

**ATTORNEY MERRIE HAWLEY** practices matrimonial & family law, is trained in collaborative divorce law and has conducted mediations for divorcing couples.

Attorney Hawley explains that in the collaborative process the parties & their attorneys commit in writing to settle their case without litigation; give full, prompt & accurate disclosure of all information pertinent to their case and engage in informal discussions & conferences to settle all issues. Under the parties' written collaborative agreement, if either party chooses to go to court and abandon the collaborative process, both attorneys withdraw & the parties retain new counsel. Collaborative divorce is a process where the parties & attorneys agree to resolve all issues in an atmosphere of cooperation, honesty & integrity. Attorney Hawley states that collaborative divorce law is an alternative to litigation & mediation. She practices matrimonial & family law and will litigate on her clients' behalf when necessary. Attorney Hawley is a member of the Professional Women's Alliance of Connecticut ([www.pwa-ct.com](http://www.pwa-ct.com)) and Collaborative Divorce Attorneys of Fairfield County ([www.collaborativedivorcect.com](http://www.collaborativedivorcect.com)).

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