



Adrian Pidduck

Date of Call: 2012 (Middle Temple) (previously solicitor admitted 1996).

Direct Access Qualified

Adrian has practised in Kent as a specialist in matters relating to children (Public law and Private law) for over 25 years. He began his career in 1996 as a solicitor, and since 2012 has been a barrister. From 1999 until 2012 he was a member of the Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel.

He represents parents, children and other family members in care, adoption and child arrangements order proceedings, and has appeared at all levels of the Family Courts (including the Court of Appeal).

The cases in which he represents and advises clients regularly include matters relating to allegations of the most serious nature; including domestic abuse between parents, significant harm to children (including serious injuries and sexual abuse), parental alienation and issues of substance misuse.

Adrian prides himself on his ability to form a rapport with his clients, and regularly receives warm and positive feedback regarding his approachable, easy-to-work-with manner and client care skills.

Whatever the circumstances of a particular case, Adrian is always acutely aware of the seriousness of matters for his client. He understands that they are likely to be feeling stressed and anxious. Making his client as comfortable as possible with the process, and maximising their emotional wellbeing as best he can, is always at the forefront of his mind, however difficult and challenging the circumstances.

Adrian is qualified to undertake Direct Public Access work, and as a former solicitor, has extensive experience of taking instructions directly from the public. He believes strongly in the benefits to the public of being able to instruct barristers directly in appropriate cases, and this commitment, combined with the additional insights which his former role as a solicitor give him, make him a strong choice for Direct Public Access.

Children – Public Law

Adrian regularly represents parents, children (usually through their Guardians) and relatives in public law proceedings. He has acted in many cases involving very serious injuries to children (including brain injuries, fractures and bruising), and allegations of sexual abuse.

In many cases, the parents he represents have cognitive limitations and significant mental health issues, and he is experienced at explaining court proceedings at every stage, and ensuring that his clients are as comfortable as possible with what is happening.

He has extensive experience of working with intermediaries and representing parents through the Official Solicitor.

Adrian has appeared in cases involving families from other jurisdictions, including a number of reported cases involving Eastern European families, and he is experienced at working with interpreters.

Private Law (Child Arrangements Programme (CAP))

Adrian regularly represents parents in private law proceedings. He has also represented a large number of grandparents and other relatives in respect of applications for child arrangements orders.

He regularly represents children (through their R 16.4 Guardians) in private law proceedings.

He has extensive experience in dealing with cases involving allegations of physical, sexual or emotional abuse. He regularly conducts fact-finding hearings, including cases involving serious allegations between the parents and/or where the children have been alleged to have suffered abuse.

He regularly appears in cases involving allegations of parental alienation, and where all contact has ceased.

Testimonials

“As always, we were very pleased that we had instructed Mr Pidduck. He always gives good feedback, supports the client and follows their instructions and is always superbly prepared.”

“I wanted to say a very big thankyou to you, for all your hard work and help. I always found you very reassuring, your advice and guidance was very welcome. You listened to me and made me feel like I could trust you, which was particularly difficult during our case. Thanks to you and the efforts of those involved, myself and my children can remain together, for that there are not enough words or gratitude. I will always be so very grateful for all that you did for us.”

“Thank you so much Adrian and thank you for your advice, representation and support throughout. Superb. A very good outcome to a very tricky case.”

“Brilliant job today Adrian, client over the moon.”

Reported cases:

KCC v IS and Others. [2013] EWHC 2308 (Fam). Adrian represented a Slovakian father in a High Court case in which the parents were submitting that, if not to be returned to their care, the children should be placed in foster care in Slovakia pursuant to an Art 56 transfer, rather than foster care within this jurisdiction. The case involved detailed consideration and analysis of complex legal principles.

A (A Child) [2014] EWHC 604 (Fam). Adrian represented the mother in a High Court case in which the court was dealing with care proceedings in which, due to it being found that the child had been unlawfully removed from his home in Latvia, the court determined that it did not have jurisdiction to continue with the Local Authority's public law proceedings. The judgement included detailed analysis of the relevant principles and case law and the case was the subject of articles in legal publications.

Re D (Child) [2015] EWCA Civ 1150. Adrian represented the child through his Guardian in an appeal by the mother against the grant of care and placement orders due to issues arising from the judgement, in a case that he had not appeared in at first instance. The appeal was granted, and a re-trial ordered which Adrian conducted.

A (A Child) (Fact-Finding: Modern Slavery) [2021] 79. Adrian represented the father, led by Queens Counsel (now Kings Counsel), in a case involving Romanian parents before a judge sitting as a judge of the High Court, in which the court considered a wide range of allegations primarily involving the mother and her partner including very serious allegations of domestic abuse including modern slavery and rape, and allegations against his client of domestic abuse and alcohol misuse. The judgement included a very detailed analysis of the relevant legal principles arising both in respect of fact-finding generally and the specific genres of allegations being considered.

KCC v C and Others [2021] EWFC 122. Adrian represented the children through their Guardian in a case involving significant bruising injuries to an autistic child, alleged to be non-accidental, but found by the court to have been self-inflicted.