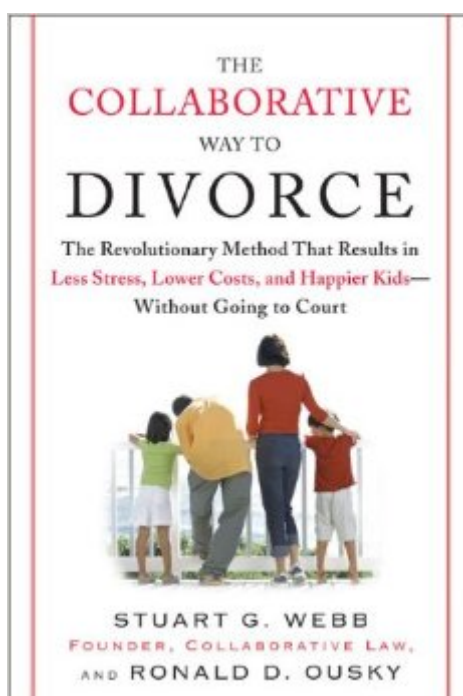


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# The Collaborative Way To Divorce: The Revolutionary Method That Results In Less Stress, Lower Costs, And Happier Kids--Without Going To Court



## Synopsis

Stressing cooperation over confrontation and resolution over revenge, Collaborative divorce is a nationally acclaimed approach that is transforming how couples divide their assets and reinvent their post-divorce relationships, particularly when they share custody of children. Based on the concept that both spouses hire legal representation yet agree to resolve their differences without going to court, Collaborative divorce is generally less expensive and quicker than litigation, gives the couple greater control over the outcome of their divorce, and keeps children out of the controversy. Clear, compassionate, and comprehensive, *The Collaborative Way to Divorce* offers a dignified, effective solution to one of life's most difficult situations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just finished this book, which was easy to read and well written. I have practiced divorce law for 34 years, mediated civil and family law disputes for 10 years, completed collaborative training, and have begun the collaborative practice of law. I am really enjoying it and plan to change the focus of my practice to collaborative law. As a divorced father of two adult children, I have personally experienced the dark side of divorce via the traditional method and hope to offer clients another option to the traditionally adversarial way of divorcing. This book is a great guide for the practitioner and for those who are considering a divorce. It clearly sets forth the advantages of resolving conflict without the use of the adversarial court system method of "winner take all". I am revamping my website and practice materials and expect to incorporate many of the concepts set forth in this book to assist clients in deciding how they want to pursue their divorce.

This book is one which I would recommend to any individual considering a divorce. One of the authors of the book, Stu Webb, is the "founder" of the collaborative divorce movement. The book should be read before selecting and going forward with traditional adversarial representation. There are several pros of the book are that it is written with one voice - despite being written by two lawyers. It is clearly written. The alternative book is the book with Pauline Tessler as co-author. This books is somewhat longer and more inter-disciplinary in its approach. The co-author is a psychologist. If you are looking for the book that is easiest to read yet, by this one.

As a family law attorney in Minnesota who believes that helping my clients is more important than maximizing my billable time, I am starting to use the Collaborative Practice method in some of my family law cases. After reading this book, *The Collaborative Way to Divorce*, I decided that the Collaborative Practice method would be better (less expensive with better outcomes) than traditional litigation for many of my family law clients. In family law cases (most often divorce), I frequently recommend proceeding Collaboratively rather than through traditional litigation, especially where children are involved. *The Collaborative Way to Divorce* leads both the client and the practitioner (attorneys, mental health, financial and other professionals) through both the benefits and the process of proceeding collaboratively. This book is readable by nonlawyers and lawyers alike and I highly recommend it. I regularly purchase a handful of copies of this book to give out to clients, clergy, and others who may be interested in learning about Collaborative Practice.

This book is very informative but tends to serve as a commercial for collaborative divorce. I recommend that you read this to learn about the collaborative process but also as a starting point to research other forms of settlement.

I'd read a few books on divorce in preparation, knowing that we'd need a separation agreement to firm up financial issues and for various matters related to the kids. We'd had a fair amount of conflict leading up to this point in time, but eventually completed an asymptotic approach to a mutual acceptance of the marriage breakdown. With that came agreements on most issues, but I was dreading the legal process that I knew to be required. I figured that it was going to inevitably lead back to fights and conflict over issues that we'd actually (at least mostly) resolved. I ended up with a recommendation by a recent divorcée to consider the collaborative process. I'd not heard of this, and found this book in the library describing the whole thing. It was quite a relief to know that there

was an alternative to the traditional duke it out lawyer vs lawyer ways. If you believe you are capable to get through your divorce and separation smoothly, then this process could be for you. This book is well worth a read to understand the process, the rationale, and some of the alternatives. I'm happy to see that there is some signs that this is becoming the default process for the legal issues of marriage breakdown. It puts some much needed sanity and order into a very confusing and chaotic event.

Having met with Ron Ousky, I am only sorry to say this book wasn't out when we were looking for help to keep our family intact even though we were divorcing. Our own story is one that many people say they can relate to, having each of the family members write their own version of how the divorce came to pass and how we stayed family through it, not only surviving, but thriving. We're happy to support the Collaborative Law Institute and share its own message, similar to our own... *A Family Doesn't Have To End Just Because A Marriage Does!* *Relational Shifts: A Family Doesn't Have to End Just Because a Marriage Does*

Thoughtful. The one word summary of the way Webb and Ousky write about divorce must emphasize the reflective nature of the book and of their practices. With graphics and bullets and quotes and case studies and testimonials, they lay out a different way of approaching a familiar topic. A topic that is oddly familiar to all of us who have been through divorce but a process that is mostly familiar to family lawyers whose work largely replicates the status quo. In proposing an alternative, the authors carefully examine the consequences (emotional and financial) of the old way and the collaborative way. Again and again, I was delighted to realize "I'm not the only one" as Webb (the founder of the collaborative movement) and Ousky (a lawyer and practitioner) critique the existing approach and describe their alternative. If I have any negative reactions to the work, they come from a sense that the book is an argument for collaborative divorce. It is an argument I find compelling. It is an argument that I find persuasive. It is an argument that I make in talks in Portland and Vancouver on a regular basis. It is an argument that I've made on television and radio but an argument nonetheless. Stu Webb could probably write another book titled "How to Succeed at Collaboration" and his autobiography in the very near future. This is less than a description of the process and more of a persuasive narration.

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