

CLEMENTLAW

THE LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL E. CLEMENT

New York Divorce and Family Law Blog

[New York Collaborative Law Center Opens](#)

Posted on September 10, 2009 by [Daniel Clement](#)

The long awaited Collaborative Law Center has finally opened.

The center, the first court-based collaborative law center in the country, offers New Yorkers an alternative to resolving their divorce through litigation, which is often emotionally economically draining.

In the collaborative process, the parties agree not to go to court, and, instead, each hires a specially-trained collaborative law attorney. Through a series of face-to-face meetings, the couple and their lawyers work to resolve all divorce-related disputes and mutually decide on issues such as child custody and finances. The parties are aided by mental health professionals and neutral financial professionals. The process continues until all issues in dispute are resolved and a settlement agreement is reached.

One of the biggest benefits of the collaborative process it gives control of the divorce to the parties. The divorcing couple, rather than a judge, get to decide for themselves what is best for their families and their futures.

The Collaborative Family Law Center is available to clients from all five boroughs. For more information, [click here](#).

While I was away on vacation, last week, I was asked to handle one of the first cases being processed through the center. I will report here about my experiences with the collaborative law center.