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COLLABORATIVE Practice Tips

A monthly bulletin from the CP Cal Practice Excellence Committee

The Practice Excellence Committee is pleased to offer tips to help you increase your Collaborative cases and achieve *practice excellence.*

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Please send us your comments and questions! Email us at info@cpcal.com

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Tips for Initial Coach Meeting with Client

Tip #1

Listen to the client's story, reflecting back what you hear. You are uniquely able to assess your client for coaching. Note any red flags, such as coercive control, mental health issues, drugs or alcohol. Ask the client specifically why s/he chose the Collaborative process, and how s/he sees her/his participation in Collaborative decision making. Ask how decisions were made in their marriage. Ask whether your client trusts that her/his spouse will participate in a Collaborative process with integrity.

Tip #2

Clarify your role as a coach, and how coaching differs from therapy, especially regarding confidentiality and other policies. Describe how you can help the client prepare for meetings, and identify the client's and his/her spouse's goals, interests, and triggers. Then, ask your client if s/he is willing to be coached. If yes, teach and practice at least one basic breathing exercise or other tool to manage emotions at meetings and in between.

Tip #3

Answer and ask questions to ensure your client understands the

Collaborative process, the roadmap, parenting planning, and the importance of expressing interests and keeping agreements. Identify the client's most pressing concerns, to be shared with the other professionals in planning meeting agendas. Ask specifically what s/he needs from you for support in and out of meetings, particularly if s/he is triggered.

Tip #4

Charge a retainer, even if you don't in your therapy practice. Having a retainer will not only help you get paid but it is a benefit to the client as well. Clients often have a hard time paying at each meeting because physically writing the check makes the divorce seem more real and becomes a painful reminder of the process. This is especially true for the reluctant spouse.

Tip #5

Follow-up with the other team members by email to let them know that you have met with the client and have been retained. Share any pertinent information the client has provided and the urgent and hot button issues that you have observed.

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Stay Connected

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