



Melanie Andrews

Date of Call: 2005 (Middle Temple)

Qualifications: BA (Hons) PPE

Memberships: Family Law Bar Association

Direct Access Qualified

Melanie is an experienced barrister with a busy practice in family law, focusing on private children and public children law. She is well-known for her ability to develop a good rapport with her clients, ensuring that they feel comfortable and supported through the court process. She also has a reputation for strong advocacy, and is committed to making sure her client's voice is heard.

She appears for clients at hearings, as well as advising and preparing pleadings, and is an experienced and confident advocate who has benefited from a background working in the advocacy department of a large national firm of solicitors, and appearing in the criminal and family courts as well as in the civil arena.

Within private family law proceedings, Melanie regularly works with mothers, fathers, grandparents, and the children themselves.

She also has a busy care practice. She has extensive experience, having been instructed by a broad range of different clients, and has acted for mothers, fathers, grandparents, the Public Guardian, and local authorities. She is good at quickly building a relationship with a client and dealing sensitively with the many issues care proceedings bring.

Client care is at the forefront of Melanie's practice. She prides herself on giving clear, practical and timely advice to lay and professional clients alike, and is consistently professional and approachable and is particularly good with vulnerable clients.

In her spare time Melanie enjoys travel, sky diving and spending time with her family and friends.

Private Law (Child Arrangements Programme (CAP))

Melanie is part of the Private Law family team at Becket Chambers, and is regularly instructed for mothers, fathers, grandparents, extended family members, and for children via their guardians. She deals with the full range of child-related applications, including injunctions and occupation orders under the Family Law act.



She has an informal and approachable style, and is particularly known for her ability to work with people. She always aims to reassure her clients that she is on their side at what can be a very difficult time, and often manages to negotiate solutions between parties which can resolve things more quickly and considerably reduce the expense of proceedings.

Melanie has a reputation for strong advocacy and for making sure her client's voice is heard. She is sympathetic, and particularly good at working with young and vulnerable clients.

She is frequently instructed in cases which involve parental alienation, long-running intractable disputes (where people have found it impossible to come to an agreement), child relocation, domestic abuse and allegations of sexual and/or physical abuse.

Children – Public Law

The focus of Melanie's family practice is on Public Law – Children proceedings, and she represents parents, local authorities, extended family members, prospective adopters and children via their guardians.

She is very experienced in cases concerning serious non-accidental injury to children, sexual abuse and complex mental health issues, as well as general neglect, and with families where complex mental health issues are involved.

She has experience dealing with the official solicitor, and her sympathetic manner makes her particularly good with vulnerable clients. Through her work Melanie has developed a keen understanding of the challenges of representing young and vulnerable clients, many of whom are victims of historic abuse.

Testimonials

"Mel was really helpful and really pleased with everything she did."

"My client was very pleased with the service received from Counsel. She was very helpful and provided a prompt attendance note following the hearing."

"I just wanted to pass on my thanks to all who have helped us. Our lovely lady who you so highly recommended was stunning and offered such sound and clear advice at court."