



1 CROWN OFFICE ROW

Adam Smith

Call: 1987



Adam Smith has been a family law specialist for over 30 years.

He is head of the family team in Brighton, and served as Co-Chair of the Sussex Family Justice Board for nine years between 2013 and 2022, responsible for seeking to improve family Justice both locally and nationally.

Adam has a very high profile in local and national policy making.

Adam specialises in cases that involve complex medical evidence (including child death) allegations of sexual abuse, factitious illness and cases involving conflicting medical evidence. He also has experience in private law cases involving parental alienation, and intractable contact disputes.

"Outstanding."

Legal 500 2024

"Adam is thorough in his work and always approachable. He will always ensure the client is clear on what is happening in the proceedings, whether the client is a social worker or a parent. He is also doing great work in the regional area with the family justice board."

Legal 500 2023

"Adam is a brilliant and compelling advocate – it is clear that judges like and respect him. He is extremely knowledgeable, experienced, thoughtful and conscientious and an asset in any children case."

Legal 500 2022

Children (Public Law)

Adam represents local authorities, parents, children and interveners on the most serious and complex cases.

Selected Cases

- **Re : E (2019- 2022)**: Leading Junior in an extremely long running and complex case, hearing over 25 days, including appeal. Instructed by the local authority in which findings of sexual abuse, (involving transmission of HPV), and failure to protect made. Multiple experts with conflicting opinions.
- **Re FT (2020)**: Representing a very vulnerable mother with significant learning and communication needs in a tragic child death case in The High Court. Led By Alison Grief QC. Client wholly exonerated from responsibility for her babies' death, or any failure to protect.
- **Re LB (2016)**: Representing father accused of killing his child with horrific multiple injuries. Led by Paul Storey QC in the High Court. Clint completely exonerated and as a result protected in the subsequent criminal proceedings.
- **Re: A County Council v KO & RL & ML & MML (by their guardian) [2018] EWFC 21**: Acted for the second respondent in an application for care orders relating to two children.
- **Re G (A Child) (CA) [2012] EWCA Civ 1377**.
- **A County Council v K, C & T (CA) [2011] 2 FLR 817**.
- **Re H (Care proceedings: Disclosure) (CA) [2009] 2 FLR 1531**.
- **Re F [2008] (Judicial Review)**. A high profile matter attracting media attention.
- **Re W (Contact: Joining child as a party) [CA] (2003) 1 FLR 681**.

Children (Private Law)

Adam has significant experience in complex private law matters. These include private law cases involving allegations of implacable hostility, shared care arrangements, internal and external relocation, special guardianship and fact-finding hearings regarding domestic violence, sexual abuse and children giving evidence. Adam also acts for parents in section 8 Children Act 1989 applications, including those which feature non-compliance and enforcement, require a rule 16.4 guardian, involving permission to remove children from England and Wales, and where special guardianship orders are sought.

He has a reputation for compassion for his clients, and hard work and results.

Domestic Violence & Injunctions

Adam has extensive experience of dealing with domestic abuse cases, and has acted for parties in protected injunction proceedings where the court is dealing with complex and serious factual issues.

Direct Access

Adam accepts work from lay clients via [Direct Access](#). You can view his profile [here](#).

Appointments

- Co-Chair of Sussex Family Justice Board (2013-2022).
- Chair of Sussex FLBA (2012).

Education

- BA (Hons)