**Two Homes One Family FAQs**

***What families qualify for Two Homes One Family?***

One of the goals of **Two Homes One Family** is to make the Collaborative Process available to families that might otherwise not be able to afford this process as an option for their divorce. For this reason, we’re offering the program to families of “moderate means.” The decision as to whether a family qualifies for the program will be made on a case-by-case basis. However, we’ll be using the most recent U.S. Census figures for median household income in Montgomery County as a guide to determine moderate means, as well as considering a family’s assets and debts.

***Why is there an assessment?***

The assessment is one of the unique features of **Two Homes One Family**. While the Collaborative Process offers a less conflictual way for a couple to reach an agreement, making decisions about such important issues as parenting and finances can sometimes be difficult for participants. Sometimes, the emotions of one or both participants run so high that the meetings are not as productive as they could be. Or, in some instances, emotions even become so intense that the discussions break down and the case cannot be resolved using the Collaborative Process. The assessment will let us know whether one or both of the parties (as well as the children, if indicated) could benefit from some short-term therapy prior to engaging in these decision-making discussions. If so, **Two Homes One Family** will facilitate the person or persons accessing the service from a JSSA clinician. We call this work with the JSSA therapist “Collaborative Prep Work.”

***What does the assessment entail?***

The assessment involves three meetings with the JSSA **Two Homes One Family** Project Director: individual meetings with each participant, followed by a joint meeting with both participants. The assessment is really just a conversation between the Project Director and the participants, with the Project Director looking at how well the participants are managing through this transition.

***Can you tell me more about Collaborative Prep Work?***

Collaborative Prep Work will be short-term in nature, generally between three and eight sessions. Unlike traditional therapy which might explore longstanding issues, the goal of Collaborative Prep Work is to help the individual or individuals get to a place where they are ready to begin the Collaborative Process.

Depending upon what the assessment indicates, Collaborative Prep Work may be individual sessions to help one or both participants work through some issue. Or it could be couples work, helping the participants, for example, develop some new skills to more effectively communicate with one another. The Collaborative Prep Work will be billable to insurance.

***Can you tell me more about the Collaborative Team?***

Typically, the Collaborative Team comprises four professionals: two attorneys (one for each participant), a coach, and a financial specialist.

Role of the Attorney

Each participant has a Collaborative attorney, who is an attorney with specialized training in the Collaborative Process. Attorneys in the Collaborative Process are trained to advocate collaboratively, which means representing the individual client while also maintaining the goals of the Collaborative Process. The attorneys join the clients and the other professionals in pledging not to go to court and not to threaten to go to court in order to gain advantage in the settlement process.

Role of the Coach

A coach is a licensed mental health professional with specialized training in the Collaborative Process. The coach has experience in family dynamics, communication skills and mediation that enables them to help both members of the divorcing couple manage the emotional and psychological challenges of the divorce.

Role of the Financial Specialist

A financial specialist is a financial planner or accountant with specialized training in the Collaborative Process. The financial specialist helps the team members and the clients understand the financial aspects of the divorce, as well as assists clients in developing financial options as they make the transition to two households.

Other Professionals

While most cases will have only the above professionals, it is possible a case may benefit from other professionals such as a child specialist, appraisers or valuation experts, who can assist with specific tasks that require their unique expertise.

***How much does Two Homes One Family cost?***

One way **Two Homes One Family** is able to offer the Collaborative Process for an affordable price is that the professionals working on **Two Homes One Family** teams have agreed to charge less than their usual rates. The other is that we have created an efficient, stream-lined process.

Once a family is accepted into the program, we will provide them with an estimated cost, based upon the number of hours we expect for each professional. A portion of this estimate will be an administrative fee paid to **Two Homes One Family**. This estimated price ranges between $10,000 and $12,600.