



Edward Kirkwood

Call: 1999

Edward was called in 1999 and has specialised exclusively in family law proceedings for over 18 years.

His main areas of expertise are in public law care and adoption proceedings as well as private law Children Act proceedings.

Edward regularly acts for local authorities, guardians and parents at all stages of care and adoption proceedings. His experience covers the complete spectrum of issues including serious non-accidental injuries, chronic neglect, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation.

When representing local authorities, he has the benefit of a detailed understanding of internal procedures, decision making protocols and pressures on time and resources. Equally when representing parents he is able to offer realistic advice whilst building a trusting rapport with the client regardless of their background or the allegations made against them.

Public Law Children

Edward has a particular interest and expertise in cases involving non-accidental injuries with multiple, sometimes conflicting, expert evidence. His experience covers cases involving multiple fractures, burns, starvation and “shaking” injuries. He also has experience in complex FII cases.

Notable Public Law Children cases

- **Wokingham Borough Council v The Mother & Ors [2024] EWFC 273 (B)**

Final hearing of care proceedings concerning two teenaged children, following findings that parents had assaulted

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them. Care orders made, with plan of long-term foster care.

- **BM v A Local Authority & Ors [2024] EWFC 196**

Application by father to re-open findings of fact in case involving the death of child, in light of new evidence in which mother admitted causing the injuries to child.

- **A Council v Mother of CA & Ors [2023] EWFC 274**

A fact finding hearing in which a young teenager made allegations of physical and sexual abuse by her father and step mother which were found proved.

- **Wokingham Borough Council v The Mother & Ors [2023] EWFC 196**

Fact-finding in care proceedings concerning allegations that parents assaulted children.

- **Re H (A Child: s. 38(6) Assessment) [2023] EWHC 1083 (Fam)**

Care proceedings. Application by mother for direction that child join parents in residential placement, for the family to be assessed.

- **Re C & A (Children: Acquisition and Discharge of Parental Responsibility by an Unmarried Father) [2023] EWHC 516 (Fam)**

Application by M to remove PR from man found not to be biological father of child.

- **K & C (Children: Finding of Fact) [2018] EWFC B85**

- **Lincolnshire County Council v M & Ors [2018] EWHC 3279**

- **RBC v W & N [2015] EWFC B61**

- **S & T (Children), Re [2015] EWHC 1753 (Fam)**

Private Law Children

In private law proceedings, Edward is often instructed on more complex disputes and frequently on behalf of r.16.4 Guardians. He has extensive experience of dealing with apparently intractable contact and residence arrangements. An example is *Re J & K (Children: Private Law)* [2014] EWHC 330 (Fam) – a case widely reported by the press as deadlock between warring parents settled over “a cup of tea” in the cafeteria of the RCJ.

Notable Private Law Children cases

- **Q v R (Intractable Contact) [2017] EWFC B35 (29 June 2017)**

- **Re J & K (Children: Private Law) [2014] EWHC 330 (Fam)**

Direct Access

Edward is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public under the Direct Access Scheme in appropriate circumstances.

Memberships

- Association of Lawyers for Children

Education

- Inns of Court School of Law
- LLB, Exeter University (1998)

London

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