

DRAFT  
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

# **UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW COURT RULES**

**or**

# **UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT**

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS

ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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Draft of Proposed Amendments to Uniform Collaborative Law Act, April 2010

*Without Prefatory Note but With Proposed Additional Comments  
Changes Shown in Underscore*

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ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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April 12, 2010

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**UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW COURT RULES**

**OR**

**UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW COURT RULES**

RULE 1. SHORT TITLE..... 1  
RULE 2. DEFINITIONS..... 1  
RULE 3. APPLICABILITY..... 4  
RULE 4. COLLABORATIVE LAW PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT; REQUIREMENTS... 4  
RULE 5. BEGINNING AND CONCLUDING A COLLABORATIVE LAW PROCESS..... 5  
RULE 6. PROCEEDINGS PENDING BEFORE TRIBUNAL; STATUS REPORT..... 7  
RULE 7. EMERGENCY ORDER..... 8  
RULE 8. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BY TRIBUNAL..... 8  
RULE 9. DISQUALIFICATION OF COLLABORATIVE LAWYER AND LAWYERS IN  
ASSOCIATED LAW FIRM..... 8  
RULE 10. LOW INCOME PARTIES..... 9  
RULE 11. GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AS PARTY..... 10  
RULE 12. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION..... 10  
RULE 13. STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANDATORY  
REPORTING NOT AFFECTED..... 11  
RULE 14. APPROPRIATENESS OF COLLABORATIVE LAW PROCESS..... 11  
RULE 15. COERCIVE OR VIOLENT RELATIONSHIP..... 12  
RULE 16. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLABORATIVE LAW COMMUNICATION..... 12  
RULE 17. PRIVILEGE AGAINST DISCLOSURE FOR COLLABORATIVE LAW  
COMMUNICATION; ADMISSIBILITY; DISCOVERY..... 12  
RULE 18. WAIVER AND PRECLUSION OF PRIVILEGE..... 13  
RULE 19. LIMITS OF PRIVILEGE..... 14  
RULE 20. AUTHORITY OF TRIBUNAL IN CASE OF NONCOMPLIANCE..... 15  
RULE 21. EFFECTIVE DATE..... 16

**UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT**

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE..... 17  
SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS..... 17  
SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY..... 20  
SECTION 4. COLLABORATIVE LAW PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT;  
REQUIREMENTS..... 20  
SECTION 5. BEGINNING AND CONCLUDING A COLLABORATIVE LAW PROCESS . 21  
SECTION 6. PROCEEDINGS PENDING BEFORE TRIBUNAL; STATUS REPORT ..... 23  
SECTION 7. EMERGENCY ORDER ..... 24  
SECTION 8. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BY TRIBUNAL..... 24  
SECTION 9. DISQUALIFICATION OF COLLABORATIVE LAWYER AND  
LAWYERS IN ASSOCIATED LAW FIRM ..... 24  
SECTION 10. LOW INCOME PARTIES..... 25

SECTION 11. GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AS PARTY.....	26
SECTION 12. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.....	27
SECTION 13. STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANDATORY REPORTING NOT AFFECTED.....	27
SECTION 14. APPROPRIATENESS OF COLLABORATIVE LAW PROCESS.....	27
SECTION 15. COERCIVE OR VIOLENT RELATIONSHIP.....	28
SECTION 16. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLABORATIVE LAW COMMUNICATION ...	28
SECTION 17. PRIVILEGE AGAINST DISCLOSURE FOR COLLABORATIVE LAW COMMUNICATION; ADMISSIBILITY; DISCOVERY.....	29
SECTION 18. WAIVER AND PRECLUSION OF PRIVILEGE.....	29
SECTION 19. LIMITS OF PRIVILEGE.....	30
SECTION 20. AUTHORITY OF TRIBUNAL IN CASE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.....	31
SECTION 21. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION.....	32
SECTION 22. RELATION TO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT.....	32
[SECTION 23. SEVERABILITY.....	32
SECTION 24. EFFECTIVE DATE.....	32

1 *Note for enacting states: The provisions for regulation of collaborative law are presented in*  
2 *two formats for enactment- by court rules or legislation. The substantive provisions of each*  
3 *format are identical with the exception of several standard form clauses typically found in*  
4 *legislation. Each state considering adopting the Uniform Collaborative Law Court Rules*  
5 *(UCLR) or the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA) should review its practices and*  
6 *precedent to first determine whether the substantive provisions are best adopted by court rule or*  
7 *statute. The decision may vary from state to state depending on the allocation of authority*  
8 *between the legislature and the judiciary for regulation of contracts, alternative dispute*  
9 *resolution and the legal profession. States may also decide to enact part of the substantive*  
10 *provisions by court rule and part by legislation. Specific comments following some particular*  
11 *rules or sections indicate whether the drafting committee believes enactment by court rule or*  
12 *legislation is preferable. Drafting agencies may need to renumber sections and cross references*  
13 *depending on their decision concerning the appropriate method of enactment.*

## 14 **UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW COURT RULES**

15  
16  
17 **RULE 1. SHORT TITLE.** These rules may be cited as the Uniform Collaborative Law  
18 Court Rules.

19 **RULE 2. DEFINITIONS.** In these rules:

20 (1) “Collaborative law communication” means a statement, whether oral or in a record, or  
21 verbal or nonverbal, that:

22 (A) is made to conduct, participate in, continue, or reconvene a collaborative law  
23 process; and

24 (B) occurs after the parties sign a collaborative law participation agreement and  
25 before the collaborative law process is concluded.

26 (2) “Collaborative law participation agreement” means an agreement by persons to  
27 participate in a collaborative law process.

28 (3) “Collaborative law process” means a procedure intended to resolve a collaborative  
29 matter without intervention by a tribunal in which persons:

30 (A) sign a collaborative law participation agreement; and

31 (B) are represented by collaborative lawyers.

32 (4) “Collaborative lawyer” means a lawyer who represents a party in a collaborative law

1 process.

2 (5) “Collaborative matter” means a dispute, transaction, claim, problem, or issue for  
3 resolution including a dispute, claim, or issue in a proceeding which:

4 **Alternative A**

5 is described in a collaborative law participation agreement and arises under the family or  
6 domestic relations law of this state, including but not limited to: marriage, divorce, annulment,  
7 and property distribution; child custody, visitation and parenting time; alimony or maintenance  
8 and child support; adoption; parentage; marital, post marital or premarital agreements; and  
9 guardianship of minors or disabled persons.

10 **Alternative B**

11 is described in a collaborative law participation agreement.

12 **End of Alternatives**

13  
14

(6) “Law firm” means:

15 (A) lawyers who practice law together in a partnership, professional corporation,  
16 sole proprietorship, limited liability company, or association; and

17 (B) lawyers employed in a legal services organization, or the legal department of  
18 a corporation or other organization, or the legal department of a government or governmental  
19 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

20 (7) “Nonparty participant” means a person, other than a party and the party’s  
21 collaborative lawyer, that participates in a collaborative law process.

22 (8) “Party” means a person that signs a collaborative law participation agreement and  
23 whose consent is necessary to resolve a collaborative matter.

24 (9) “Person” means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership,  
25 limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or

1 governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

2 (10) “Proceeding” means:

3 (A) a judicial, administrative, arbitral, or other adjudicative process before a  
4 tribunal, including related prehearing and post-hearing motions, conferences, and discovery; or

5 (B) a legislative hearing or similar process.

6 (11) “Prospective party” means a person that discusses with a prospective collaborative  
7 lawyer the possibility of signing a collaborative law participation agreement.

8 (12) “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored  
9 in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

10 (13) “Related to a collaborative matter” means involving the same parties, transaction or  
11 occurrence, nucleus of operative fact, dispute, claim, or issue as the collaborative matter.

12 (14) “Sign” means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

13 (A) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

14 (B) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound,  
15 or process.

16 (15) “Tribunal” means

17 (A) a court, arbitrator, administrative agency, or other body acting in an  
18 adjudicative capacity which, after presentation of evidence or legal argument, has jurisdiction to  
19 render a decision affecting a party’s interests in a matter; or

20 (B) a legislative body conducting a hearing or similar process.

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### Comment

“**Collaborative matter.**” The act uses the term “matter” rather the narrower term “dispute” to describe what the parties may attempt to resolve through a collaborative law process. Matter can include some or all of the issues in litigation or potential litigation, or can include issues between the parties that have not or may never ripen into litigation. The broader term emphasizes that parties have great autonomy to decide what to submit to a collaborative law process and encourages them to use the process creatively and broadly.

1  
2       The drafting committee provides two alternatives for enacting states to define  
3 “collaborative matter” and thus the scope of matters that can be submitted to the collaborative  
4 law process. Alternative A limits “collaborative matter” to those which arise under the family or  
5 domestic relations law of a state. States which choose to include this language will thus limit the  
6 collaborative law process to those substantive areas where it has so far achieved the greatest  
7 acceptance and growth and in which collaborative lawyers have the greatest experience. They  
8 will, however, exclude matters which do not arise under the family or domestic relations law of  
9 a state from the collaborative law process.

10  
11       Alternative B, in contrast, places no substantive limitation on matters that can be  
12 submitted to a collaborative law process, relying instead on the informed consent of parties based  
13 on the information provided by their counsel under the standards for informed consent specified  
14 in rules 12 and 13. Under Alternative B collaborative law participation agreements can be  
15 entered into to attempt to resolve everything from contractor-subcontractor disagreements, estate  
16 disputes, employer-employee rights, statutory based claims, customer-vendor disagreements, or  
17 any other matter.

18  
19       Under either Alternative A or B, the parties must describe the matter that they seek to  
20 resolve through a collaborative law process in their collaborative law participation agreement.  
21 See Rule 4(a)(4). That requirement is essential to determining the scope of the disqualification  
22 requirement for collaborative lawyers under rule 9, which is applicable to the collaborative  
23 matter and matters “related to the collaborative matter,” and the application of the evidentiary  
24 privilege under rule 17.

25  
26       **RULE 3. APPLICABILITY.** These rules apply to a collaborative law participation  
27 agreement that meets the requirements of Rule 4 signed [on or] after [the effective date of the  
28 rules].

29       **RULE 4. COLLABORATIVE LAW PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT;**  
30 **REQUIREMENTS.**

- 31       (a) A collaborative law participation agreement must:
- 32               (1) be in a record;
  - 33               (2) be signed by the parties;
  - 34               (3) state the parties’ intention to resolve a collaborative matter through a  
35 collaborative law process under these rules;
  - 36               (4) describe the nature and scope of the matter;

1 (5) identify the collaborative lawyer who represents each party in the process; and  
2 (6) contain a statement by each collaborative lawyer confirming the lawyer's  
3 representation of a party in the collaborative law process.

4 (b) Parties may agree to include in a collaborative law participation agreement additional  
5 provisions not inconsistent with these rules.

6 **RULE 5. BEGINNING AND CONCLUDING A COLLABORATIVE LAW**  
7 **PROCESS.**

8 (a) A collaborative law process begins when the parties sign a collaborative law  
9 participation agreement.

10 (b) A tribunal may not order a party to participate in a collaborative law process over that  
11 party's objection.

12 (c) A collaborative law process is concluded by a:

13 (1) resolution of a collaborative matter as evidenced by a signed record;

14 (2) resolution of a part of the collaborative matter, evidenced by a signed record,  
15 in which the parties agree that the remaining parts of the matter will not be resolved in the  
16 process; or

17 (3) termination of the process.

18 (d) A collaborative law process terminates:

19 (1) when a party gives notice to other parties in a record that the process is ended;

20 or

21 (2) when a party:

22 (A) begins a proceeding related to a collaborative matter without the  
23 agreement of all parties; or

24 (B) in a pending proceeding related to the matter:

1 (i) initiates a pleading, motion, order to show cause, or request for  
2 a conference with the tribunal;

3 (ii) requests that the proceeding be put on the [tribunal's active  
4 calendar]; or

5 (iii) takes similar action requiring notice to be sent to the parties; or

6 (3) except as otherwise provided by subsection (g), when a party discharges a  
7 collaborative lawyer or a collaborative lawyer withdraws from further representation of a party.

8 (e) A party's collaborative lawyer shall give prompt notice to all other parties in a record  
9 of a discharge or withdrawal.

10 (f) A party may terminate a collaborative law process with or without cause.

11 (g) Notwithstanding the discharge or withdrawal of a collaborative lawyer, a  
12 collaborative law process continues, if not later than 30 days after the date that the notice of the  
13 discharge or withdrawal of a collaborative lawyer required by subsection (e) is sent to the  
14 parties:

15 (1) the unrepresented party engages a successor collaborative lawyer; and

16 (2) in a signed record:

17 (A) the parties consent to continue the process by reaffirming the  
18 collaborative law participation agreement;

19 (B) the agreement is amended to identify the successor collaborative  
20 lawyer; and

21 (C) the successor collaborative lawyer confirms the lawyer's  
22 representation of a party in the collaborative process.

23 (h) A collaborative law process does not conclude if, with the consent of the parties, a  
24 party requests a tribunal to approve a resolution of the collaborative matter or any part thereof as

1 evidenced by a signed record.

2 (i) A collaborative law participation agreement may provide additional methods of  
3 concluding a collaborative law process.

4 **RULE 6. PROCEEDINGS PENDING BEFORE TRIBUNAL; STATUS REPORT.**

5 (a) Persons in a proceeding pending before a tribunal may sign a collaborative law  
6 participation agreement to seek to resolve a collaborative matter related to the proceeding.  
7 Parties shall file promptly with the tribunal a notice of the agreement after it is signed. Subject to  
8 subsection (c) and Rules 7 and 8, the filing operates as an application for a stay of the  
9 proceeding.

10 (b) Parties shall file promptly with the tribunal notice in a record when a collaborative  
11 law process concludes. The stay of the proceeding under subsection (a) is lifted when the notice  
12 is filed. The notice may not specify any reason for termination of the process.

13 (c) A tribunal in which a proceeding is stayed under subsection (a) may require parties  
14 and collaborative lawyers to provide a status report on the collaborative law process and the  
15 proceeding. A status report may include only information on whether the process is ongoing or  
16 concluded. It may not include a report, assessment, evaluation, recommendation, finding, or  
17 other communication regarding a collaborative law process or collaborative law matter.

18 (d) A tribunal may not consider a communication made in violation of subsection (c).

19 (e) A tribunal shall provide parties notice and an opportunity to be heard before  
20 dismissing a proceeding in which a notice of collaborative process is filed based on delay or  
21 failure to prosecute.

22 **Comment**

23 Rule 6 regulates the relationship between the collaborative law process and the judicial  
24 process. The drafting committee thus believes rule 6 might best be enacted by judicial rule rather  
25 than legislation.

26

1 This rule authorizes parties to enter into a collaborative law participation agreement to  
2 attempt to resolve matters in pending proceedings, a subject discussed in the Prefatory Note. *See*  
3 *supra*. To give the collaborative law process time and breathing space to operate, it creates an  
4 application for a stay of proceedings upon the filing of a collaborative law participation  
5 agreement. The stay should normally be granted from the time the tribunal receives written  
6 notice that the parties have executed a collaborative law participation agreement until it receives  
7 written notice that the collaborative law process is concluded. The stay of proceedings is  
8 qualified by rule 7, which authorizes a tribunal to issue emergency orders notwithstanding the  
9 stay and rule 8, which authorizes a tribunal to approve an agreement resulting from a  
10 collaborative law process.  
11

12 **RULE 7. EMERGENCY ORDER.** During a collaborative law process, a tribunal may  
13 issue emergency orders to protect the health, safety, welfare, or interest of a party or [insert term  
14 for family or household member as defined in [state civil protection order statute]].

15 **Comment**

16  
17 Rule 7 regulates the relationship between the collaborative law process and the judicial  
18 process. The drafting committee thus believe that rule 7 might best be enacted by judicial rule  
19 rather than legislation.  
20  
21

22 **RULE 8. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BY TRIBUNAL.** A tribunal may approve  
23 an agreement resulting from a collaborative law process.

24 **Comment**

25  
26 Rule 8 regulates the relationship between the collaborative law process and the judicial  
27 process. The drafting committee thus believes that rule 8 might best be enacted by judicial rule  
28 rather than legislation.  
29

30 **RULE 9. DISQUALIFICATION OF COLLABORATIVE LAWYER AND**  
31 **LAWYERS IN ASSOCIATED LAW FIRM.**

32 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), a collaborative lawyer is disqualified  
33 from appearing before a tribunal to represent a party in a proceeding related to the collaborative  
34 matter.

35 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) and Rule 10 and 11, a lawyer in a law  
36 firm with which the collaborative lawyer is associated is disqualified from appearing before a

1 tribunal to represent a party in a proceeding related to the collaborative matter if the  
2 collaborative lawyer is disqualified from doing so under subsection (a).

3 (c) A collaborative lawyer or a lawyer in a law firm with which the collaborative lawyer  
4 is associated may represent a party:

5 (1) to ask a tribunal to approve an agreement resulting from the collaborative law  
6 process; or

7 (2) to seek or defend an emergency order to protect the health, safety, welfare, or  
8 interest of a party, or [insert term for family or household member as defined in [state civil  
9 protection order statute]] if a successor lawyer is not immediately available to represent that  
10 person. In that event, subsections (a) and (b) apply when the party, or [insert term for family or  
11 household member] is represented by a successor lawyer or reasonable measures are taken to  
12 protect the health, safety, welfare, or interest of that person.

13 **Comment**

14  
15 Rule 9 regulates who can appear before a court (tribunal) to represent a party after a  
16 collaborative law process terminates. The drafting committee thus believes that rule 9 might best  
17 be enacted by judicial rule rather than legislation.

18  
19  
20

**RULE 10. LOW INCOME PARTIES.**

21 (a) The disqualification of Rule 9(a) applies to a collaborative lawyer representing a party  
22 with or without fee.

23 (b) After a collaborative law process concludes, another lawyer in a law firm with which  
24 a collaborative lawyer disqualified under rule 9(a) is associated may represent a party without fee  
25 in the collaborative matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter if:

26 (1) the party has an annual income that qualifies the party for free legal  
27 representation under the criteria established by the law firm for free legal representation;

28 (2) the collaborative law participation agreement so provides; and

1 (3) the collaborative lawyer is isolated from any participation in the collaborative  
2 matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter through procedures within the law firm  
3 which are reasonably calculated to isolate the collaborative lawyer from such participation.

4 **Comment**  
5

6 Rule 10 regulates who can appear before a court (tribunal) to represent a party after a  
7 collaborative law process terminates. The drafting committee thus believes that rule 10 might  
8 best be enacted by judicial rule rather than legislation.  
9

10  
11 **RULE 11. GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AS PARTY.**

12 (a) The disqualification of Rule 9(a) applies to a collaborative lawyer representing a party  
13 that is a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

14 (b) After a collaborative law process concludes, another lawyer in a law firm with which  
15 the collaborative lawyer is associated may represent a government or governmental subdivision,  
16 agency, or instrumentality in the collaborative matter or a matter related to the collaborative  
17 matter if:

18 (1) the collaborative law participation agreement so provides; and

19 (2) the collaborative lawyer is isolated from any participation in the collaborative  
20 matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter through procedures within the law firm  
21 which are reasonably calculated to isolate the collaborative lawyer from such participation.

22 **Comment**  
23

24 Rule 11 regulates who can appear before a court (tribunal) to represent a party after a  
25 collaborative law process terminates. The drafting committee thus believes that rule 11 might  
26 best be enacted by judicial rule rather than legislation.  
27

28 **RULE 12. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.** Except as provided by law other  
29 than these rules, during the collaborative law process, on the request of another party, a party  
30 shall make timely, full, candid, and informal disclosure of information related to the  
31 collaborative matter without formal discovery. A party also shall update promptly previously

1 disclosed information that has materially changed. Parties may define the scope of disclosure  
2 during the collaborative law process.

3 **RULE 13. STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND**  
4 **MANDATORY REPORTING NOT AFFECTED.** These rules do not affect:

5 (1) the professional responsibility obligations and standards applicable to a lawyer or  
6 other licensed professional; or

7 (2) the obligation of a person to report abuse or neglect, abandonment, or exploitation of  
8 a child or adult under the law of this state.

9 **RULE 14. APPROPRIATENESS OF COLLABORATIVE LAW PROCESS.**

10 Before a prospective party signs a collaborative law participation agreement, a prospective  
11 collaborative lawyer shall:

12 (1) assess with the prospective party factors the lawyer reasonably believes relate to  
13 whether a collaborative law process is appropriate for the prospective party's matter;

14 (2) provide the prospective party with information that the lawyer reasonably believes is  
15 sufficient for the party to make an informed decision about the material benefits and risks of a  
16 collaborative law process as compared to the material benefits and risks of other reasonably  
17 available alternatives for resolving the proposed collaborative matter, such as litigation,  
18 mediation, arbitration, or expert evaluation; and

19 (3) advise the prospective party that:

20 (A) after signing an agreement if a party initiates a proceeding or seeks tribunal  
21 intervention in a pending proceeding related to the collaborative matter, the collaborative law  
22 process terminates;

23 (B) participation in a collaborative law process is voluntary and any party has the  
24 right to terminate unilaterally a collaborative law process with or without cause; and

1 (C) the collaborative lawyer and any lawyer in a law firm with which the  
2 collaborative lawyer is associated may not appear before a tribunal to represent a party in a  
3 proceeding related to the collaborative matter, except as authorized by rule 9(c), 10(b), or 11(b).

4 **RULE 15. COERCIVE OR VIOLENT RELATIONSHIP.**

5 (a) Before a prospective party signs a collaborative law participation agreement, a  
6 prospective collaborative lawyer must make reasonable inquiry whether the prospective party  
7 has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another prospective party.

8 (b) Throughout a collaborative law process, a collaborative lawyer reasonably and  
9 continuously shall assess whether the party the collaborative lawyer represents has a history of a  
10 coercive or violent relationship with another party.

11 (c) If a collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that the party the lawyer represents or  
12 the prospective party who consults the lawyer has a history of a coercive or violent relationship  
13 with another party or prospective party, the lawyer may not begin or continue a collaborative law  
14 process unless:

15 (1) the party or the prospective party requests beginning or continuing a process;

16 and

17 (2) the collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that the safety of the party or  
18 prospective party can be protected adequately during a process.

19 **RULE 16. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLABORATIVE LAW**

20 **COMMUNICATION.** A collaborative law communication is confidential to the extent agreed  
21 by the parties in a signed record or as provided by law of this state other than these rules.

22 **RULE 17. PRIVILEGE AGAINST DISCLOSURE FOR COLLABORATIVE**  
23 **LAW COMMUNICATION; ADMISSIBILITY; DISCOVERY.**

24 (a) Subject to Rules 18 and 19, a collaborative law communication is privileged under

1 subsection (b), is not subject to discovery, and is not admissible in evidence.

2 (b) In a proceeding, the following privileges apply:

3 (1) A party may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other person from  
4 disclosing, a collaborative law communication.

5 (2) A nonparty participant may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other  
6 person from disclosing, a collaborative law communication of the nonparty participant.

7 (c) Evidence or information that is otherwise admissible or subject to discovery does not  
8 become inadmissible or protected from discovery solely because of its disclosure or use in a  
9 collaborative law process.

10 **Comment**

11  
12 In many states legislation is required to create a privileged communication. While the  
13 earliest recognized privileges were judicially created, this practice stopped over a century ago.  
14 See KENNETH S. BROUN ET AL., MCCORMICK ON EVIDENCE § 75 (6th ed. 2006). Today,  
15 evidentiary privileges are rooted within legislative action; some state legislatures have even  
16 passed statutes which bar court-created privileges. See, e.g., CAL. EVID. CODE § 911 (West  
17 2009); WIS. STAT. ANN. § 905.01 (West 2000). The drafting committee thus recommends that  
18 rule 17 might best be enacted by legislation.  
19

20 **RULE 18. WAIVER AND PRECLUSION OF PRIVILEGE.**

21 (a) A privilege under Rule 17 may be waived in a record or orally during a proceeding if  
22 it is expressly waived by all parties and, in the case of the privilege of a nonparty participant, it is  
23 also expressly waived by the nonparty participant.

24 (b) A person that makes a disclosure or representation about a collaborative law  
25 communication which prejudices another person in a proceeding may not assert a privilege under  
26 Rule 17, but this preclusion applies only to the extent necessary for the person prejudiced to  
27 respond to the disclosure or representation.

28 **Comment**

29 The drafting committee recommends that rule 18 might best be enacted by legislation.See

1 comment to rule 17 *supra*.  
2

3 **RULE 19. LIMITS OF PRIVILEGE.**

4 (a) There is no privilege under Rule 17 for a collaborative law communication that is:

5 (1) available to the public under [state open records act] or made during a session  
6 of a collaborative law process that is open, or is required by law to be open, to the public;

7 (2) a threat or statement of a plan to inflict bodily injury or commit a crime of  
8 violence;

9 (3) intentionally used to plan a crime, commit or attempt to commit a crime, or  
10 conceal an ongoing crime or ongoing criminal activity; or

11 (4) in an agreement resulting from the collaborative law process, evidenced by a  
12 record signed by all parties to the agreement.

13 (b) The privileges under Rule 17 for a collaborative law communication do not apply to  
14 the extent that a communication is:

15 (1) sought or offered to prove or disprove a claim or complaint of professional  
16 misconduct or malpractice arising from or related to a collaborative law process; or

17 (2) sought or offered to prove or disprove abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
18 exploitation of a child or adult, unless the [child protective services agency or adult protective  
19 services agency] is a party to or otherwise participates in the process.

20 (c) There is no privilege under Rule 17 if a tribunal finds, after a hearing in camera, that  
21 the party seeking discovery or the proponent of the evidence has shown the evidence is not  
22 otherwise available, the need for the evidence substantially outweighs the interest in protecting  
23 confidentiality, and the collaborative law communication is sought or offered in:

24 (1) a court proceeding involving a felony [or misdemeanor]; or

25 (2) a proceeding seeking rescission or reformation of a contract arising out of the

1 collaborative law process or in which a defense to avoid liability on the contract is asserted.

2 (d) If a collaborative law communication is subject to an exception under subsection (b)  
3 or (c), only the part of the communication necessary for the application of the exception may be  
4 disclosed or admitted.

5 (e) Disclosure or admission of evidence excepted from the privilege under subsection (b)  
6 or (c) does not make the evidence or any other collaborative law communication discoverable or  
7 admissible for any other purpose.

8 (f) The privileges under Rule 17 do not apply if the parties agree in advance in a signed  
9 record, or if a record of a proceeding reflects agreement by the parties, that all or part of a  
10 collaborative law process is not privileged. This subsection does not apply to a collaborative law  
11 communication made by a person that did not receive actual notice of the agreement before the  
12 communication was made.

13 **Comment**

14  
15 The drafting committee recommends that rule 19 might best be enacted by legislation. See  
16 comment to rule 17 *supra*.  
17

18 **RULE 20. AUTHORITY OF TRIBUNAL IN CASE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.**

19 (a) If an agreement fails to meet the requirements of Rule 4, or a lawyer fails to comply  
20 with Rule 14 or 15, a tribunal may nonetheless find that the parties intended to enter into a  
21 collaborative law participation agreement if they:

22 (1) signed a record indicating an intention to enter into a collaborative law  
23 participation agreement; and

24 (2) reasonably believed they were participating in a collaborative law process.

25 (b) If a tribunal makes the findings specified in subsection (a), and the interests of justice  
26 require, the tribunal may:

1 (1) enforce an agreement evidenced by a record resulting from the process in  
2 which the parties participated;

3 (2) apply the disqualification provisions of Rules 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11; and

4 (3) apply the privileges under Rule 17.

5 **RULE 21. EFFECTIVE DATE.** These rules takes effect.....

6 **Comment**

7  
8 States should choose an effective date for the rules that allows substantial time for notice  
9 to the bar and the public of its provisions and for the training of collaborative lawyers.

10

1 *Note for enacting states: The provisions for regulation of collaborative law are presented in*  
2 *two formats for enactment- by court rules or legislation. The substantive provisions of each*  
3 *format are identical with the exception of several standard form clauses typically found in*  
4 *legislation. Each state considering adopting the Uniform Collaborative Law Court Rules*  
5 *(UCLR) or the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA) should review its practices and*  
6 *precedent to first determine whether the substantive provisions are best adopted by court rule or*  
7 *statute. The decision may vary from state to state depending on the allocation of authority*  
8 *between the legislature and the judiciary for regulation of contracts, alternative dispute*  
9 *resolution and the legal profession. States may also decide to enact part of the substantive*  
10 *provisions by court rule and part by legislation. Specific comments following some particular*  
11 *rules or sections indicate whether the drafting committee believes enactment by court rule or*  
12 *legislation is preferable. Drafting agencies may need to renumber sections and cross references*  
13 *depending on their decision concerning the appropriate method of enactment.*  
14  
15

## UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT

16  
17 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** This [act] may be cited as the Uniform Collaborative  
18 Law Act.

19 **SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.** In this [act]:

20 (1) “Collaborative law communication” means a statement, whether oral or in a record, or  
21 verbal or nonverbal, that:

22 (A) is made to conduct, participate in, continue, or reconvene a collaborative law  
23 process; and

24 (B) occurs after the parties sign a collaborative law participation agreement and  
25 before the collaborative law process is concluded.

26 (2) “Collaborative law participation agreement” means an agreement by persons to  
27 participate in a collaborative law process.

28 (3) “Collaborative law process” means a procedure intended to resolve a collaborative  
29 matter without intervention by a tribunal in which persons:

30 (A) sign a collaborative law participation agreement; and

31 (B) are represented by collaborative lawyers.

1 (4) “Collaborative lawyer” means a lawyer who represents a party in a collaborative law  
2 process.

3 (5) “Collaborative matter” means a dispute, transaction, claim, problem, or issue for  
4 resolution including a dispute, claim, or issue in a proceeding which:

5 **ALTERNATIVE A**

6 is described in a collaborative law participation agreement and arises under the family or  
7 domestic relations law of this state, including but not limited to: marriage, divorce, annulment,  
8 and property distribution; child custody, visitation and parenting time; alimony or maintenance  
9 and child support; adoption; parentage; marital, post marital or premarital agreements; and  
10 guardianship of minors or disabled persons.

11 **ALTERNATIVE B**

12 is described in a collaborative law participation agreement.

13 **END OF ALTERNATIVES**

14 (6) “Law firm” means:

15 (A) lawyers who practice law together in a partnership, professional corporation,  
16 sole proprietorship, limited liability company, or association; and

17 (B) lawyers employed in a legal services organization, or the legal department of  
18 a corporation or other organization, or the legal department of a government or governmental  
19 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

20 (7) “Nonparty participant” means a person, other than a party and the party’s  
21 collaborative lawyer, that participates in a collaborative law process.

22 (8) “Party” means a person that signs a collaborative law participation agreement and  
23 whose consent is necessary to resolve a collaborative matter.

24 (9) “Person” means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership,

1 limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or  
2 governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

3 (10) “Proceeding” means:

4 (A) a judicial, administrative, arbitral, or other adjudicative process before a  
5 tribunal, including related prehearing and post-hearing motions, conferences, and discovery; or

6 (B) a legislative hearing or similar process.

7 (11) “Prospective party” means a person that discusses with a prospective collaborative  
8 lawyer the possibility of signing a collaborative law participation agreement

9 (12) “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored  
10 in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

11 (13) “Related to a collaborative matter” means involving the same parties, transaction or  
12 occurrence, nucleus of operative fact, dispute, claim, or issue as the collaborative matter.

13 (14) “Sign” means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

14 (A) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

15 (B) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound,  
16 or process.

17 (15) “Tribunal” means

18 (A) a court, arbitrator, administrative agency, or other body acting in an  
19 adjudicative capacity which, after presentation of evidence or legal argument, has jurisdiction to  
20 render a decision affecting a party’s interests in a matter; or

21 (B) a legislative body conducting a hearing or similar process.

22 **Comment**

23 **“Collaborative matter.”** The act uses the term “matter” rather the narrower term  
24 “dispute” to describe what the parties may attempt to resolve through a collaborative law  
25 process. Matter can include some or all of the issues in litigation or potential litigation, or can  
26 include issues between the parties that have not or may never ripen into litigation. The broader

1 term emphasizes that parties have great autonomy to decide what to submit to a collaborative law  
2 process and encourages them to use the process creatively and broadly.

3  
4 The drafting committee provides two alternatives for enacting states to define  
5 “collaborative matter” and thus the scope of matters that can be submitted to the collaborative  
6 law process. Alternative A limits “collaborative matter” to those which arise under the family or  
7 domestic relations law of a state. States which choose to include this language will thus limit the  
8 collaborative law process to those substantive areas where it has so far achieved the greatest  
9 acceptance and growth and in which collaborative lawyers have the greatest experience. They  
10 will, however, exclude matters which do not arise under the family or domestic relations law of  
11 a state from the collaborative law process.

12  
13 Alternative B, in contrast, places no substantive limitation on matters that can be  
14 submitted to a collaborative law process, relying instead on the informed consent of parties based  
15 on the information provided by their counsel under the standards for informed consent specified  
16 in rules 12 and 13. Under Alternative B collaborative law participation agreements can be  
17 entered into to attempt to resolve everything from contractor-subcontractor disagreements, estate  
18 disputes, employer-employee rights, statutory based claims, customer-vendor disagreements, or  
19 any other matter.

20  
21 Under either Alternative A or B, the parties must describe the matter that they seek to  
22 resolve through a collaborative law process in their collaborative law participation agreement.  
23 See Section 4(a)(4). That requirement is essential to determining the scope of the disqualification  
24 requirement for collaborative lawyers under section 9, which is applicable to the collaborative  
25 matter and matters “related to the collaborative matter,” and the application of the evidentiary  
26 privilege under section 17.

27  
28 **SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.** This [act] applies to a collaborative law participation  
29 agreement that meets the requirements of section 4 signed [on or] after [the effective date of this  
30 [act]].

31 **SECTION 4. COLLABORATIVE LAW PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT;**  
32 **REQUIREMENTS.**

33 (a) A collaborative law participation agreement must:

34 (1) be in a record;

35 (2) be signed by the parties;

36 (3) state the parties’ intention to resolve a collaborative matter through a

37 collaborative law process under this [act];

- 1 (4) describe the nature and scope of the matter;
- 2 (5) identify the collaborative lawyer who represents each party in the process; and
- 3 (6) contain a statement by each collaborative lawyer confirming the lawyer's
- 4 representation of a party in the collaborative law process.

5 (b) Parties may agree to include in a collaborative law participation agreement additional

6 provisions not inconsistent with this [act].

7 **SECTION 5. BEGINNING AND CONCLUDING A COLLABORATIVE LAW**

8 **PROCESS.**

9 (a) A collaborative law process begins when the parties sign a collaborative law

10 participation agreement.

11 (b) A tribunal may not order a party to participate in a collaborative law process over that

12 party's objection.

13 (c) A collaborative law process is concluded by a:

14 (1) resolution of a collaborative matter as evidenced by a signed record;

15 (2) resolution of a part of the collaborative matter, evidenced by a signed record,

16 in which the parties agree that the remaining parts of the matter will not be resolved in the

17 process; or

18 (3) termination of the process.

19 (d) A collaborative law process terminates:

20 (1) when a party gives notice to other parties in a record that the process is ended;

21 or

22 (2) when a party:

23 (A) begins a proceeding related to a collaborative matter without the

24 agreement of all parties; or

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(B) in a pending proceeding related to the matter:

(i) initiates a pleading, motion, order to show cause, or request for a conference with the tribunal;

(ii) requests that the proceeding be put on the [tribunal's active calendar]; or

(iii) takes similar action requiring notice to be sent to the parties; or  
(3) except as otherwise provided by subsection (g), when a party discharges a collaborative lawyer or a collaborative lawyer withdraws from further representation of a party.

(e) A party's collaborative lawyer shall give prompt notice to all other parties in a record of a discharge or withdrawal.

(f) A party may terminate a collaborative law process with or without cause.

(g) Notwithstanding the discharge or withdrawal of a collaborative lawyer, a collaborative law process continues, if not later than 30 days after the date that the notice of the discharge or withdrawal of a collaborative lawyer required by subsection (e) is sent to the parties:

(1) the unrepresented party engages a successor collaborative lawyer; and

(2) in a signed record:

(A) the parties consent to continue the process by reaffirming the collaborative law participation agreement;

(B) the agreement is amended to identify the successor collaborative lawyer; and

(C) the successor collaborative lawyer confirms the lawyer's representation of a party in the collaborative process.

(h) A collaborative law process does not conclude if, with the consent of the parties, a

1 party requests a tribunal to approve a resolution of the collaborative matter or any part thereof as  
2 evidenced by a signed record.

3 (i) A collaborative law participation agreement may provide additional methods of  
4 concluding a collaborative law process.

5 **SECTION 6. PROCEEDINGS PENDING BEFORE TRIBUNAL; STATUS**  
6 **REPORT.**

7 (a) Persons in a proceeding pending before a tribunal may sign a collaborative law  
8 participation agreement to seek to resolve a collaborative matter related to the proceeding.  
9 Parties shall file promptly with the tribunal a notice of the agreement after it is signed. Subject to  
10 subsection (c) and sections 7 and 8, the filing operates as an application for a stay of the  
11 proceeding.

12 (b) Parties shall file promptly with the tribunal notice in a record when a collaborative  
13 law process concludes. The stay of the proceeding under subsection (a) is lifted when the notice  
14 is filed. The notice may not specify any reason for termination of the process.

15 (c) A tribunal in which a proceeding is stayed under subsection (a) may require parties  
16 and collaborative lawyers to provide a status report on the collaborative law process and the  
17 proceeding. A status report may include only information on whether the process is ongoing or  
18 concluded. It may not include a report, assessment, evaluation, recommendation, finding, or  
19 other communication regarding a collaborative law process or collaborative law matter.

20 (d) A tribunal may not consider a communication made in violation of subsection (c).

21 (e) A tribunal shall provide parties notice and an opportunity to be heard before  
22 dismissing a proceeding in which a notice of collaborative process is filed based on delay or  
23 failure to prosecute.

24 **Comment**  
25



1 matter.

2 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) and sections 10 and 11, a lawyer in a  
3 law firm with which the collaborative lawyer is associated is disqualified from appearing before  
4 a tribunal to represent a party in a proceeding related to the collaborative matter if the  
5 collaborative lawyer is disqualified from doing so under subsection (a).

6 (c) A collaborative lawyer or a lawyer in a law firm with which the collaborative lawyer  
7 is associated may represent a party:

8 (1) to ask a tribunal to approve an agreement resulting from the collaborative law  
9 process; or

10 (2) to seek or defend an emergency order to protect the health, safety, welfare, or  
11 interest of a party, or [insert term for family or household member as defined in [state civil  
12 protection order statute]] if a successor lawyer is not immediately available to represent that  
13 person. In that event, subsections (a) and (b) apply when the party, or [insert term for family or  
14 household member] is represented by a successor lawyer or reasonable measures are taken to  
15 protect the health, safety, welfare, or interest of that person.

16 **Comment**

17  
18 Section 9 regulates who can appear before a court (tribunal) to represent a party after a  
19 collaborative law process terminates. The drafting committee thus believes that rule 9 might best  
20 be enacted by judicial rule rather than legislation.  
21

22 **SECTION 10. LOW INCOME PARTIES.**

23  
24 (a) The disqualification of section 9(a) applies to a collaborative lawyer representing a  
25 party with or without fee.

26 (b) After a collaborative law process concludes, another lawyer in a law firm with which  
27 a collaborative lawyer disqualified under section 9(a) is associated may represent a party without  
28 fee in the collaborative matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter if:

1 (1) the party has an annual income that qualifies the party for free legal  
2 representation under the criteria established by the law firm for free legal representation;

3 (2) the collaborative law participation agreement so provides; and

4 (3) the collaborative lawyer is isolated from any participation in the collaborative  
5 matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter through procedures within the law firm  
6 which are reasonably calculated to isolate the collaborative lawyer from such participation.

7 **Comment**  
8

9 Section 10 regulates who can appear before a court (tribunal) to represent a party after a  
10 collaborative law process terminates. The drafting committee thus believes that section 10 might  
11 best be enacted by judicial rule rather than legislation.  
12

13 **SECTION 11. GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AS PARTY.**

14 (a) The disqualification of section 9(a) applies to a collaborative lawyer representing a  
15 party that is a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

16 (b) After a collaborative law process concludes, another lawyer in a law firm with which  
17 the collaborative lawyer is associated may represent a government or governmental subdivision,  
18 agency, or instrumentality in the collaborative matter or a matter related to the collaborative  
19 matter if:

20 (1) the collaborative law participation agreement so provides; and

21 (2) the collaborative lawyer is isolated from any participation in the collaborative  
22 matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter through procedures within the law firm  
23 which are reasonably calculated to isolate the collaborative lawyer from such participation.

24 **Comment**  
25

26 Section 11 regulates who can appear before a court (tribunal) to represent a party after a  
27 collaborative law process terminates. The drafting committee thus believes that section 11 might  
28 best be enacted by judicial rule rather than legislation.  
29

1           **SECTION 12. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.** Except as provided by law other  
2 than this [act], during the collaborative law process, on the request of another party, a party shall  
3 make timely, full, candid, and informal disclosure of information related to the collaborative  
4 matter without formal discovery. A party also shall update promptly previously disclosed  
5 information that has materially changed. Parties may define the scope of disclosure during the  
6 collaborative law process.

7           **SECTION 13. STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND**  
8 **MANDATORY REPORTING NOT AFFECTED.** This [act] does not affect:

9           (1) the professional responsibility obligations and standards applicable to a lawyer or  
10 other licensed professional; or

11           (2) the obligation of a person to report abuse or neglect, abandonment, or exploitation of  
12 a child or adult under the law of this state.

13           **SECTION 14. APPROPRIATENESS OF COLLABORATIVE LAW PROCESS.**

14 Before a prospective party signs a collaborative law participation agreement, a prospective  
15 collaborative lawyer shall:

16           (1) assess with the prospective party factors the lawyer reasonably believes relate to  
17 whether a collaborative law process is appropriate for the prospective party's matter;

18           (2) provide the prospective party with information that the lawyer reasonably believes is  
19 sufficient for the party to make an informed decision about the material benefits and risks of a  
20 collaborative law process as compared to the material benefits and risks of other reasonably  
21 available alternatives for resolving the proposed collaborative matter, such as litigation,  
22 mediation, arbitration, or expert evaluation; and

23           (3) advise the prospective party that:

24                   (A) after signing an agreement if a party initiates a proceeding or seeks tribunal

1 intervention in a pending proceeding related to the collaborative matter, the collaborative law  
2 process terminates;

3 (B) participation in a collaborative law process is voluntary and any party has the  
4 right to terminate unilaterally a collaborative law process with or without cause; and

5 (C) the collaborative lawyer and any lawyer in a law firm with which the  
6 collaborative lawyer is associated may not appear before a tribunal to represent a party in a  
7 proceeding related to the collaborative matter, except as authorized by section 9(c), 10(b), or  
8 11(b).

9 **SECTION 15. COERCIVE OR VIOLENT RELATIONSHIP.**

10 (a) Before a prospective party signs a collaborative law participation agreement, a  
11 prospective collaborative lawyer must make reasonable inquiry whether the prospective party  
12 has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another prospective party.

13 (b) Throughout a collaborative law process, a collaborative lawyer reasonably and  
14 continuously shall assess whether the party the collaborative lawyer represents has a history of a  
15 coercive or violent relationship with another party.

16 (c) If a collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that the party the lawyer represents or  
17 the prospective party who consults the lawyer has a history of a coercive or violent relationship  
18 with another party or prospective party, the lawyer may not begin or continue a collaborative law  
19 process unless:

20 (1) the party or the prospective party requests beginning or continuing a process;

21 and

22 (2) the collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that the safety of the party or  
23 prospective party can be protected adequately during a process.

24 **SECTION 16. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLABORATIVE LAW**

1 **COMMUNICATION.** A collaborative law communication is confidential to the extent agreed  
2 by the parties in a signed record or as provided by law of this state other than this [act].

3 **SECTION 17. PRIVILEGE AGAINST DISCLOSURE FOR COLLABORATIVE**  
4 **LAW COMMUNICATION; ADMISSIBILITY; DISCOVERY.**

5 (a) Subject to sections 18 and 19, a collaborative law communication is privileged under  
6 subsection (b), is not subject to discovery, and is not admissible in evidence.

7 (b) In a proceeding, the following privileges apply:

8 (1) A party may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other person from  
9 disclosing, a collaborative law communication.

10 (2) A nonparty participant may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other  
11 person from disclosing, a collaborative law communication of the nonparty participant.

12 (c) Evidence or information that is otherwise admissible or subject to discovery does not  
13 become inadmissible or protected from discovery solely because of its disclosure or use in a  
14 collaborative law process.

15 **Comment**

16  
17 In many states legislation is required to create a privileged communication. While the  
18 earliest recognized privileges were judicially created, this practice stopped over a century ago.  
19 See KENNETH S. BROUN ET AL., MCCORMICK ON EVIDENCE § 75 (6th ed. 2006). Today,  
20 evidentiary privileges are rooted within legislative action; some state legislatures have even  
21 passed statutes which bar court-created privileges. See, e.g., CAL. EVID. CODE § 911 (West  
22 2009); WIS. STAT. ANN. § 905.01 (West 2000). The drafting committee thus recommends that  
23 section 17 might best be enacted by legislation.  
24

25 **SECTION 18. WAIVER AND PRECLUSION OF PRIVILEGE.**

26 (a) A privilege under section 17 may be waived in a record or orally during a proceeding  
27 if it is expressly waived by all parties and, in the case of the privilege of a nonparty participant, it  
28 is also expressly waived by the nonparty participant.

29 (b) A person that makes a disclosure or representation about a collaborative law

1 communication which prejudices another person in a proceeding may not assert a privilege under  
2 section 17, but this preclusion applies only to the extent necessary for the person prejudiced to  
3 respond to the disclosure or representation.

4 **Comment**

5 The drafting committee recommends that section 18 might best be enacted by legislation.  
6 See comment to section 17 *supra*.  
7

8 **SECTION 19. LIMITS OF PRIVILEGE.**

9 (a) There is no privilege under section 17 for a collaborative law communication that is:

10 (1) available to the public under [state open records act] or made during a session  
11 of a collaborative law process that is open, or is required by law to be open, to the public;

12 (2) a threat or statement of a plan to inflict bodily injury or commit a crime of  
13 violence;

14 (3) intentionally used to plan a crime, commit or attempt to commit a crime, or  
15 conceal an ongoing crime or ongoing criminal activity; or

16 (4) in an agreement resulting from the collaborative law process, evidenced by a  
17 record signed by all parties to the agreement.

18 (b) The privileges under section 17 for a collaborative law communication do not apply  
19 to the extent that a communication is:

20 (1) sought or offered to prove or disprove a claim or complaint of professional  
21 misconduct or malpractice arising from or related to a collaborative law process; or

22 (2) sought or offered to prove or disprove abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
23 exploitation of a child or adult, unless the [child protective services agency or adult protective  
24 services agency] is a party to or otherwise participates in the process.

25 (c) There is no privilege under section 17 if a tribunal finds, after a hearing in camera,

1 that the party seeking discovery or the proponent of the evidence has shown the evidence is not  
2 otherwise available, the need for the evidence substantially outweighs the interest in protecting  
3 confidentiality, and the collaborative law communication is sought or offered in:

- 4 (1) a court proceeding involving a felony [or misdemeanor]; or
- 5 (2) a proceeding seeking rescission or reformation of a contract arising out of the  
6 collaborative law process or in which a defense to avoid liability on the contract is asserted.

7 (d) If a collaborative law communication is subject to an exception under subsection (b)  
8 or (c), only the part of the communication necessary for the application of the exception may be  
9 disclosed or admitted.

10 (e) Disclosure or admission of evidence excepted from the privilege under subsection (b)  
11 or (c) does not make the evidence or any other collaborative law communication discoverable or  
12 admissible for any other purpose.

13 (f) The privileges under section 17 do not apply if the parties agree in advance in a signed  
14 record, or if a record of a proceeding reflects agreement by the parties, that all or part of a  
15 collaborative law process is not privileged. This subsection does not apply to a collaborative law  
16 communication made by a person that did not receive actual notice of the agreement before the  
17 communication was made.

18 **Comment**

19 The drafting committee recommends that section 19 might best be enacted by legislation.  
20 See comment to section 17 *supra*.

21

22 **SECTION 20. AUTHORITY OF TRIBUNAL IN CASE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.**

23 (a) If an agreement fails to meet the requirements of section 4, or a lawyer fails to comply  
24 with section 14 or 15, a tribunal may nonetheless find that the parties intended to enter into a  
25 collaborative law participation agreement if they:

1 (1) signed a record indicating an intention to enter into a collaborative law  
2 participation agreement; and

3 (2) reasonably believed they were participating in a collaborative law process.

4 (b) If a tribunal makes the findings specified in subsection (a), and the interests of justice  
5 require, the tribunal may:

6 (1) enforce an agreement evidenced by a record resulting from the process in  
7 which the parties participated;

8 (2) apply the disqualification provisions of sections 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11; and

9 (3) apply the privileges under section 17.

10 **SECTION 21. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION.** In  
11 applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote  
12 uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

13 **SECTION 22. RELATION TO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND**  
14 **NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT.** This [act] modifies, limits, and supersedes the federal E-  
15 Sign, 15 U.S.C.A. § 7001 et seq. (2009), but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c)  
16 of that act, 15 U.S.C.A. § 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices  
17 described in § 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C.A. § 7003(b).

18 **[SECTION 23. SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this [act] or its application to  
19 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
20 applications of this [act] which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,  
21 and to this end the provisions of this [act] are severable.]

22 *Legislative Note: Include this section only if the state lacks a general severability statute or a*  
23 *decision by the highest court of this state stating a general rule of severability.*

24  
25 **SECTION 24. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This [act] takes effect.....

- 1 **Legislative Note:** *States should choose an effective date for the act that allows substantial time*
- 2 *for notice to the bar and the public of its provisions and for the training of collaborative lawyers.*