

## What is collaborative Law

The breakdown of a relationship is never easy, separation and divorce 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 and can protect everyone.

Collaborative Law is a new approach which offers a better way of dealing with separation. It aims to avoid court and allows the couple a mechanism by which to work through their difficulties. Most importantly it aims to allow a separating couple to talk.

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 affect on the other parties.



## How does it work?

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

There are two main differences between Collaborative Law and other approaches:

- In Collaborative law, exchange of information and discussions take place at meetings attended by both the couple and their lawyers. In addition to advising and supporting their own clients, the lawyers work together to help the couple find a solution to their situation. In the traditional approach there can be joint meetings but communication is more likely to take place by correspondence between law firms.
- In Collaborative law, a contract is signed 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 can 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 could 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.



## MEET THE TEAM

Mary Nimmo (Senior Partner), leads our Court Department and brings extensive experience in litigation at both Sheriff Court and Court of Session level. She advises clients across a broad range of matters, including family law. Mary can provide clear, expert guidance on the preparation and negotiation of prenuptial agreements, combining her skills as an advanced Collaborative Lawyer with her strong litigation background. Whether you are seeking an amicable agreement or require more formal court involvement, Mary's practical and professional approach ensures you are in safe hands.

Sarah Windsor is a highly experienced solicitor with over fifteen years specialising exclusively in family law. Based between our Inverness and Dingwall offices, Sarah can expertly assist with the preparation of prenuptial agreements, ensuring your interests are protected as you enter into marriage. She approaches all matters with a focus on achieving amicable solutions but is also a skilled litigator should more formal court proceedings be necessary. With a strong track record across courts throughout the Highlands, Islands, and beyond, Sarah offers practical, clear advice tailored to your individual circumstances.



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

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## GET IN TOUCH

Here at Munro & Noble, we have an experienced team who are available to guide you and your family through the unexpected as well as the expected. We are here to help with all family matters and also to assist you in planning for the future.

Mary Nimmo  
Senior Partner  
T: 01463 221727  
[maryn@munronoble.com](mailto:maryn@munronoble.com)

Sarah Windsor  
Consultant  
T: 01463 221727  
[sarahw@munronoble.com](mailto:sarahw@munronoble.com)

Supportive

Considerate

Sensible

Constructive

Mutual

A different way to separate.

## COLLABORATIVE LAW

## A DIFFERENT WAY TO SEPARATE



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