

COLLABORATIVE Practice Tips

July 2023

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

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FOR COLLABORATIVE / CDR PROFESSIONALS:

PART I - Guiding Parents with How to Talk to Their Children about Separation and Divorce

It is very important to guide parents in planning how, when and where to talk with their children about the separation/divorce, preferably before they physically separate or very soon thereafter.

Children/Teens/Young Adults experience tension in the family when not being told about their parents' decision to divorce and are often relieved when told about the decision and plans.

Parents worry about how their children/teens/young adults will react and worry

about how they will adjust to the divorce. Studies show that the children/teens/young adults show the best adjustment to the divorce when the parents can get along.

Developing a divorce story and delivering it together is an important step on the path of showing the children/teens/young adults that they can still rely on their parents to work together on their behalf.

Parents frequently dread this conversation because they worry about controlling their own emotions and may feel guilty about the divorce. Reassure parents that if they do feel emotions well up they can let their children/teens/young adults know that it's a difficult process for everyone and that it's ok to show emotions and to talk about them. Parents can offer specific ideas about coping strategies, so their children don't worry about having to take care of their parents (e.g. from Parent to Child: "I'll take a bath, talk to a friend, or go for a walk and enjoy the sunshine/evening air").

There are many books and articles available that provide guidance for parents with how to tell their children about separation and divorce:

Articles:

"Talking with Your Children about Separation and Divorce: Some Ideas and Tips to Help You Do It Right," Dr. Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D. - http://www.shared-care.ca/files/How_to_Talk_to_the_Kids.pdf

"How to tell kids about divorce: An age-by-age guide," John Hoffman, <https://www.todaysparent.com/family/kids-and-divorce-an-age-by-age-guide/>

Books:

"Helping Your Kids Cope with Divorce the Sandcastles Way," M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C., Patricia Romanowski Bashe, <https://www.amazon.com/Helping-Your-Kids-Divorce-Sandcastles/dp/0679778012>

"What Should We Tell the Children? A Parents' Guide for Talking About Separation and Divorce," Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., with assistance from Mary K. Kisthardt, J.D. https://www.guidetogooddivorce.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/resources_texasdivorcelaw_What-Should-We-Tell-the-Children.pdf

"Home Will Never Be The Same Again," Carol R. Hughes, Ph.D., L.M.F.T. and Bruce R. Fredenburg, L.M.F.T. <https://www.amazon.com/Home-Will-Never-Same-Again/dp/1538135302>

STAY TUNED FOR PART II where we will share ideas to help our clients as

they plan to talk with their children about their separation or divorce.

From the PEC:

Who's Your Favorite Client?

Take a second and think back: can you picture a few of your favorite clients over the years?

If you'd like to take this seriously as an exercise, use several minutes and perhaps a bit of ruffling through the file cabinet. Then make a list of your top five or ten clients. You'll see that your favorites are fundamentally different in many ways, and yet they do have quite a few things in common. Dig deep. What was it about each of these individuals which made them a good match for you?

Your marketing challenge this month is to:

1. Create a list of the common qualities of your favorite clients.
2. Consider that this list could be personified as your Ideal Client.
3. Read through every page of your website paying attention to the look and feel in addition to the words. Which parts of your website would appeal to your Ideal Client? Which might actually turn them off? Are there things they really want to know, questions they have that only you can answer? Would your Ideal Client be able to find them on your site and/or in your online presence in other ways?

The secret of excellent branding is to continually deepen your understanding of who you are as a person and as a professional and which clients are the best match for your personality and your skills. Know who you are, show up as who you are, and in every aspect of your business communication keep your Ideal Client top of mind.



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