

Julie Okine

Call: 1996

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Julie is a specialist Family & Child Law Practitioner. She has extensive experience as a Junior and of cases where she has been led by Queens Counsel.

Julie is well regarded for her sensitive client care and approachable nature and prides herself on working closely and tirelessly with instructing solicitors on behalf of the lay client. In contested hearings where there are allegations of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, chronic neglect and domestic violence, Julie has an excellent track record of achieving good results and outcomes for clients.

Julie is a trained Mediator, approved Pupil Supervisor and a Sponsor at Lincoln's Inn where she regularly participates in Educational days and has experience as an Advocacy trainer.

Family

Julie practises in all areas of Family Law, including; Private and Public Law, representing Children's Guardians, Matrimonial Finance, Cohabitation Law, TOLATA, Abduction and Leave to remove from the Jurisdiction cases.

Julie regularly appears in complex High Court cases involving Inherent Jurisdiction, International Child Abduction including Hague and Non-Hague Convention cases and has acted many times on behalf of the Official Solicitor and in many cases requiring video-link evidence.

Julie's nursing background complements her practice when dealing with complex cases that involve conflicting expert and medical evidence.

Location

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Notable Cases

- Re: R (A Child) [2013] EWCA Civ 1115: Represented the mother and was successful at first instance. The Court of Appeal (Patten LJ, McFarlane LJ and Floyd LJ) allowed the appeal of the father who sought to prevent the mother from taking a child on holiday to Kenya. Patten LJ noted that following the new rules for public funding for private law cases, there would be increased difficulties in the Court obtaining the necessary expert evidence where parties did not have the means to pay for it. This was flagged up in order that consideration might be given by the President to how these difficulties might be overcome.
- LB of Lewisham v S (2012) EWHC 1917 (Fam) (Parker J): Thirteen day High Court case representing a German mother who lives in Germany via video-link in public law proceedings where Parker J visited two of the subject children in their placements at residential units during the final hearing. The court made care orders and a hospital order.
- Hertfordshire County Council v H (2012): Represented a Mother with learning difficulties through the Official Solicitor in care proceedings where removal of the three children was sought. Expert evidence assessed the Mother as incapable of giving oral evidence as sought by the LA. Julie successfully opposed the Local Authority care plans for removal. Favourable judgment that the parents were able to care with appropriate support in place for the children's minority.
- Re K (Shared Residence) (2009) FD (Hedley J): This was a successful appeal in a case where the court should have made a Parental Responsibility Order in favour of the Appellant, in accordance with s12(1) Children Act 1989 which is mandatory when a father without it, is granted a shared residence order.
- Loughran v Pandya [2005] All ER 106 (Dec) Court of Appeal, Civil Division: Represented the defendant when Scott Baker LJ and Sir Martin Nourse held that in the circumstances, a sentence of two years imprisonment suspended for two years for the defendant's contempt of court following a number of breaches of court orders intended to protect the claimant from violence or harassment had been excessive. The sentence would accordingly be substituted by one of eight month's imprisonment suspended for two years.

Memberships

- Association of Lawyers for Children
- Bar Pro Bono Unit
- Family Law Bar Association

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