

SINGAPORE MEDIATION CENTRE COLLABORATIVE FAMILY PRACTICE PROCESS

CFP is a process that takes place before any court action is initiated.

Before the process gets underway, all participants sign a participation agreement stating that:

- they will negotiate in good faith;
- they will provide full and honest disclosure of all relevant information and documentation;
- they will not litigate, or threaten litigation, while engaged in the process; and
- the CFP lawyers and other experts will cease involvement if the process does not result in settlement.

Once the participation agreement has been signed, the parties will each meet separately with their respective CFP lawyer to prepare for the joint meetings. At that stage, the possible appointment of other family specialists will be discussed. Several joint meetings with the parties, the CFP lawyers and any other family specialists will then take place.

During the process, CFP lawyers will act in a supportive and facilitative role, and encourage the parties to communicate directly with each other. CFP lawyers will also try and reach consensus on legal issues, and legal advice is given in joint meetings with the parties where possible.

At the end of the process, where parties reach an agreement and the papers are in order, the Family Justice & Juvenile Division of the Subordinate Courts of Singapore will prioritise the case to facilitate the making of a consent order.

The diagram below provides a summary of SMC's CFP process:

