

Sarah Fincham
Barrister



YEAR OF CALL: 2018

INN: LINCOLN'S INN

“Instructing Sarah is always a pleasure. She strives for the best this is reflected in her work, which is of an exceptionally high standard. Sarah’s approach remains calm despite the demands of the case. Sarah is personable and friendly. I have every confidence when instructing Sarah.”
Mandy Gill – Lawyer (2021)

Practice Overview

Sarah has recently joined the Family & Divorce team, formerly a barrister at Four Brick Court where she completed her pupillage and established her practice before returning to the west country, where she grew up. She specialises in care proceedings and private law children matters. Prior to coming to the Bar, Sarah worked as a paralegal for specialist family law solicitors based in South London.

Whilst studying the BPTC, Sarah undertook pro bono work with the Free Representation Unit, advising and representing individuals at social security tribunals.

She has also volunteered at the Support Through Court (formerly the Personal Support Unit), supporting litigants in person in the Central Family Court.

Areas of Expertise

Family & Divorce

Children Public Law

Sarah represents local authorities, parents and children in public law proceedings at all stages, from initial hearing / interim care hearing, through to final hearing.

In a recent case (November 2021) she successfully challenged numerous negative assessments by the local authority in respect of a family member seeking a special guardianship order, persuading the court to make a final Special Guardianship Order in their favour.

She also has experience of representing clients in Deprivation of Liberty hearings and applications for leave to oppose adoption.

Children Private Law

Sarah's experience in private children proceedings includes contact disputes, specific issue and prohibited steps applications, fact-finding hearings and relocation applications. She has represented parents and children at all stages from FHDRA to final hearing.

In August 2021, Sarah successfully opposed a parent's application, which was supported by Cafcass, for permission to relocate with the child to another jurisdiction. She also succeeded in persuading the court to make a section 91(14) order against the applicant.

Sarah also has experience in representing clients in non-molestation order applications.

Recommendations:

- ▶ "I regularly instruct Sarah in both private and public children law matters and she is very thorough and builds up excellent rapport with the clients. She is always happy to help and discuss any issues."
Janice Ng
Anthony King Solicitors (2021)

Professional memberships:

- ▶ The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn
- ▶ Denning Society – Lincoln's Inn
- ▶ The Family Law Bar Association

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ City Law School – BPTC
- ▶ Sir Thomas More Bursary (Lincoln's Inn)
- ▶ BPP University – GDL
- ▶ Open University – Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology
- ▶ University of Exeter – English (Hons) 2:1

Additional information:

Sarah is a keen tennis and netball player and she loves wild swimming. She is also a fan of jazz clubs and blues bars.

Contact Sarah:

Sarah.fincham@stjohnschambers.co.uk

Contact the clerks:

T: 0117 923 4720

E: familyclerks@stjohnschambers.co.uk