

COLLABORATIVE EXPECTATIONS OF CONDUCT

1. Be respectful of everyone in the meeting.
2. Speak for yourself and not for the other party. Make “I” statements, NOT “YOU” STATEMENTS.
3. Use first names for each other and both lawyers. Avoid “he” or “she”.
4. Do not interrupt when another person is speaking. You will have a full and equal opportunity to speak about everything that you want to talk about.
5. Listen carefully and try to understand what the other person is saying, without judging the person or the message.
6. Attack the problems and concerns at hand. Do not blame each other. No insults are allowed.
7. Express yourself in terms of what is important to you, what your concerns are and what you want to talk about. Avoid taking positions.
8. Be ready to work for what you believe is the most constructive and acceptable agreement for both of you and your family.
9. If you have a complaint, raise it as your concern and follow it up with a constructive suggestion about how it might be resolved.
10. Be willing to commit time to meet regularly.
11. Be prepared for each meeting.
12. Have with you at each meeting all information you agreed to bring.
13. If something is not working for you, please tell your lawyer so your concern can be addressed. Talk with your lawyer about anything you do not understand. Your lawyer can clarify matters for you.
14. Be patient with each other, your lawyers, coaches, child specialist, and financial neutral. Delays in the Collaborative Process can happen, even with everyone acting in good faith.