

## ROLES OF TEAM MEMBERS

### YOUR ATTORNEY

- Remains your advocate
- Looks to the best interests of the family
- Considers the entire picture, e.g., the future of the relationship, parenting
- “Lays down her weapons” – commits to settlement from the beginning
- Provides information about the law
- Helps you to negotiate from interests rather than from positions
- Drafts the Agreement and submits the necessary paperwork to get the divorce

### YOUR DIVORCE COACH: A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO

- Provides emotional support and guidance during the process
- Helps you improve your communication skills
- Facilitates communications between you and your spouse
- Helps you prioritize needs and develop solutions
- Works with you and your spouse to develop a parenting plan
- Helps restructure the family
- NOTE: NOT THERAPY BUT A SHORT-TERM PROBLEM-SOLVING FOCUS

### YOUR CHILD SPECIALIST: A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WITH EXPERTISE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY DYNAMICS WHO

- Provides a voice for your child
- Advocates for the best interests of your child
- Hears the child’s concerns
- Assesses immediate and future needs
- Provides guidance for promoting your child’s adjustment to the divorce
- Discusses developmental and practical concerns
- May assist in the development of the parenting plan

### YOUR FINANCIAL SPECIALIST: A FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL WITH EXPERTISE IN DIVORCE FINANCIAL PLANNING WHO

- Educates you and your attorneys on financial issues
- Adjusts for power and information imbalances
- Assists in keeping the process moving towards settlement
- Assists with completion of disclosure documents
- Models the impact of different settlement scenarios over time
- May recommend alternative solutions for property division
- Prepares analyses of needs and resources to determine income available for support

