an incentive to make the process work. If the collaborative process fails, other lawyers have to be instructed by the couple if they want to go to court. Such action is likely to have implications in terms of time and costs.

### **Why Would I Choose Collaboration?**

A collaborative resolution of issues is more likely to protect children and the extended family from the trauma of a lengthy and protracted dispute.

In collaborative law, everyone participates in an open, honest creative effort to meet the legitimate needs of both parties. It also affords the separating couple more control over the process.



Collaborative lawyers often reach inventive solutions which would be highly unlikely in a conventional negotiation or litigation.