



CHAPTER 1
ARTICLE 53 - UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT

N.C.G.S. § 1-642.

Definitions.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:06 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 9b9edabbe6b12b7d0b941b2a - f6ce5d192293af14b81034ff - bc4af355b091324b
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The following definitions apply in this Article:

Collaborative law communication. - A statement, whether oral or in a record, or verbal or nonverbal, that does all of the following:

- a.Is made to conduct, participate in, continue, or reconvene a collaborative law process.
- b.Occurs after the parties sign a collaborative law participation agreement and before the collaborative law process is concluded.

Collaborative law participation agreement. - An agreement by persons to participate in a collaborative law process under this Article.

Collaborative law process. - A procedure intended to resolve a collaborative matter without intervention by a tribunal in which persons do all of the following:

- a.Sign a collaborative law participation agreement.
- b.Are represented by collaborative lawyers.

Collaborative lawyer. - A lawyer who represents a party in a collaborative law process.

Collaborative matter. - A dispute, transaction, claim, problem, or issue for resolution, including a dispute, claim, or issue in a proceeding, which is described in a collaborative law participation agreement.

Law firm. - Any of the following:

- a.Lawyers who practice law together in a partnership, professional corporation, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, or association.

b. Lawyers employed in a legal services organization, or the legal department of a corporation or other organization, or the legal department of a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

Nonparty participant. - A person, other than a party and the party's collaborative lawyer, that participates in a collaborative law process.

Party. - A person that signs a collaborative law participation agreement and whose consent is necessary to resolve a collaborative matter.

Person. - An individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

Proceeding. - Any of the following:

a. A judicial, administrative, arbitral, or other adjudicative process before a tribunal, including related prehearing and post-hearing motions, conferences, and discovery.

b. A legislative hearing or similar process.

Prospective party. - A person that discusses with a prospective collaborative lawyer the possibility of signing a collaborative law participation agreement.

Record. - Information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

Related to the collaborative matter. - Involving the same transaction or occurrence, nucleus of operative fact, dispute, claim, or issue as the collaborative matter.

Sign. - With present intent to authenticate or adopt a record to do any of the following:

a. Execute or adopt a tangible symbol.

b. Attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

Tribunal. - Any of the following:

a. A court, arbitrator, administrative agency, or other body acting in an adjudicative capacity which, after presentation of evidence or legal argument, has jurisdiction to render a decision affecting a party's interests in a matter.

b. A legislative body conducting a hearing or similar process. (2020-65, s. 1.)

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-642 (2026).

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