April 2015

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 the Neutral Professional

Tip #1

Clients need to understand what it means to be a neutral. Be sure that each spouse understands the role of the neutral professional at the very first contact. If the parties do not understand the neutral role and don't trust that a professional can be impartial, the Collaborative process may not be successful. Discuss the limitations of your role as well, such as that Collaborative professionals cannot provide any services to either client outside the scope of the divorce process.

Tip #2

Clients need the safety of a clear confidentiality policy. Ensure that all communications and in-person meetings are open to both parties, unless both parties request and agree that the neutral professional can communicate with and/or meet with one party related to specific issues. Discuss confidentiality issues explicitly. Generally, it is wise to not promise confidentiality to either client.

Tip #3

Clients need help to stay organized. Provide check lists and data forms to guide the spouses through the process of gathering all of the documents and information required to begin the process. Clients often appreciate well-organized files or binders to help them stay grounded as they collect the information, whether it relates to their finances or their children.

Tip #4

Clients need a well-coordinated, efficient team. Integrate your data, along with other team members' data and any reports prepared by outside experts, into the analysis and reports. Make sure that the clients understand the reports, assessing whether one or both clients need more time to digest, process and understand the reports. Communicate to the team any concerns or issues that you may observe as you work with both clients. You are in a unique position to observe the dynamics between the clients.

Tip #5

Clients need to know you care about the whole family. Keep the needs and interests of the entire family in mind if you suggest ideas for resolving issues.

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Stay Connected

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