



Call 2001
BA (Hons) (University College Galway)
LLB (Hons) University College Galway
MA (Hons) (Dublin City University)

Deirdre Fottrell

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Family - Children (Public and Private), Adoption and Human Rights Act

Civil - Mental Health, Community Care, Administrative Law and Human Rights Act

Deirdre Fottrell practises primarily in the field of family law. She acts for parents, local authorities and guardians in public and private law Children Act and adoption matters. She has particular expertise in the Human Rights Act and she regularly advises and acts for parties in the Administrative Court in cases which involve judicial review applications arising from the Children Act 1989. She also acts in child abduction matters and cases involving jurisdictional issues under Brussels II A.

In addition, Deirdre has a general civil practice and acts for claimants and defendants in community care, mental health, adult incapacity and judicial review matters. Within those areas, her particular expertise is on the Human Rights Act 1998.

Before coming to the Bar, Deirdre worked as a university lecturer at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and at the University of London and the University of Essex. In 2002 and 2004 she was a visiting lecturer at the Center for Human Rights at Columbia University in New York.

She is a member of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex and continues to be a member of the law faculty, where she teaches International Child Law, Human Rights of Women and European Human Rights. She has edited two books and published numerous academic articles on human rights, child law and discrimination issues generally. She contributed the chapter on "*The Rights of Children and Young People*" in the Liberty publication *Your Rights* in 2005. She is a contributor to the Sweet & Maxwell looseleaf, *Human Rights Practice*, edited by Simor and Emmerson. In addition she provides training and speaks regularly on topics falling within her areas of expertise.

She has acted as a consultant to the Council of Europe and the AIRE Centre and has conducted training on the ECHR in Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey, Bosnia, Macedonia, Georgia and Armenia. She has also participated in training for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and provided expert advice to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, the British Institute of Human Rights, Minority Rights Group, Interights, Liberty and other NGOs. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Human Rights Lawyers Association. In 2006 she was recognised by the Association of Lawyers for Children as '*The Outstanding Newcomer in the Field of Child Law*'.

AWARDS

Blackstone Exhibition Scholar, Middle Temple

MEMBERSHIPS

Human Rights Lawyers Association

The Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children

REPORTED CASES

Family

Essex County Council v M [2008] EWHC 332 (Fam) 21/02/2008

Placement of a child overseas under Children Act 1989 Schedule 2 Paragraph 19 and s84 Adoption and Children Act 2002

Re C (Responsible Authority) [2005] EWHC 2939 (Fam) [2006] 1 FLR 919

Family proceedings - Orders in family proceedings - Local authority - Local authority approving residence of children with paternal grandmother in area of another local authority - Whether first or second local authority the responsible authority

Re C (Children) (Supervised Contact) [2005] All ER (D) 80 (CA)

Children - Contact order - Application by father - Supervised contact - Application refused - Correctness of decision

Civil

A, T and S, R (On the Application of) v London Borough of Newham [2008] EWHC 2640 (Admin) 04/11/08

Judicial review of an adoption agency decision as to the suitability of prospective adopters

R (On the Application of Chavda and Others) v London Borough of Harrow [2007] EWHC 3064 (Admin) 100 BMLR 27

Community care - Decision of local authority to restrict adult care services to people with critical needs unlawful because taken without decision-makers knowing seriousness and extent of duties which authority owed to disabled under Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

LANGUAGES

Good Irish

Contact: Coram Chambers, 9-11 Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6HG

t: 020 7092 3700 **f:** 020 7092 3777 **dx:** LDE 404

e: mail@coramchambers.co.uk **w:** www.coramchambers.co.uk