

## Family

All but one of the members of chambers are family law practitioners including a number who have part-time judicial appointments. Members of chambers sit as Recorders, Deputy High Court Judges and District Judges and as chairs of Special Educational Needs Tribunals and Mental Health Review Tribunals.

The range of call of members of chambers is from 1970 to 2005. This ensures that all types of cases and hearings can be undertaken by barristers who have the appropriate experience and expertise. We believe it is very important that junior barristers have ongoing support and assistance with professional development from their senior colleagues. Cases are conducted within different forums and at all levels from the Family Proceedings Court to the House of Lords.

Members of chambers regularly provide teaching and training for solicitors, social workers and others; write books and articles; and appear as specialist speakers at seminars and conferences.

### Adoption

We offer a range of highly skilled specialists who are aware of the complexities that can arise within adoption applications, for example, international factors, step-parent adoption and post-adoption contact. Whether acting for birth or adoptive parents or for adoption agencies, we will always act with the utmost sensitivity and consideration.

### Contact and Residence

Disputes between separating parents about their children are often the most highly charged and difficult type of court experience for the client and the lawyer. We offer a combination of sound advice and robust advocacy underpinned by the wide range of experience within the children group.

### Local Authority Intervention in Family Life

The intervention of the state in the life of any family is difficult for all concerned. Court proceedings may be lengthy and can be both frightening and overwhelming. Medical and psychological issues, where they arise, often involve expert evidence. We offer parents/carers, children and local authorities the highest level of advocacy and advice in dealing with public law proceedings. While we strive to ensure continuity of representation in all types of cases we are conscious of the fact that this is particularly important in protracted care proceedings.

### Child Abduction

Modern relationships are ever more likely to have an international dimension. This means that the removal of children from the jurisdiction is an increasingly common occurrence. The law governing child abduction and prevention of removal to other countries is developing rapidly. We are able to offer clients up-to-date knowledge of the law and considerable experience in advocacy at all levels.

### Violence in Relationships

The impact of violence on the victim is obvious. Recently, the impact on children who witness violence has received a great deal of judicial scrutiny. We are well versed in the law and procedure relating to violence in relationships and can provide urgent advice and representation to either party in proceedings.

## Divorce and Financial Provision

The breakdown of a relationship will result in emotional distress and upset but difficulties can also arise in relation to the division of property and settlement of financial arrangements. Disputed issues may include the division of assets, provision for children, pre-and post-nuptial agreements, tax, pensions and the enforcement of court orders. We advise and represent clients across the entire spectrum of financial provision applications, from those with modest means to those with substantial assets.

Good advice on financial matters is needed at an early stage in proceedings to avoid protracted litigation and unnecessary costs. We are able to provide a broad range of barristers in this area to suit the needs of particular clients and the demands of each case.

## Inherent Jurisdiction

We have considerable experience in this field from medical treatment cases and publicity injunctions to non-convention abduction cases.

## Developing New Areas of Law

We are committed to representing clients in new and developing areas of law such as incapacity, human rights and judicial review. We are alive to the impact of the Human Rights Act 1998, which has provided a new perspective on family law issues and which we apply in all cases in which it is relevant.

We also have a particular interest in the development of law and practice in relation to civil partnerships.

## Family Cases

Listed below is a sample of significant cases in which members of chambers have been involved in recent years:

**Mubarak -v- Mubarik** [2007] 1 FLR 722 [2006] EWHC 1260 (Fam)

Ancillary relief - Party in contempt - Discretion whether to hear or impose terms - Objective of achieving procedural justice - Proportionality

**Re H (A Child)** [2007] EWCA 392 (Civ)

Care proceedings – Admission of fresh evidence – Ordering viability assessments

**Re P-B (Placement Order)** [2006] EWCA Civ 1016

**Westminster City Council -v- RA, B and S** [2005] EWHC 970 (Fam) [2005] 2 FLR 1309

Care proceedings - Powers and duties of local authority - Duty to convene multi-disciplinary conference prior to initiation of proceedings

**Re O (Care Proceedings: Evidence)** [2004] 1 FLR 161 (Fam)

Care proceedings - Child separately represented - Whether child should give oral evidence - Inferences to be drawn from mother's failure to give oral evidence

**Re A (Care Proceedings: Asylum Seekers)** [2003] 2 FLR 921 (Fam)

Care - Immigration - Family subject to removal directions - Father implied he might kill himself and children - Assessments found no real risk to children - Parents supporting continuation of care proceedings - Whether proceedings to continue

**Re C (Welfare of Child: Immunisation)** [2003] 2 FLR 1054 (Fam)

Specific issue order - Immunisation - Best interests of child - Dispute between parents

Re S (A Child)(Identification: Restrictions on Publications) [2003] 3 WLR 1425 (CA)  
Children - Court's inherent jurisdiction - Restriction on publication - Parent charged with murder of son - Injunction to restrict reporting of criminal trial by prohibiting identification of defendant and victim in order to protect privacy of surviving child - Whether jurisdiction to grant - Balance of Convention rights to respect for family and private life and to freedom of expression - Whether injunction to be granted - Human Rights Act 1998 (c 42), s. 12(4), Sch. 1, Pt I, arts 8 and 10

Re W and X (Wardship: Relatives Rejected as Foster Carers) [2003] EWHC 2206 (Fam)  
Care proceedings in relation to four children - three living with grandparents after death of sibling - fourth child placed with a view to adoption - court finding that remaining three should stay with grandparents - grandparents rejected by local authority as approved foster carers - children made wards of court with residence order in favour of grandparents and supervision order in favour of local authority

Re H (A Child)(Contact: Mother's Opposition) [2001] 1 FCR 59 (CA)

Re H (A Minor)(Occupation Order: Power of Arrest) [2001] 1 FLR 370 (CA)  
Occupation order against minor

Re S (Facilitated Communication) [2001] FLR 148 (Fam)  
Abuse allegations - learning disabled children

Re F (A Child)(Contact Order) [2001] 1 FCR 422 (CA)  
Contact and domestic violence

A NHS Trust v D [2000] 2 FLR 677 (Fam)  
Non-resuscitation - inherent jurisdiction - human rights

Re F (Adult: Court's Jurisdiction) [2000] 2 FLR 512 (CA)  
Inherent jurisdiction - adult at risk - human rights

W v W (Ancillary Relief: Practice) [2000] Fam Law 473 (Fam)  
Financial provision on divorce - evidence after FDR