



Alison Williams MCI Arb

Call: 2004

Alison is a children law specialist. She takes an empathetic and pragmatic approach, focusing on the individual needs of her clients. She is a skilled negotiator and demonstrates a firm but sensitive style of advocacy.

Alison's practice involves extensive experience in representing parents, local authorities, intervenors, prospective adopters and children's guardians in a variety of family proceedings across different levels of court. On many occasions she has acted for children directly where her approachable manner has led to repeat instructions.

Each case brings its own inherent complexities and difficulties, which Alison recognises. She is always well-prepared and aims to deploy her skills to each client's case in a bespoke way whether the case requires forensic cross-examination of an expert witness or giving sensible advice.

Alison has delivered talks and training in a variety of settings and is particularly interested in promoting the development of professional skills.

Public Law Children

Alison provides effective and skilled representation in all types of public law children proceedings. Her practice has encompassed cases involving non-accidental injury (including fractures and shaken baby cases), sexual abuse, interference with medical equipment, fabricated and induced illness, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health difficulties, neglect and parental alienation. She is often instructed to represent clients with learning difficulties, teenage parents and clients who otherwise are vulnerable or difficult to advise.

London

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Oxford

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Notable Public Law Children cases

- **Oxfordshire County Council v M & Ors [2025] EWFC 34 (B)**

Care proceedings, issued following concerns about mother's parenting. Ordered that child live with father, and for father to be permitted to relocate her to his home country.

Private Law Children

Alison provides highly proficient representation in all applications pursuant to section 8 of the Children Act 1989, special guardianship cases, private adoptions, internal relocation and cases requiring injunctions. She acts for all parties involved in such proceedings including children through their rule 16.4 guardians. Her cases cover the spectrum of children issues that arise in relationship breakdowns. She has particular experience in cases where the dispute has become intractable and in cases where children's services have become involved. Her practice also includes cases involving allegations of domestic violence, parental alienation and the issues arising from substance abuse and mental ill-health.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alison is a qualified arbitrator for children matters under the IFLA Children's Scheme and is committed to furthering all forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- College of Mediators

Education

- BVC, College of Law
- PGDL, College of Law
- BA (History), University College London

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Prizes

- Ebsworth Award (Gray's Inn)
- Lord Justice Holker Award (Gray's Inn)

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Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

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