

COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE CLIENT STORY

This case involved a 7 year marriage with one child – a boy, age 6 at the time. The child had numerous disabilities and had been diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome. The child and parents participated in ongoing therapy related to his condition.

Mom was not working (in school), and Dad was employed by an aerospace firm. Their joint goals focused on co-parenting their son, but Mom had some major misgivings about Dad’s ability to parent due to his history of depression.

The collaborative team included the two attorneys and two coaches. With the help of the coaches, the parties established a parenting schedule that included the child’s access to both parents. Mom’s concerns related to Dad’s depression were addressed and factored into the parenting plan along with dietary considerations. There were also religious differences; Mom is Jewish and Dad is Christian. Dad agreed to observe at his house dietary restrictions for the child that were important to Mom, and they each respected religious holidays of the other.

There were additional issues related to support and selling the family residence, which Dad had owned prior to the marriage. The parties finally agreed to sell the family residence, and each was able to purchase a new home post-divorce.

At the signing of the final Judgment, the attorneys and parties toasted their “new beginnings” with champagne! Both parents and child are doing well two years after the divorce was finalized.