

# COLLABORATIVE Practice Tips

October 2022

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*.

Please send us your comments and questions!  
Email us at [info@cpcal.com](mailto:info@cpcal.com)

[Click Here for Tips from Previous Months](#)



---

## Top 10 Reasons to Include a Child Specialist on the Collaborative team

Divorcing parents often have unresolved and ongoing conflict. Despite their differences, they have one thing in common – love and concern for their children. Even when feeling divided as a couple, parents are likely to find common ground in worrying about their children’s happiness, comfort and security. The role of the Child Specialist is unique in the divorce process and accomplishes many goals that appeal to parents.

Here are 10 reasons why our clients should include a Child Specialist in their collaborative process:

1. The parents’ ability to focus on the children can create common ground during the divorce process. This decreases the “us vs. them” mentality and encourages the parents to work together on behalf of the children. The Child Specialist listens to and addresses the concerns that the parents bring to the team about their children. The Child Specialist also interviews the children to assess and understand any unique issues the children may express; issues that parents may not be aware of.

2. The Child Specialist is in a unique position to gather information from the children to help the parents understand how to meet their children's needs during and after the divorce. This neutral role emphasizes how parents can work as a team to address the needs of the children. This neutral approach avoids placing blame on the parents and instead offers information and inspires parenting discussions.
3. The Child Specialist is the only professional who interviews the children and brings their perceptions, experiences and worries to the table for consideration. Children are often more comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings with a third party than with their parents because they worry about their parents' feelings and about having to take sides in the conflict. The Child Specialist brings the voice of the children to the process.
4. The children are important members of the family. The Child Specialist gives the children the message that their input is valuable to their parents and the process. This demonstrates that their parents care about how they are doing during the divorce.
5. The Child Specialist hears the input of the children and explains that their concerns will be shared with the parents in a sensitive and measured manner. This gives the children opportunity to get things off their chest when there is underlying resentment, confusion and/or anxiety about the divorce. This role is different from the role of a child therapist whose work with the child is confidential and not intended to gather specific information for the parents.
6. When the information from the children is presented to the parents, they learn from the Child Specialist how the children's input can be incorporated into parenting discussions and agreements. The Child Specialist guides the parents in learning how a child's input can be considered while parents still maintain their authority and role as decision makers. This approach protects children from experiencing the burden of choice and potential consequences.
7. The Child Specialist also informs parents of the developmental needs of their children which can aid them in making appropriate decisions for the parenting plan such as routine time-share schedules and right of first care.
8. The work of the Child Specialist often gives the parents profound information about how the children are experiencing the current time-share schedule and how it's working for them and/or if they are struggling with the adjustment to two homes. The Child Specialist can help the parents solve problems, such as difficulties with transitions (parents or children), accepting the rules/expectations from one home to the other home or missing one parent while with the other parent.
9. The children may share with the Child Specialist any confusion, anger or worry about what they were told about the divorce. If the children were given disparate information from each parent or from other family members, the

Child Specialist can help the parents with development of a common divorce story. This relieves the children of the drive to “find the truth” and often improves relationships with both parents, as they do not have to assign one parent a negative label.

10. The Child Specialist coaches parents on how to protect the children from the stress of the divorce and from conflict between the parents. This role leads parents towards their goals of cooperative co-parenting after divorce and of raising healthy children that can maintain relationships with all family members.

---

---

### **From the PEC:**

Do you have a profile up on [www.collaborativedivorcecalifornia.com](http://www.collaborativedivorcecalifornia.com)? Click on the link and see! No? OMG, let's get you started!

There has been some misunderstanding about this: having a profile on the site is not included in your membership. You have to pay a little extra to get it up and keep it up every year. Is it worth it? Yep. This site gets a LOT of traffic and even if people find you elsewhere, when they're checking you out to see if they can trust you they will be looking on this site. AND, your subscription fee goes to CPCal to fund more projects to get the word out about Collaborative, which benefits you as well.

Here's how to get that profile up:

1. Go to [www.collaborativedivorcecalifornia.com](http://www.collaborativedivorcecalifornia.com).
2. Put your cursor over “What is Collaborative Divorce.” You'll find “For Collaborative Professionals” at the bottom of that menu. Click on it to find the Professionals page.
3. Under “Actions to Take” the second option is "New Subscribers: Create a Professional Profile." Click on this, fill out the form and add a photo, and you're done.
4. Every year, you'll get a reminder to pay a little bit to continue your subscription and keep that profile up. If you're retiring, go ahead and let it go, but if you're still in business, this is a Must-Do. Not sure if you renewed your profile this year? It's easy to check...just search for your profile. If it's not there, that's because you didn't renew. Easy to get it back up, though! Just click on “Renewing Subscribers” and then fill out that form.

Want to get more bang for your buck? Write a blog with a sexy/searchable title to be put up on the site. Three paragraphs. You can do it! Send your blog to the Crouch Group: [tim@thecrouchgroup.com](mailto:tim@thecrouchgroup.com)

Go!

This just in from the Crouch Group. Here's a direct link to set up your profile:

<https://collaborativedivorcecalifornia.com/professionals-page/create-professional-profile/>

Filling out the form on this page gives our web team the information to set up a professional listing page at [www.collaborativedivorcecalifornia.com](http://www.collaborativedivorcecalifornia.com).

Once your page is created, you will receive an email with instructions on logging in and adding additional information to your page. There is an initial \$25 set-up fee, plus your annual subscription.



### **Join the Conversation #CPCAL**

This message was sent to you by [Collaborative Practice California](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time

2872 Ygnacio Valley Road, #401

1-925-338-9550, [cpcal.com](http://cpcal.com)