



Rachel Watkins

Barrister

Year of Call: 1998

Inn of Court: Middle Temple

Education: LL.B (Hons)

Practice Areas:

Specialist family law practitioner with particular experience in serious and complex private law and public law cases involving allegations of non-accidental injury, incest and honour based violence often with the added complexity of concurrent criminal proceedings.

Regularly instructed by Local Authorities and on behalf of other professional clients such as the Official Solicitor and Children's Guardians. Accepts instruction from parents, children and

wider family members. Represents individuals who have either sought to be joined or have been directed to intervene within proceedings. Accepts direct instructions from clients who are unable to secure the services of a solicitor or who would prefer to be directly represented by senior counsel.

Considered to be very grounded in approach, works methodically in a calm and thoughtful manner, unflustered by those taking a less constructive approach. Client focussed, with the ability to diffuse tensions at court and in particularly difficult cases known to attend court with biscuits which invariably assist.

A busy practitioner in demand to work at all levels regularly, representing clients in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Public child law

- Non-accidental injuries
- sexual abuse
- incest,
- Domestic violence
- Forced marriage
- Jurisdiction and international considerations
- Secure accommodation
- Deprivation of Liberty
- Chronic neglect
- Mental health and litigation capacity (acting for clients directly and through the Official Solicitor)
- Children beyond parental control
- Parents with learning difficulties

Private child law

- Child Arrangement orders
- Specific Issue orders such as the permanent removal of children from the jurisdiction of England and Wales, the changing of a child's name or school
- Prohibited steps orders
- Domestic violence including non-molestation orders and occupation orders.

Other

Direct Access work undertaken
Registered Pupillage Supervisor.

Reported Cases:

S-L (Children) [2011] EWCA Civ 1022 (Court of Appeal)
Y and E (Children) (Sexual Abuse Allegations) [2019]
EWCA Civ 206 (Court of Appeal)

