

# Angela Norris and Tommy Norris

## Minutes of May 22, 2026 First Collaborative Joint Meeting

### CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

#### **PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL**

Any agreements reflected in these minutes represent the clients' good faith commitments to each other and are being mutually relied upon. The clients have been advised that the commitments are not legally binding and will not survive termination of the collaborative law process unless memorialized in a collaborative law settlement agreement or final decree signed by the participants.

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Meeting was held at the office of **Cristi Trusler, Midland, Texas.**

**In attendance at the meeting:** Angela Norris and Cristi Trusler (her attorney); Tommy Norris and Carlos Salinas (his attorney); Carol Mapp, LPC (Facilitator/MHP) and Jennifer Failla, CFP, CDFA (Financial Professional).

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**1. Introductions.** The participants introduced themselves and gave a brief background about themselves. Carol Mapp oriented the participants to the collaborative process and the purpose of the first meeting.

**2. Collaborative Professionals.** The roles of the collaborative professionals present were explained. Carol Mapp serves as the single neutral facilitator under the Texas one-facilitator model, managing communication and process for both clients. Jennifer Failla serves as the neutral financial professional working equally for both clients. Cristi Trusler represents Angela and Carlos Salinas represents Tommy; both attorneys explained their dual commitment to their client and to the collaborative team.

**3. Client Notebooks.** The use and the contents of the notebooks were reviewed. The professionals reviewed the "Expectations of Conduct" and the "Road Map to Resolution."

**4. Participation Agreement.** The clients represented that they had read the Collaborative Family Law Participation Agreement, and highlights of the document were addressed. The agreement was signed by all participants. The clients agreed that there will be no temporary orders or injunctions at this time, and that the Code of Conduct will have only contractual remedies. The clients confirmed there is no premarital or marital property agreement.

**5. Court Filings.** It was decided that an Original Petition for Divorce would be filed with Angela deemed the Petitioner. The Notice of Collaborative Family Law Procedures was signed and Cristi Trusler agreed to file same. It was explained that the pleadings will be

minimal and most likely will need to be amended by subsequent counsel if the case terminates.

## **6. Goals, Interests and Concerns.**

**Shared Goals:** Resolve matters respectfully and stay out of court; provide stability for the family through the transition; protect the children's futures, particularly Ainsley's education; reach a fair resolution of the financial estate.

**Tommy's Goals:** Financial stability post-divorce; maintain a strong relationship with both children, especially Ainsley; a fair and workable resolution of the business and financial assets.

**Angela's Goals:** Financial security going forward; to be treated as an equal partner in the process rather than "the one who spent the money"; to maintain her dignity and standing in the community.

Carol noted the common ground across both clients: stability, the children's well-being, and a respectful process.

**7. Immediate Concerns.** Interim arrangements were agreed upon while the collaborative process is underway: both clients remain in the Midland home (Tommy in the primary bedroom, Angela in the guest suite); the existing bill-paying arrangement continues from the joint account, with no new debt and no purchases over \$500 without notifying the other client through the team; the current parenting arrangement continues, with no unilateral decisions on schooling, medical care, or activities; neither client will post about the divorce or the other on social media. The team agreed to rely on the participation agreement rather than file a standing order at this time, subject to reassessment.

**8. Information-Gathering.** Jennifer Failla will gather the financial information needed to prepare a draft of the Inventory & Appraisal. Both clients agreed to read the "Tips on Preparation of a Joint Inventory & Appraisal" and the "Summary of Marital Property Law" prior to completing a draft of the I&A. Document checklists will be provided to each client; all requested financial documents are due to Jennifer by **June 2, 2026**.

**9. Engagement of Other Neutral Professionals/Experts.** The team discussed engaging a neutral child specialist to support the children's interests in light of the parenting and schooling questions raised. The team will move forward with engaging a child specialist and will revisit the need for any additional valuation or subject-matter experts as the financial picture develops.

**10. Future Meetings.** The following future meeting has been scheduled:

- a. June 9, 2026 — 10:00 AM — Law Office of Cristi Trusler, Midland (Meeting 2: Financial Estate Walk-Around)
- b. Subsequent meetings to be scheduled at Meeting 2 based on the pace of information-gathering.

**Unavailability of any of participants:** None reported at this time.

**11. Assignments.** Cristi Trusler will prepare the minutes. Other assignments: Jennifer Failla to circulate financial document checklists; both clients to gather and submit financial documents by June 2; each attorney to conduct an individual check-in with their client before Meeting 2; Carol Mapp to conduct a mid-week check-in call with each client.

**12. Next Meeting Agenda.** The agenda shall include: review of the assembled financial information; a systematic walk-around of the marital estate (income, assets, debts, and obligations) led by the financial professional; identification of any additional documents or experts needed; and continued development of goals and options.

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**Prepared by Cristi Trusler.** *Minutes follow the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas form, Minutes of First Collaborative Joint Meeting (Rev. 4/07).*