

Julie
Stather
Call: 2000



Julie has been practising in family law for over 20 years and was previously based in London. She is a qualified Family Law Arbitrator (for both children and financial matters) and Mediator. She trains expert witnesses and is a pupil supervisor.

Julie is heavily involved in the Family Arbitration Scheme: she was a co-author of the paper proposing the extension of the scheme to children's matters and has more recently presented an information evening to the Sussex Judiciary. She has hosted seminars for solicitors and Cafcass representatives throughout Sussex and writes regularly for legal periodicals about developments in the scheme.

Julie is well known as an author writing regularly for Family Law and Family Law Week (see publications). She is also the author of the Secure Accommodation handbook published by Jordans in 2013 with a forward by McFarlane P.

"Julie was absolutely brilliant as ever. Organised, Clear and concise and superbly written Statement, great communication throughout the instruction and perfect Attendance Notes."

Solicitor

"Julie's professional attitude combined with her approachable demeanour make her a firm favourite with clients. Julie puts them at ease whilst offering sound advice. Her drive and determination have produced life changing outcomes for some clients who have been supported by Julie both legally and emotionally along the way."

Solicitor

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Julie qualified as an Arbitrator in 2014. She is keen to encourage litigants and potential litigants to investigate this method of dispute resolution because of the benefits of speed and convenience as well as the significant savings in costs. She is a calm presence in an arbitration, putting parents at their ease and gives fully reasoned, clear written Determinations in a timely manner.

Children (Public Law)

Julie is instructed in serious public law cases on behalf of local authorities, parents, grandparents, children, interveners and Guardians. In 2021, she was lead Counsel in a 25 day Finding of Fact hearing revolving around FII (Factitious and Induced Illness). She also acts in cases involving allegations of unexplained injury, sexual abuse, and neglect including medical neglect.

Selected Cases

- **A local authority v B [2015]:** Representing local authority in a case of infant death and application for placement order for sibling. Complex case involving examination of medical records and post mortem results, with outcome changing expert evidence being obtained from the USA.
- **A local authority v G [2017]:** Representing local authority in case of multi-generational sexual, physical and emotional abuse with both historic and current allegations. This was a complex case requiring forensic analysis of multiple sources of evidence and questioning of several family members. Findings made on all threshold issues and care and placement orders made. Specialising in care proceedings, Julie has particular expertise in cases involving complex medical evidence (especially serious head injuries), chronic neglect and sexual abuse cases. Julie has an invaluable inside understanding of how local authority child care departments operate which gives her clients a considerable advantage, whether she is acting for or against a local authority.
- **A local authority v P [2021]** Leading counsel for the mother in a case of FII. Successful in defending the mother against allegations of joint enterprise in causing harm to a baby. Significant findings made against the father.

Financial Remedies

Julie advises and represents parties at all stages of financial remedy disputes, including enforcement of final orders.

Children (Private Law)

Julie is instructed on behalf of parents, children and extended family members. Her cases include difficult issues such as implacable hostility, shared care arrangements, domestic and international relocation, special guardianship and fact-finding hearings. She has a particular interest in contact between children and their grandparents having two published articles on the topic.

Julie is a calming presence for clients and gives clear advice. Her preparation is meticulous and she works hard to get the result the client wants

Selected Cases

- **A v A [2017]**: Successfully represented grandfather on his application for contact in a case of parental alienation.
- **D v D [2018]**: Successfully represented mother in an application for contact at the conclusion of which an application was made for costs of £48,000. That application was successfully defended on the basis of the applicant's litigation conduct, the costs figure being unreasonable, and that it would be impossible to apportion costs between unreasonable and reasonable elements of the case.
- **H v E [2021]** Successfully represented mother on an application to remove a child to live in an international location. The case was complex because of the distance involved and important cultural issues. The case was finely balanced and the permission to remove was not in line with the recommendations of Cafcass.

Direct Access

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

Appointments

- Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber)
- Recorder (South Eastern circuit)

Memberships

- ALC
- FLBA
- MCI Arb

Publications

- 'Internal relocation – avoiding the fait accompli: the difficulty of relocation cases' Family Law Journal (2021)
- 'Easing the Covid-19 burden with children arbitration' Family Law (Sept 2020)
- 'BC v BG – Cementing the future of arbitration' Family Law Week (2019)
- 'Enhancing the rights of grandparents to see their grandchildren' Family Law Week (2018)
- 'Children Arbitration really works – what you need to know' Family Law Week (2016)
- 'The rise and rise of damages in Human Rights Act claims' Family Law Week (2015)
- 'Is time running out for s20 of the Children Act?' Family Law Week (2014)
- 'Alcohol testing – what are the options?' Family Law Week (2013)
- 'Enhancing the role of grandparents in the current legal landscape' Family Law Week (2012)
- 'Are we missing a trick? s34 of the Children Act – an under-used application' Family Law Week (2012)
- *Secure Accommodation Handbook* Jordans (2013)