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## Member firms of the Western Sydney Collaborative Family Lawyers group are:

- **Champion Legal – Parramatta**  
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[www.champion.com.au](http://www.champion.com.au)
- **Coleman & Greig – Parramatta**  
Phone: 02 9635 6422  
[www.colemanandgreig.com.au](http://www.colemanandgreig.com.au)
- **Karen L Haga & Associates – Castle Hill**  
Phone: 02 9894 9133  
[www.karenhagalawyers.com.au](http://www.karenhagalawyers.com.au)
- **Maclarens Lawyers – Merrylands**  
Phone: 02 9897 4644  
[www.maclarens.com.au](http://www.maclarens.com.au)
- **Matthews Folbigg – Parramatta**  
Phone: 02 9635 7966  
[www.matthewsfolbigg.com.au](http://www.matthewsfolbigg.com.au)
- **McPhee Kelshaw – Springwood**  
Phone: 02 4751 1055  
[www.mcpheekelshaw.com.au](http://www.mcpheekelshaw.com.au)
- **Rafton Family Lawyers – Richmond (Penrith by appointment)**  
Phone: 02 4578 5611  
[www.rafton.com.au](http://www.rafton.com.au)
- **Ross Selvaggio and Associates – Norwest Business Park**  
Phone: 02 9899 9677  
[www.rossselvaggio.com.au](http://www.rossselvaggio.com.au)
- **Watts McCray – Parramatta**  
Phone: 02 9635 4266  
[www.wattsmccray.com.au](http://www.wattsmccray.com.au)



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# Welcome to

## Western Sydney Collaborative Family Lawyers

Collaborative law is a relatively new and fresh approach to family law in Australia. It offers separating couples an opportunity to work together to find a fair solution to the issues they face during a relationship breakdown – a solution that is uniquely tailored to fit their family.

In early 2007, a group of well-established and reputable law firms from across the western Sydney region joined forces to create Western Sydney Collaborative Family Lawyers (WSCFL).

The group comprises experienced family lawyers and accredited specialists from the leading firms in the region who understand the collaborative process. WSCFL can help you and your partner to achieve a solution that's right for your family.

## The Collaborative Family Law Process

Collaborative family law is the process of negotiating a settlement agreement without the need to go to court.

It involves you, your partner and your respective lawyers sitting together and identifying the issues of importance in the settlement, then negotiating a satisfactory solution.

Most importantly, all of the negotiations are conducted face-to-face with both parties present, instead of via written correspondence between lawyers, which ensures a transparent and open process. During the negotiations, couples have access to a variety of experts, such as counsellors, child specialists, accountants and financial advisers, who contribute to the discussion where necessary and provide advice accordingly.

Any agreement made as a result of the collaborative process is legally binding and enforceable, in the same way that traditional court-based settlements are.

## Why use Collaborative Family Law?

There are many advantages to using the collaborative process in your separation. For example:

- You control the decision-making process regarding your financial arrangements and your children's parenting arrangements;
- You can be sure that your individual needs and interests are considered;
- You have access to a range of experts during the process, such as child specialists, counsellors and financial advisers, who can help resolve difficult issues and provide advice for you moving forward;
- Collaborative law reduces the conflict between couples because each party has the opportunity to have their issues raised and discussed;
- It can minimise the stress for all family members (especially children) by removing the need to appear in court;
- It can lead to a better and more harmonious post-separation relationship, which is particularly beneficial when couples are co-parenting;
- Because there is no need to attend court and all of the negotiations take place in face-to-face meetings, the collaborative process is usually quicker and cheaper than the traditional court-based separation.

## Is it the right option for you?

Generally speaking, collaborative family law allows you to resolve the issues surrounding your separation in the manner that best suits your family.

The lawyers at WSCFL are all highly experienced family law professionals. They understand the collaborative process and can advise you whether or not it is the best approach in your situation.

**For more information on collaborative family law, or to determine whether it is suitable for you, contact one of the firms listed on this brochure or visit the website**

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