



Matthew Stott

Call: 2005

Matthew Stott is a family law specialist.

Matthew is regularly involved in complex care cases for local authorities, parents and guardians. He has been involved in cases concerning infant deaths, shaken babies, fabricated illness, serious sexual and physical abuse, honour based violence including attempted assassination, forced marriage, unlawful removal from the jurisdiction, serious neglect and cases involving breaches of Human Rights. He has a particular interest in cases where there are competing medical opinions and those which engage the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court.

In private law disputes, Matthew predominantly represents Rule 16.4 Guardians. He acts in cases involving parental alienation, implacable hostility and cases of temporary and permanent relocation to Hague and non-Hague convention countries.

Matthew also accepts instruction in matrimonial finance cases, court of protection cases and other matters involving the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Matthew is highly regarded for his diverse style and flexible approach whilst maintaining a reputation for being friendly and approachable and robustly representing his clients' interests.

As well as practising in family law, he holds several Fee-paid judicial appointments including as a Deputy District Judge (Family and Civil) and as a Recorder (Family).

Public Law Children

Matthew is regularly involved in complex care cases for local authorities, parents and guardians. He has been involved in cases concerning infant deaths, shaken babies, fabricated illness, serious sexual and physical abuse, honour based

London

2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, EC4Y 9DB
T: +44 (0)20 7242 355
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 373 LDE

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

Oxford

Churchill House, 3 St Aldate's Courtyard, 38 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BN
T: +44 (0)1865 791559
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 96453 Oxford 4

violence including attempted assassination, forced marriage, unlawful removal from the jurisdiction, serious neglect and cases involving breaches of Human Rights. He has a particular interest in cases where there are competing medical opinions and those which engage the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court.

Notable Public Law Children cases

- **X Borough Council v Mum & Ors [2024] EWFC 442 (B)**
A care and placement order application.
- **The London Borough of Lambeth v RF & Ors [2024] EWFC 256 (B)**
Care proceedings in relation to two children, issued following concerns over parenting. Children placed with maternal grandmother under special guardianship order.
- **TAN (a child) (child death; fact finding) [2019] EWFC B78**
- **A (Final Hearing: Threshold not met), Re [2018] EWFC 63**
- **ES (A Child), Re [2017] EWFC B96**
- **N-S (Children), Re [2017] EWCA Civ 1121**
- **ES (A Child), Re [2017] EWFC B67**
- **EF (a child), Re [2016] EWFC B107**
- **S (wardship), Re [2016] EWFC B1**
- **X & Anor v Z (Children) & Anor [2015] EWCA Civ 34**
- **C, E, J, JB (Care Proceedings, Placement with Family Member or in Foster Care) [2015] EWFC B2**
- **Z (Children), Re [2014] EWHC 1999**

Matthew has successfully represented the Local Authority in this case which concerned the issue of whether or not a man is the father of children, as he claimed, despite his refusal to agree to a DNA test. DNA, believed to be that of the father, was gathered at the scene of the murder of the mother, a crime for which the man is currently serving life. The guardian of the children had sought to use the DNA collected in order to determine the paternity of the children concerned, the President found in favour of this.

In his judgement, the President of the Family Division Sir James Munby stated:

*"As Mr **Matthew Stott** on behalf of the local authority points out, because X is not named on their birth certificates, the local authority has at present sole parental responsibility for the children. Moreover, as he also points out, Hogg J has already, in making orders under section 21 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969, determined that it is in the interests of the children that the truth, whatever it may be, should out. I agree*

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with **Mr Stott** that the material being sought is vitally important for the ongoing care planning for the children. I agree with him that in light of the circumstances of their mother's death it is fundamentally important for the children to have the opportunity to understand their family history and ascertain their familial identity."

Private Law Children

In private law disputes, Matthew represents both parents and Rule 16.4 Guardians. He acts in cases involving temporary and permanent relocation to Hague and non-Hague convention countries.

Notable Private Law Children cases

- **F v M (Rev1) [2023] EWFC 5**

'Mr Matthew Stott was able to prepare the case thoroughly and has presented M's case with care, sensitivity and skill.' Mr Justice Hayden

Appeared for the respondent mother in the final welfare hearing in F v M before Mr Justice Hayden. Significant and very serious findings had previously been made against the father within the sphere of coercive and controlling behaviour.

The welfare hearing considered, *inter alia*, issues around acquisition and termination of parental responsibility, orders to limit exercise of parental responsibility, the transformative approach to s.91(14) orders following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (including PD 12Q) and importantly how litigation can be used as a vehicle by one party to continue a pattern of controlling and coercive behaviour.

- **DS v RS [2009] EWHC 1594**

Counsel for the father seeking an order preventing the mother from removing their child from England.

Family Finance

Matthew undertakes work in all areas of matrimonial finance including maintenance, injunctions, financial remedy proceedings and applications by persons seeking to intervene. He also undertakes Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 and ToLATA 1996 cases.

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Matthew accepts instruction in court of protection cases and cases concerning vulnerable adults, and other matters involving the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Direct Access

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

Appointments

- September 2019 – Recorder (Family)
- March 2019 – February 2023 – Deputy District Judge (Civil and Family)
- December 2018 – Fee-paid Judge of the First-Tier Tribunal
- April 2017 – September 2019 – Environment and Traffic Appeals adjudicator.
- Door tenant at Broadway House Chambers in Leeds.

Publications

Going public on local authority failings – 18 January 2016

Local Government analysis: Could the failings of local authorities and the naming of individuals become more commonplace in care cases? Matthew considers the implications of the decisions in Re A, B, C, D and E (Children) where the local authority professionals involved were named by the court. Full article available at [Lexis Nexis](#).

Sock line hyperpigmentation: an elasticated truth? – 7 December 2015

Matthew writes for Jordan's Family Law on the importance of potentially being aware of sock line hyperpigmentation (SLHP) as it mimics child abuse. Read the full article [here](#).

Education

- BA, Victoria University, Melbourne
- PgDL (CPE), University of Westminster, London

- LLM (Intellectual Property), Queen Mary College, University of London
- BVC, BPP Law School, London
- Queen Mother Scholar of the Middle Temple

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