

Oliver Powell

Call: 2013



Oliver practises in all areas of family law with a particular emphasis on private law children, financial remedy and public law children work. He is a determined advocate who always strives to achieve the best result for his client, whether that may be through a negotiated agreement or robust representation in court.

Oliver understands that attending court can be a stressful and confusing experience. Therefore, he seeks to reassure his clients and make certain that they understand the process every step of the way. Additionally, Oliver believes that the most effective outcomes are achieved by combining forcefulness with courtesy. He is known for his dedicated and thorough approach whilst maintaining a friendly and personable disposition.

Private Law Children

Oliver has a busy private law practice. He has experience of applications for all types of orders under the Children Act 1989, and has represented parents, members of the extended family and children's guardians. Oliver is often instructed in complex cases involving implacable hostility and alienation. Moreover, he is frequently instructed in cases involving serious and sensitive allegations of abuse that require resolution by way of a fact-finding hearing.

Notable Private Law Children cases

- **F v M (private law fact finding) [2020] EWFC B71**

Fact-finding in private law case. Mother's allegations of father's abuse found to be not proven.

The trial judge said the following in this case at paragraph 101 of the Judgment:

"I am grateful to Mr Powell, who in my judgment fulfilled this role admirably, both in his cross-examination of the witnesses, and in his rigorous and careful examination of the evidence in closing submissions."

London

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Financial Remedies

Oliver has experience in financial remedy proceedings that have required careful and thorough advice and representation in court. He similarly has experience in claims under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 (TOLATA). Oliver is known for his fearless representation in court combined with a sensitive and empathetic client facing approach.

Public Law Children

Oliver undertakes cases involving non-accidental injuries (both as sole and led Junior), physical and sexual abuse, disputes involving complicated and often conflicting medical and expert opinion, serious domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and chronic neglect. He is regularly instructed by local authorities, parents, children's guardians and members of the extended family.

His litigation and advocacy experience includes representing vulnerable adults and children, and he is frequently instructed by the Official Solicitor. He often appears in proceedings where mental capacity is a live issue.

Oliver is trained and qualified for public access work and accepts instructions directly from members of the public in appropriate cases.

Notable Public Law Children cases

- **E (a child) (Care and Placement Orders), Re [2024] EWFC 170 (B)**
Final hearing in care proceedings, in which the issue was whether to place the child for adoption or with the paternal grandmother.
- **Luton Borough Council v R & Ors [2024] EWFC 52**
Care proceedings concerning a 14 year old girl who had made allegations that she had been sexually abused by family members.

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Oliver accepts instructions in this field, and considers his skill set to be particularly suited to this area of law.

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Direct Access

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

Publications

- [Bankruptcy in financial remedy proceedings: the basics](#) Blog November 2024
- JJW Herring and Oliver Powell, 'The rise and fall of presumptions surrounding the welfare principle' (2013) 43 Family Law 553
- Oliver Powell, 'In Whose Best Interests? Reconsidering the Judicial Approach Adopted in Relocation Disputes' (2013) 1 UKLSR 2

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- Bar Pro Bono Unit
- Middle Temple

Education

- BPTC (Outstanding)
- BCL, University of Oxford
- LLB (Law) (First Class), University of Birmingham
- BSc (Hons) Land Management (First Class), University of Reading

Prizes

- Baron Dr Ver Heyden de Lancey Prize, College of Law, Birmingham
- Winner of the Advocacy Prize, College of Law, Birmingham
- Astbury Scholar, Middle Temple
- Sir Henry Barber Law Scholarship, University of Birmingham

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