



Emma Gatland

Call: 2013

Before studying law in 2011, Emma enjoyed a successful career in academia as a Fellow and Lecturer in Modern Languages, first at the University of Oxford and then at the University of Cambridge. She published many books and journal articles in her field of research.

Emma was called to the Bar and joined Harcourt Chambers in 2013. She specialises in children work (public and private family law). She is recognised by those who instruct her as having experience and ability considerably beyond her year of Call.

Public Law Children

Emma has a wealth of experience representing local authorities, parents, children, and interveners in public law proceedings. Her cases have covered the most serious of issues, including neglect, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health, fabricated or induced illness, sexual and physical abuse, and non-accidental injury.

Emma is regularly led by King's Counsel in particularly complex 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 them. Care orders made, with plan of long-term foster care.

- **A Local Authority v The Mother & Ors [2023] EWFC 90**

Emma, instructed by Reeds Solicitors, appeared on behalf of A (a child) the Third Respondent acting through their

London

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Oxford

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Children's Guardian in an application by father for disclosure of various pieces of information in relation to public law proceedings.

- **Re E and H (Care Proceedings – Alleged FII – Costs) [2023] EWFC 69**
Care proceedings, issued following concerns that mother had fabricated or induced illness in the children. No such findings made. Application for costs by parents.
- **Re T (No.2) (Care Proceedings : Fact-Finding : Genital Injuries : Supplemental judgment for publication) [2021] EWFC 101**
- **Re AB (Children) (Care & Placement Orders) [2021] EWFC B34 (23 April 2021)**
Applications for care and placement orders. The care plan was for the children to be placed together by way of adoption.
- **OCC v D, E and F (supervision order after non-accidental injuries) [2020] EWFC B64 (09 November 2020)**
Non-accidental injury case. Emma represented the children at both the fact-finding hearing and the final hearing.
- **Re J (A Child: Residential assessment) [2021] EWFC B18 (09 April 2021)**
An appeal by a local authority against the case management decision of District Judge.
- **OCC v C [2020] EWFC B47**
Care proceedings involving parents and children with learning disabilities.

Private Law Children

Emma has a strong private law practice. She is regularly instructed in matters involving parental alienation, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health issues, sexual and other domestic abuse, and internal relocation.

Direct Access

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

Appointments

Emma sits as a Deputy District Judge (civil and family jurisdictions) on the South Eastern circuit.

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Memberships

- Member of the External Advisory Board, [Centre for Mediation & Dispute Resolution](#)

Education

- BPTC, Nottingham Law School
- GDL, Nottingham Law School, Distinction
- PhD Medieval Spanish, University of Cambridge
- MPhil European Literature & Culture, University of Cambridge, Distinction
- BA (Hons) Modern Languages (Spanish & Italian), University of Durham, First Class Honours and Distinction

Prizes

- The Nottingham Law School Prize for best advocate
- The St Mary's Chambers Family Law Prize, Lincoln's Inn
- The Ropewalk Chambers Advocacy Prize, Lincoln's Inn

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