

Why Collaborative Divorce's High Success Rate Matters for Sarasota Families

When Sarasota families consider divorce, one of their biggest questions is simple: *How do we actually get this done?* [Recent Florida data](#) provides a clear and encouraging answer. A comprehensive analysis of collaborative divorce cases across Florida from 2014 through mid-2024 shows that approximately 85 percent of collaborative matters fully resolved without litigation. The data was provided by the Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals, and the analysis was conducted by [Adam B. Cordover](#), a Sarasota collaborative lawyer, and [Dr. Randy Heller](#), a Nova Southeastern University professor and collaborative facilitator. That result is not just impressive — it is remarkably consistent with success rates found in earlier research conducted by the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals.

For families facing life-changing decisions, consistency like this matters.

What the Florida Data Tells Us

The Florida analysis, based on nearly 300 reported collaborative cases, found that 85% of families reached a full resolution of all issues. These findings mirror the earlier IACP research, which identified a success rate of 86% across jurisdictions.

In other words, this is not a fluke or a regional anomaly. Whether studied nationally or here in Florida, the collaborative process repeatedly shows a strong ability to help families reach durable, out-of-court agreements.

Just as important, most Florida collaborative cases concluded efficiently. Nearly 60 percent finished in six months or less, and over 90 percent finished within a year. That timeframe can be especially meaningful for Sarasota families who want to minimize disruption to children, careers, and financial planning.

Why Success Rates Matter in Real Life

Statistics alone do not tell the whole story, but they do point to something important: collaborative divorce works even when cases are hard. The Florida data shows that many collaborative cases involved significant challenges — trust issues, infidelity, mental health concerns, and complex financial questions. Yet the vast majority still reached resolution.

For families in Sarasota, this means collaborative divorce is not just for “easy” cases. It is often chosen precisely because families want structure, professional guidance, and a process designed to manage conflict rather than inflame it.

A high success rate also supports informed decision-making. When spouses understand that most collaborative cases end with agreement, they can more confidently choose a process that prioritizes privacy, control, and thoughtful solutions over courtroom battles.

What Is Collaborative Divorce?

Collaborative divorce is a way to resolve family law issues without fighting in court.

Each spouse hires their own separate lawyer. Those lawyers give independent legal advice, just like in any other divorce. The difference is that everyone involved — lawyers and other professionals — commits to working together to reach a fair, out-of-court agreement.

Generally, the team also includes neutral professionals, such as a financial expert and a mental health professional, who help both spouses understand finances, communicate better, and stay focused on long-term solutions. This helps cases remain on track and address the two facets that tend to derail divorce negotiations: finances and emotions.

A key rule makes this process different from traditional divorce: if the collaborative process ends or if either spouse files a contested court pleading, all collaborative professionals must withdraw. They cannot represent either spouse in litigation. This rule keeps everyone focused on problem-solving rather than posturing for court. It also restrains the lawyers from spinning the divorce out of control with harmful and costly litigation tactics.

But as you can see from the statistics above, collaborative divorce has a very high success rate. That said, no divorce process can guarantee a specific outcome, and collaborative divorce is no exception.

What it *does* offer is privacy, more control over timing and decisions, and the ability to make informed choices with professional guidance — rather than having outcomes imposed by a judge.

Why This Matters for Sarasota Families

Sarasota families often value discretion, planning, and stability. The data collected by the Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals reinforces what many local professionals see every day: collaborative divorce gives families a realistic path to resolution, even in emotionally complex situations.

For those considering divorce, understanding both the high likelihood of success and the structure behind that success can make all the difference when choosing how to move forward.

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