

Spokane County Superior Court Local Rules

LSPR 92.0 COLLABORATIVE LAW PROCESS

(a) Commencement. In the event that represented parties enter into a Collaborative Law Participation Agreement that meets all requirements for such an agreement as specified in RCW 7.77.030, then upon the filing by both legal representatives of a joint Notice of Participation in Collaborative Law there shall be an automatic stay that suspends the case scheduling requirements of LAR 0.4.1.

(b) Effect. Upon the removal of a family or civil law action from case management processes, the court shall set a status conference to occur not later than nine (9) months from the date of the matter's initial filing. The parties to the action shall then be excused from settlement conferences, discovery deadlines, GAL requirements, mediation, and any other deadlines. If the case does not resolve within this nine (9) month period, then a mandatory Collaborative Law Status Report shall be filed with the Court on the date set for the status conference. If participation in the Collaborative Law process remains ongoing, then additional periodic case status conferences shall be scheduled as the court orders. Failure to comply may lead to dismissal of the case.

(c) Termination. Upon termination of the Collaborative Law process, prior to entry of the final decree, a Notice of Withdrawal from participation in Collaborative Law shall be filed with the Court.

(d) Bench Copies. The notices contemplated by this local rule shall be filed with the Superior Court Clerk and a bench copy provided to the assigned trial judge. Effective 9/2/14