

Dr. Brad S. Broeder
Clinical & Forensic Psychologist
Florida & NYS Licensed

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SARASOTA COLLABORATIVE
FAMILY LAW PROFESSIONALS

Welcome to the ‘Collaborative Process’ a system designed to include a group of professionals aligned to assist, foster and guide you and your family to a healthy and self-directed transition. This process is based on the principle of ‘therapeutic jurisprudence’. That is, the law will impact the emotional life and psychological well-being of all participants, notably family members. Therefore, the role of this psychologist, is specifically designed to serve as the Collaborative Team’s ‘Neutral Leader’ or, commonly known simply as the group ‘Facilitator’. The primary function of the ‘Facilitator’ is to foster ongoing and open dialogue amongst and between all of the parties, thereby maintaining the group focus on conflict resolution and coming to grips with the reality of the divorce.

In addition, as your ‘Facilitator’ my job is to help families in transition cope and deal with the myriad relationship issues that can and do occur during the process of divorce. These issues include, but are not limited to: communication breakdowns, need for negotiation, a focus on compromise and, futuristic planning. These topics and others are all addressed in a respectful, dignified and time-conscious manner.

Dr. Broeder’s job as the ‘Professional Neutral’ is to provide a safe and secure atmosphere wherein he can best learn about, understand and identify each parties’ interests, and goals and thereby facilitate conflict resolution and goal-achievement in an unbiased, impartial and objective fashion. The key element for this success-oriented process is neutrality; herein Dr. Broeder will strive to promote the shared interests and objectives of all participants.

I.) The Neutral Professional as ‘Facilitator’:

Dr. Broeder is a licensed psychologist in Florida & New York State. He is licensed under Florida Statute #490 and is thereby bound by those ethical parameters. As the Facilitator in the collaborative law process his role is to assist, guide, direct, facilitate and educate the parties with being able to achieve specified goal(s) in a neutral, unbiased and objective fashion.

Dr. Broeder is a member of the collaborative team and serves as the ‘director’ or facilitator for the joint and TEAM meetings. The focus in and during such meetings or, any additional joint and individual meetings, is to address any communication issues, negotiation tactics, parenting questions and concerns (if applicable) and, to assist in the personal management of current emotional reactions and residual feelings of anger, loss, fear, anxiety, etc. The goal is to enhance goal-achievement, through education, demonstration, mediation and/or therapeutic intervention(s).

II.) The different roles and purposes of the Professional Facilitator (PF):

Dr. Broeder strives to demonstrate, model, reinforce and encourage respectful dialogue such that the parties can utilize active listening skills, identify specific areas of concern or conflict and, focus on diffusing situations and disagreements by facilitating discussions regarding solutions and compromise.

For those parties with children the collaborative process emphasizes the principles of ‘co-parenting’ and therefore it is not uncommon to have several or even multiple joint and/or individual meetings with the parties, and potentially the children. Additionally, because money matters, family dynamics and children are often involved and directly affected by the ‘transitions’ associated with divorcing partners it is sometimes necessary to meet and address the needs of the children to emphasize coping strategies and learn about the child or children's areas of concern or anxiety.

The Facilitator may also serve as a consultant to the ‘team’ in order to address more specific areas of concerns or problem areas. These may include issues related to competency, substance abuse, anger control problems, parenting problems as well as personal issues related to the emotional upset that often follows the decision to divorce. Herein, be aware that Dr. Broeder is well versed in couples/marital dynamics, child and adolescent psychology and can provide specific direction and psycho-educational reasoning regarding developmental issues as children progress through different life-stages and the corresponding challenges.

III.) Terms of Engagement with the Professional Facilitator, (PF):

The terms of this engagement are consistent with the protocols and participation agreements that the parties have/had signed with their respective collaborative law attorneys and, with the ‘financial neutral’. This document serves as our agreement, or contract, to work together in, during and throughout the collaborative process. Dr. Broeder requests a retainer fee of \$2,250 (based on his hourly rate of \$225/hr.) for the first or initial 10 hours of service, including joint or individual meetings, email correspondence(s), telephone call(s), written communications and, his shared communications with other members of the ‘collaborative team’.

Inherent in the collaborative process is the nature of full disclosure. Herein, Dr. Broeder will gladly share and disclose if there had been any prior involvement or treatment with any specific member in this process. Such disclosures are also expected of both parties. Additionally, Dr. Broeder, serving as the Facilitator is to focus on learning each parties' interests, goals and expectations such that he can most appropriately and objectively work to assist both parties in reaching a joint solution to their familial issues.

In attempting to achieve a mutually determined and sound agreement the 'scope' of the Facilitator's role may be expanded to include other functions. With full disclosure as to the provision of such services the Facilitator is allowed to assist, educate, treat, direct and otherwise perform additional services under the proviso that such 'services' have been fully disclosed to all 'team' members and all parties are in agreement. Otherwise, no additional or alternate service(s) shall be provided.

IV.) The Collaborative Process:

Dr. Broeder will serve as the 'facilitator' in this process. The emphasis will be on establishing a safe, therapeutic and mutually comfortable environment wherein he can collect 'data' from the parties, establish specific goals and, direct shared communications that lead to a mutually agreed upon settlement. This is very much a 'person-centered' approach to a legal situation. Dr. Broeder will maintain the integrity of the collaborative process and correct any mistakes or misinformation that is shared or disclosed. He will emphasize honest and full disclosure of all 'relevant' information and materials that are critical to a successful outcome.

Dr. Broeder shall uphold the core principle of 'neutrality' and thereby strive to best represent the needs, goals and interests of all participants, including (if applicable) the child or children. Dr. Broeder shall also maintain records of any and all joint or individual meetings, sessions or discussions. Additionally, there may be times when Dr. Broeder has to enter into a 'dual-role'. However, such a process will not take place until all parties and participant had been made aware of the specific circumstances requiring such a 'dual-role' and, after mutual consent had been granted, then and only then would Dr. Broeder enter into such a role.

**V.) Informed Consent, Release of Information, Confidentiality & Withdrawal
And/or Termination of Services:**

Dr. Broeder shall request of all parties to sign a separate ‘Consent Form’, which signifies that they are voluntarily entering into this contractual arrangement. This form shall also request of both parties to provide all relevant contact information. As such, the completion of this consent form demonstrates respect for the participant’s autonomous decision-making, thereby opening the door for the collaborative process.

In addition, Dr. Broeder shall request of the parties to complete a separate ‘release-of-information’ form that would allow Dr. Broeder to gather, collect, share and dispense information regarding the parties to other members of the Collaborative Team. This issue is directly related to concerns about ‘confidentiality’.

A primary principle of ‘collaborative law’ is ‘full and honest disclosure’. However, many times psychologists or Facilitators are in the business of hearing, seeing or learning about many different ‘facts’ or anecdotes that may or may not be directly relevant to the collaborative process. Therefore, all information disclosed between the parties and Dr. Broeder shall be discussed, reviewed and interpreted as significant or meaningful for full disclosure to the team. Otherwise, there is typically much information that does not have a direct bearing on the collaborative process and such information shall remain confidential.

Consistent with the participation agreement with all members of the collaborative team, the Facilitator may withdraw from this process for several different personal or professional reasons. For example, if participants refuse to reveal or disclose pertinent materials or information that could undermine the integrity of the collaborative process or otherwise relate in bad faith then the Collaborative Facilitator may decide and/or consult with the other members of the team to withdraw from or, terminate the collaborative process.

That being acknowledged, please be assured that Dr. Broeder will first work to exhaust every psychological tool and strategy to foster and facilitate a working relationship such that dialogue, discussion and goal-setting can be established with the end result being a successful and ethically appropriate settlement between the parties.

By signing this agreement you are acknowledging the role, purpose and function of Dr. Broeder serving as your TEAM Facilitator.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Wife

Husband

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Attorney: _____

Attorney: _____

By: _____

Dr. Brad S. Broeder --- 'Collaborative Neutral Facilitator'
Florida Licensed: No.: #PY5583