

Sarah Phillimore



YEAR OF CALL: 1994

INN: LINCOLNS INN

Practice Overview

Sarah was called to the Bar in 1994 and since 1999 has worked as a specialist family lawyer in Chambers in London and Bristol. She has interest and experience in care proceedings, private law children applications and Court of Protection work.

Areas of Expertise

Court of Protection

Sarah first developed an interest in Court of Protection work in 2014 when representing a foster carer in a case where care proceedings overlapped with consideration of 'best interests' of a protected party. She has continued to develop her practice in this area and has a particular interest in the nature and parameters of the 'best interests' test.

Family Law

She is a member of The Transparency Project, an educational charity which operates to improve public understanding of the family justice system. She is also the site administrator of the Child Protection Resource (www.childprotectionresource.online) which aims to provide useful information and commentary for the general reader on the law and practice around issues of child protection.

Children Private Law

Sarah has represented parents and Guardians in private law proceedings since 1999.

She has undertaken training as both a civil law and family mediator in 2009 and 2012 which has provided further useful skills in an area of law where litigants now often have to self-represent.

Children Public Law

Sarah has extensive experience in public law proceedings appearing at all court levels for parents, guardians, interveners and local authorities. She also deals with all other Children Act work with and has experience of cases with jurisdictional issues and Hague Convention matters.

She also has experience in proceedings which may arise out of or follow from care proceedings, such as claims under the Human Rights Act 1998 for damages, judicial review of the decisions of local authorities, applications to discharge care orders and applications to oppose the making of care orders.

Sarah has gained experience in the field of asylum and immigration law after representing clients at the Immigration Tribunal from 2003-5 which has given her an increased appreciation of the application of the ECHR in domestic law, notably Articles 6 and 8.

Sarah has considerable experience in dealing with cases with complicated and long running histories, including those involving allegations of serious physical or sexual harm. She is interested in examining the best methods for gathering and presenting evidence within the court arena and has contributed to several Chambers' seminars on the topic of 'Achieving Best Evidence'.

Sarah spent a sabbatical year in Perth Western Australia in 2008 where she worked as a paralegal with a specialist family law firm and gained experience of the 'Australian model' of presumed shared care of children after relationship breakdown.

Recent cases:

- ▶ *Re X, Y and Z* [2014] EWHC (COP)
- ▶ *Local Authority: R (Bewry) v Norfolk County Council* [2010] EWHC 2545 (Admin)
- ▶ *Re A (care proceedings, asylum seekers, Article 8)* [2003] 2 FLR 921 FD
- ▶ *Re B (care proceedings, disclosure, Article 8)* [2001] 2 FLR 1017

Professional memberships:

- ▶ Association of Lawyers for Children
- ▶ Court of Protection Practitioners Association
- ▶ Family Law Bar Association

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ University College, London
- ▶ A C Thomas Bar Scholarship (UCL)
- ▶ Lincoln's Inn Shelford Major Scholarship
- ▶ Lincoln's Inn Hardwicke Scholarship

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