

Adam Smith

Call: 1987



Adam Smith has been practising family law for over 30 years, specialising in both public and private law children's matters for the majority of his career and is head of the family team in Brighton.

Adam is instrumental in the progression of the Sussex Experts witness pilot scheme, which is introducing the Justice Ryder proposals for modernising the Family Justice system. He was Chair of the Sussex Family Law Bar association, until he stepped down in 2012 to concentrate on his Local Family Justice Board responsibilities.

Adam enjoys delivering training to all professions and disciplines involved in the family justice system.

'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

'An intuitive, dedicated and fearless advocate in court whilst maintaining a strong reputation as being kind and compassionate to his clients.'

Legal 500 2021

"An excellent advocate who is experienced and astute. His preparation of cases is thorough and he has fantastic attention to detail."

Chambers & Partners 2019

Children (Public Law)

Adam has extensive experience in all aspects of children's proceedings, from the Court of Appeal to the Family Proceedings Court. He has been involved in complex and lengthy causation hearings involving conflicting medical expert opinion. He has a track record for effectively representing all parties in proceedings, but derives particular satisfaction from representing child parties in their own right.

Selected Cases

- **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 S [2008] (Multiple NAI head injury- 10 day fact finding).**
- **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 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.

Police Law

Adam Smith is experienced in handling applications for police disclosure orders (including statements; expert reports; transcripts) from the Family Court, as well as applications in the family Court for Public interest immunity, and opposing application for disclosure from the police.

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.
- Chair of Sussex FLBA (2012).

Education

- BA (Hons)