

# COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE PRACTITIONERS



**FOO SIEW FONG**  
Family Lawyer

---

Harry Elias Partnership



**GLORIA JAMES-CIVETTA**  
Family Lawyer

---

Gloria James-Civetta & Co

*Singapore's leading Collaborative Family Law Practitioners*



## WHAT IS COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE?

In family law, the use of alternative dispute resolution in Singapore has dramatically increased. In a Collaborative Family Practice (CFP) process, spouses hire accredited lawyers who work together— outside of the Singapore court system—and help them reach a settlement to end their marriage.

The CFP process aims to help couples work successfully within the Collaborative Law Structure to achieve a positive outcome for both parties while avoiding the social, emotional, and economic strain a traditional divorce can have.

The goal of this therapeutic approach is to promote positive emotional and psychological outcomes to help you and your partner reach an amicable agreement and make the divorce process as simple as possible.

**Collaborative Divorce operates on the following principles:**

- A pledge not to litigate in Court.
- An open, honest and voluntary approach to the exchange of information
- A commitment to work towards solutions that consider the highest priorities of both parties and their children

**CFP can be used to address all of the issues litigated in the traditional divorce process, such as:**

- Child custody, care & control, and access
- Spousal and child maintenance
- Division of marital assets

## **WHY US?**

- We bring significant experience in both traditional litigation and collaborative law in Singapore.
- We have conducted quite a number of successful cases under our belt



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

- In your initial meeting, your lawyer will discuss whether CFP is suitable for your circumstances.
- Parties and their respective lawyers will undertake and make an agreement not to litigate the matter in Court. This removes the threat of litigation, which can often overshadow and be counterproductive to negotiations.
- Parties must also make full and frank disclosure of any required information, ensuring a more open and cooperative environment in which the parties can work through the issues at hand. TRUST is of outmost importance here.
- The CFP Process is confidential, meaning the terms of your settlement will not be made public. All discussions and documents are legally privileged and conducted on a “without prejudice” basis, meaning that they cannot later be used in Court proceedings should no settlement be reached, with the exception of financial disclosures.
- Most of the negotiations will take place at face-to-face/zoom four-way meetings involving you, your spouse and your respective lawyers. This allows you and your spouse to be in control of the negotiations which reduces misunderstandings.
- Once settlement has been reached, the CFP lawyers will draw up a settlement agreement which will be filed in the Court as a draft consent order together with the divorce papers. The Court will seal the terms and turn them into a Court Order.



# Foo Siew Fong

Family Lawyer  
Harry Elias Partnership

[siewfong@harryelias.com](mailto:siewfong@harryelias.com)

Foo Siew Fong heads the Family and Divorce practice group in Harry Elias Partnership LLP. As a preeminent family lawyer with 30 years of experience, Siew Fong deals with all aspects of family and matrimonial law in addition to handling preventive issues at the beginning of a relationship.

Siew Fong is an accredited Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) mediator in family law. A pioneer trained in Collaborative Family Practice (CFP), Siew Fong also sits on the panel of the SMC's CFP service, which aims to resolve family disputes outside of the courtroom. She is the general editor of "Law & Practice of Family Law" in Singapore.



# Gloria James

Family Lawyer

Gloria James-Civetta & Co

[gloria@gjclaw.com.sg](mailto:gloria@gjclaw.com.sg)

Gloria James is the founding partner of Gloria James-Civetta & Co. She has more than 25 years of experience handling local and international divorce and family law-related matters.

Her constant training as a Mediator and Collaborative Family Law Practitioner has helped her provide additional services to her clients, enabling them to consider the Alternative Dispute Resolution route ahead of litigation.

She is also an accredited Family Mediator (Family Justice Courts and SMC Family Panel), Child Representative Lawyer, and Parenting Coordination Lawyer (Appointed by the Family Justice Courts). She is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Mediation & Conflict Resolution.

