



Elizabeth Tomlinson

Called: 2004



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Practice Profile

Elizabeth is a child law specialist, called to the Bar in 2004.

Prior to that, she gained a first class law degree and won the City of London Recorder's prize for the best LLB student. She completed a Masters (LLM) at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. As part of her Masters she studied family law and policy and was awarded a first for this subject.

Between 2007 and 2008 Elizabeth was an assistant editor for the Family Law Reports.

Before coming to the Bar, Elizabeth had a long and successful career in the National Health Service where she specialised in Intensive Care and Respiratory High Dependency Nursing.

PRACTICE

Elizabeth undertakes private and public law children work and cases involving domestic violence. Elizabeth also has experience of advising and appearing in cases of nullity and an interest in advising on the validity of marriage.

Elizabeth appears in courts ranging from the Magistrates' Courts through to the High Court and the Court of Appeal, where Lord Justice Mc Farlane described her submissions as clear, attractive, helpful and forceful.

She has experience of appearing in complicated disclosure cases where there are parallel criminal proceedings involving gang grooming/child sexual exploitation. These matters are highly sensitive and involve particularly vulnerable victims. They also often present issues of Public Interest Immunity and open and closed hearings. BCC v FZ & Ors (below) was an unusual case in the family jurisdiction in that Special Advocates were deployed to represent the interests of the parents and help protect their rights to a fair trial. Elizabeth was awarded a red bag by Frances Judd QC for her role in this difficult case.

Elizabeth is regularly instructed by local authorities, guardians grandparents and parents in public law cases including cases dealing with substance abuse, learning difficulties, mental health problems, sexual abuse and NAI. Due to her nursing background, she has a particular interest in cases with a medical element and cases in the Court of Protection

She has a special focus on clients who may be very distressed and particularly vulnerable.

Elizabeth is Chair of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Local Family Justice Board. Elizabeth has lectured



in family law at the London School of Economics.

When not at work Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her two children and her husband. She is also a Governor at her children's school.

RECENT IMPORTANT CASES

BCC v FZ & Ors [2012] EWHC 1154 (Fam)

PUBLICATIONS

"A Cautionary Tale of Failings in Perceived and Procedural Fairness" (Family Law April 2016)

"Public Law Update" (with Frances Judd QC and David Marusza) (Family Affairs, the Family Law Bar Association journal, summer 2015)

"Child Sexual Exploitation" (Newline Extra, Family Law, January 2014)

"Child Sexual Exploitation: the Criminal Courts, Vulnerable Witnesses and Threshold in Care Cases" (Family Law, December 2013)

"When Should Foster Carers Supervise Parental Contact?"
(*Family Law* June 2012)

"Disclosure of Social Services Documents into Criminal Proceedings" (with Alistair G Perkins) (*Family Law*, October 2005)

"Same-Sex Relationships: Going With the Grain or Judicial Vandalism?" (Cambridge Law Journal, November 2004)