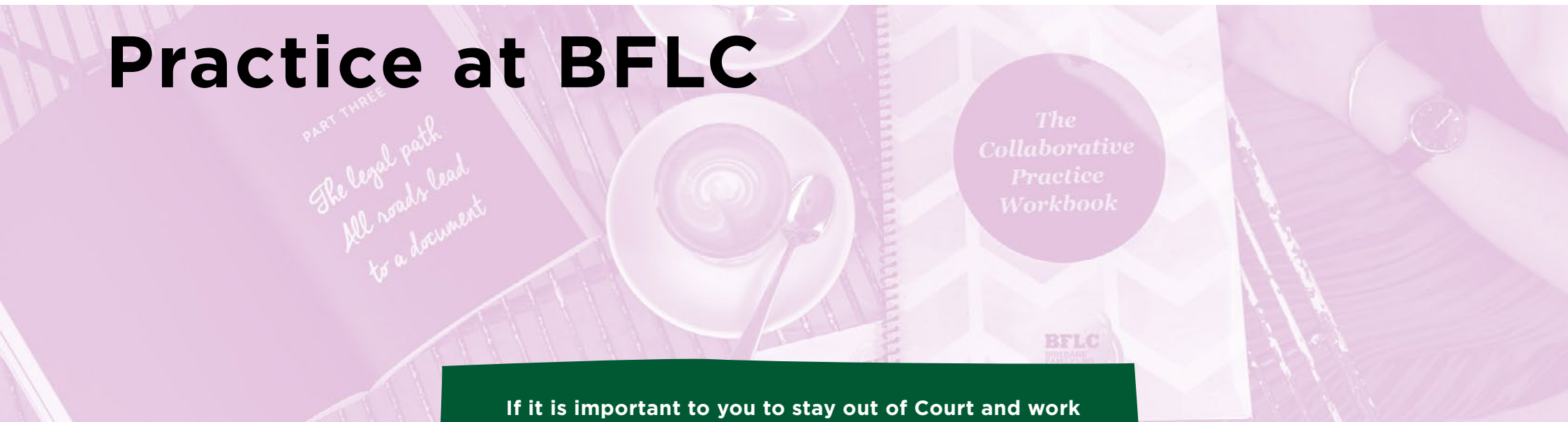


# Collaborative Practice at BFLC



**If it is important to you to stay out of Court and work together to find a plan for your family's future then Collaborative Practice might be for you.**

**Collaborative Practice is a term used to describe a process that assists you to work through the legal issues arising from the breakdown of your relationship in a considered and calm way with the assistance of a team of professionals.**

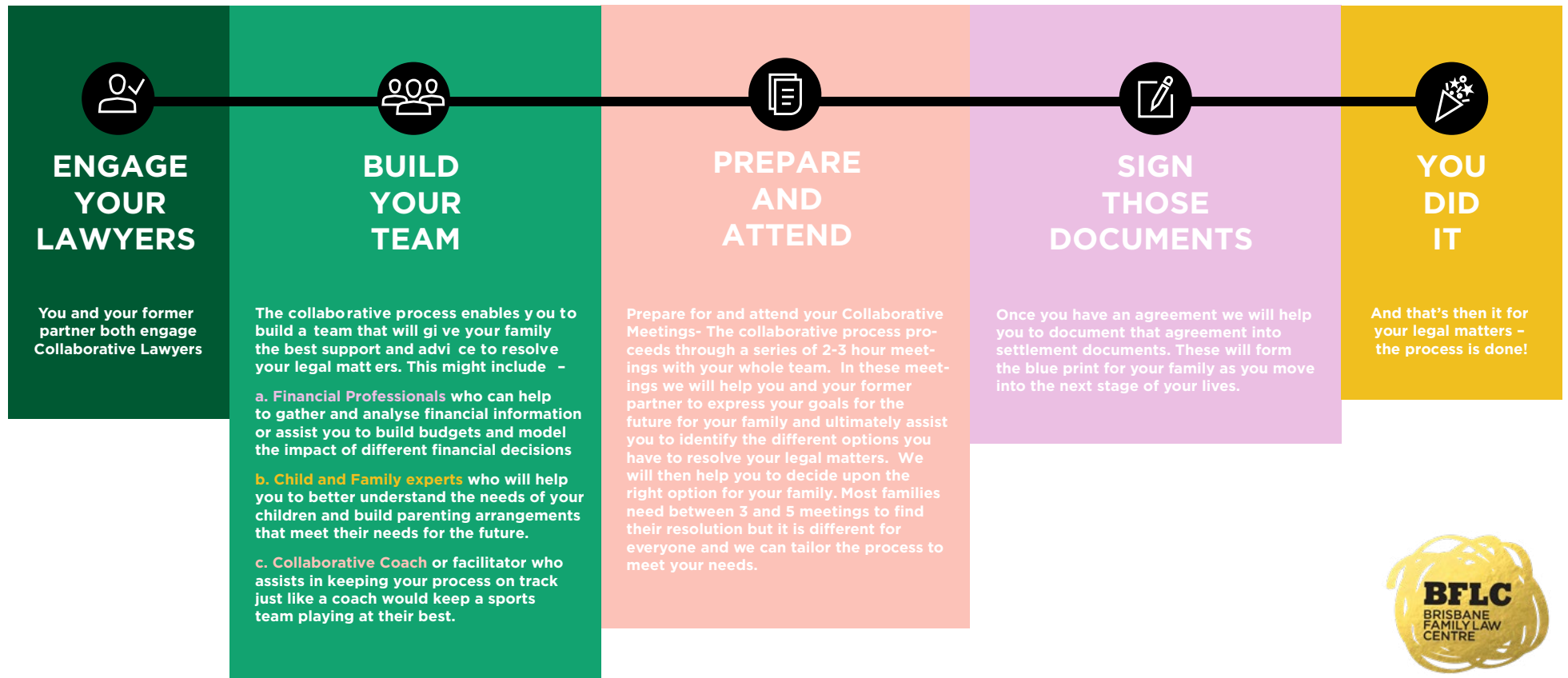
Through a series of meetings, your team will help you to set out your goals for your family's future, consider the options that might achieve those goals and ultimately draft the necessary agreements to get you there.

Collaborative Practice requires you and your former partner and your advisors to enter into a contract that confirms that you will negotiate

openly, honestly and respectfully and will do all that you can to find solutions that don't require either of you to go to Court.

Collaborative Practice works best for families seeking an out of court settlement and who are willing to negotiate in good faith, sharing information and considering professional input and advice from lawyers, financial professionals and child experts to tailor arrangements to their family.

# Collaborative Journey Map



**Family lawyers who are Collaborative Lawyers have undertaken significant training to enable them to work in this model. It does require a shift for lawyers who will use skills that are perhaps not as utilised in more traditional forms of negotiation or in litigation.**

The Collaborative Process works well for families who are focused on maintaining relationships, particularly as parents, into the future. It offers significant advantages for couples to create a bespoke process and agreement after separation.

The collaborative process is also very useful in both parenting and financial matters, as it allows for significant flexibility and can offer you the benefit of

advice from professionals such as financial planners and accountants as well as counsellors and child experts to ensure that your legal matters are settled in the most beneficial way for the whole family.

Perhaps the most significant difference between collaborative practice and the other legal pathways including negotiation and mediation is the focus on your goals and interests in the collaborative process. Unlike the remaining legal pathways, in a collaborative process you and your former partner will be able to focus on your goals for your future and you will be encouraged to discuss agreements that both meet those interests but also meet your legal entitlements and obligations. As a result of this, the agreements reached in the collaborative process are often more holistic and long-lasting as they are personalised to the couple and their family.

**If you would like to learn more about how collaborative practice might work for your family, please get in touch with our team.**

To say Clarissa is an amazing “lawyering woman” is simply an understatement. Her passion, determination, expertise, compassion & humour steered us to the finish line in a very protracted & complicated matter with a result I deserve and am satisfied with. Her vision, generosity of spirit & enthusiasm for me as a client & her role in my matter was inspiring & reassuring during the most difficult and darkest time in my life to date. I am eternally grateful she took on my case at a time when I had lost faith in the collaborative process after two false starts with other Lawyers who weren’t the right fit.

Collaboration is definitely not “taking the easy way out” as evidenced by the many complicating factors that led us to the point of no return in our long marriage. It is the best option for the right people; those who really do want to attempt to divorce with their dignity intact, maintain their values and integrity and can manage to communicate despite the obvious difficulties a marriage breakdown brings to your life. At times, the sadness and tragedy of the broken relationship was lost in the money talk which practically speaking, in the end is what the negotiations focused on.

Lawyers are like a new pair of shoes. You need to try them on & see if the style is truly yours & the fit is comfortable and works for you. If not, you are entitled to change your mind. Clarissa Rayward was a perfect fit for me as a person & my case. It was still a roller coaster ride I would much rather not have boarded, but it was my unavoidable destiny. A new chapter now begins.....

“There are far better things ahead than what we leave behind” C. S. Lewis

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