

**Speaker 1** ([00:16](#)):

The coronavirus public health crisis has had a substantial and devastating impact on normal life for nearly everyone. Courthouses across North Carolina were shut down for months in compliance with the stay at home order and as of late summer, the courts are still not operating at full capacity.

**Speaker 2** ([00:32](#)):

The family court system has been especially backlogged. If you have a divorce, child custody, child support, alimony, property division, or other family law case pending it's likely been very difficult for you to get a court date and you may wonder when your case will ever be decided.

**Speaker 3** ([00:48](#)):

That's where the North Carolina Carpool Lane Program comes in. We're here to provide an option for getting out of the family court traffic pile up and getting on with your life.

**Speaker 4** ([00:56](#)):

Carpool lane program is a group of lawyers, financial experts, divorce coaches, and child specialists trained in collaborative law. Which is a legally recognized alternative to the court process.

**Speaker 5** ([01:07](#)):

In the collaborative law process, the spouses or parents agree to step away from their court battle and try instead to work together with the help of collaboratively trained layers and other collaborative professionals like us to resolve their disputes outside of the court system.

**Speaker 1** ([01:25](#)):

Instead of being tied to court schedules, you and the other spouse or parent meet privately with your lawyers and any other collaborative professionals assisting you, at a time that's convenient for everyone. Meetings are conducted virtually in order to maintain social distancing, and also for scheduling convenience.

**Speaker 4** ([01:41](#)):

The collaborative lawyers help make sure that all relevant information and documents are shared so that everyone can make fully informed decisions about what is best for your particular situation and needs.

**Speaker 1** ([01:52](#)):

In some cases you and the other spouse or parent may agree to bring in other professionals as your case requires, such as a divorce coach, account specialist, or a certified divorce financial planner to provide you both with additional guidance on parenting and financial decisions you need to make.

**Speaker 6** ([02:10](#)):

The goal of the collaborative process is for everyone to work together towards a resolution that addresses the needs and desires of both spouses or parents and their children. Instead of looking just at the past and how you've landed in the current situation, collaborative professionals have you look ahead to the future that you each want to build for your lives and your children's lives.

**Speaker 1 (02:29):**

We help you problem solve the way that prioritizes what each of you and your children, if you have them we'll need financially and logistically in order to transition to this next chapter of your lives.

**Speaker 7 (02:41):**

At the end of the process, if you and the other party agree on a resolution of all issues, the collaborative lawyers will prepare the documents necessary to make that agreement official and enforceable. The agreement will then be reported to the court and any orders necessary will be entered into by consent, usually without the need for either party to return to court.

**Speaker 6 (03:03):**

Parents and separating spouses who commit to this process typically save an enormous amount of time and stress and are able to make sound decisions with the support of collaborative professionals, without waiting for a judge to tell them how they will have to live their lives moving forward.

**Speaker 3 (03:17):**

If this collaborative process sounds at all interesting, then you're probably wondering how much it costs. We designed the carpool lane program with that very concern in mind, believing that by coming together we could get more families access to these services.

**Speaker 7 (03:30):**

The North Carolina Carpool Lane Program is designed to charge a flat fee per family for each case and the actual amount that your family will pay is directly related to the income and resources that you have. Participating spouses or parents each provide their income and assets at the beginning of the process so that you will know upfront what flat fee you qualify for before you agree to participate in the program.

**Speaker 5 (03:58):**

No family would pay more than \$1,800 to the services provided and many families with lower incomes and fewer resources will qualify to pay the minimum administrative fee of \$200 for the whole process.

**Speaker 3 (04:13):**

But if you're watching this video, we have a special deal for you. For a limited time during the North Carolina Carpool Lane Pilot Program, all cases will be handled at no cost to either spouse or parents. That's right North Carolina Carpool Lane will be completely free for a limited number of initial participants.

**Speaker 1 (04:29):**

If you're ready to get out of the family court traffic pile up and get on with your life, please continue to the next video in this series, which explains the steps that you and the other spouse or parent must both take to move into the carpool lane.