



Stephen Crispin

Call: 2008

Stephen's experience across both child and financial family law enables him to provide sound, practical advice to clients across the whole range of issues arising from a relationship breakdown. He is known for the focussed, accessible and supportive guidance he offers clients, and clear, incisive advocacy in Court.

Family Finance

Stephen's expertise in applications for financial remedies includes cases involving complexities such as bankruptcy and third-party interests. He is known for working hard to achieve the best possible result for clients in negotiations, and in court through focused and determined advocacy where necessary.

Stephen has a particular interest in claims under the Trusts of Law and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 (TOLATA) and is able to give advice on the different evidential and procedural considerations that arise under these civil applications.

Public Law Children

Stephen has a busy public law practice representing parents, guardians, and local authorities. He is experienced in cases involving serious allegations of physical and sexual abuse, and disputed medical evidence. He is frequently asked to represent vulnerable litigants, including children who are in conflict with the Guardian.

London

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Oxford

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Notable Public Law Children cases

- **L, M, N, O and P, Re (allegation of sexual abuse by a sibling) [2025] EWFC 382 (B)**
Fact-finding in public law proceedings, concerning allegations of sexual abuse made by child against sibling.
- **Re D-S (A Child: Adoption or Fostering) [2024] EWCA Civ 948**
Appeal by local authority against refusal to make order allowing an 11-month-old child to be placed for adoption.
- **Bracknell Forest Council v Mother & Ors [2024] EWFC 68**
Stephen Crispin was instructed by the Joint Legal Team for the Applicant Council in this fact-finding in care proceedings concerning marks found on body of child.
- **Re YR (Deprivation of Liberty - Care Order - Principles of Care) [2024] EWHC 564 (Fam)**
Case concerning 16 year old boy. Care and deprivation of liberty orders made.

Private Law Children

Stephen acts in all forms of private law proceedings, including residence, contact, child abduction and removal from the jurisdiction cases. He has significant experience in complex and entrenched cases between parents and offers a robust yet practical approach to the resolution of family disputes.

Notable Private Law Children cases

- **Re JS (Disposal of Body) [2016] EWHC 2859 (Fam)**
Stephen represented the mother in this case concerning a child's wish to be cryogenically frozen after death. An order was made giving the mother sole responsibility for the preservation of the girl's body and dealing with who was permitted to view it.

Direct Access

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

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- Association of Lawyers for Children

Education

- Inns of Court School of Law
- St Peter's College, Oxford University

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