

## Clare Ciborowska

Call: 2009



Clare Ciborowska is a specialist family practitioner and has a strong local practice.

Clare accepts instructions in care proceedings, Family Law Act applications, private family law and international family law and acts for parents, Local Authorities, Children and interveners appearing in the High Court and Court of Appeal as well as in the local Sussex Courts.

Clare has a strong work ethic and is adept at representing clients from all backgrounds including clients with diagnosed mental health problems, learning difficulties, substance misuse / addiction problems and parents who are often under intense emotional pressure in cases concerning their children.

Clare is regularly instructed in urgent / without notice applications and in fully contested matters and has recently completed the specialist advocacy training at Keble College, Oxford.

Clare takes time out of her court diary each year to teach students undertaking the BA/MA in social work court skills training at the University of Sussex.

Listen to Clare discuss cutting edge family law issues in our Family Law Podcast Series on your favourite podcast platform and find previous episodes [here](#).

## Children (Public Law)

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In public law Clare has dealt with a number of complex cases including:

- Complex Fact-Finding hearings
- Contested Final hearings
- Applications for ICO/EPO/Secure Accommodation
- Suspected Non-Accidental Injury;

- Physical and sexual abuse;
- Cases of Chronic Neglect;
- Cases of suspected FII
- Serious domestic abuse/violence;
- Cases with international/cultural/jurisdictional elements
- Cases with suspected honor-based violence
- Cases involving wider immigration issues
- Cases where the Official Solicitor has been appointed
- Representing Grandparents and SGO holders in care/private law proceedings
- Representation of parents with learning difficulties/complex needs/vulnerabilities
- Appeals from first instance decisions

## Selected Cases

- **A Local Authority v B & I** (2017): Representing Local Authority in case concerning suspected FII.
- **A Local Authority v C & C** (2017): Representing father in case concerning allegations of sexual abuse.
- **A Local Authority v J** (2017): Representing a father in second set of care proceedings with LA seeking removal of child from Father's care.
- **A Local Authority v J** (2017): Representation of the child via the children's Guardian in care proceedings concerning possible international placement.
- **S v S** (2017): Argued for a cross non-molestation order to be made in favour of a father in a private law contact case where both parents were alleging domestic abuse.
- **W v W** (2017): Acting for a father in a case where all contact had broken down and where the mother sought to frustrate contact at each hearing. Argued successfully for a 16.4 Guardian to be appointed.
- **P v P** (2017): Acting for a mother in a contact case where there have been allegations of Honour-based violence.
- **L v H** (2016): Acting for Mother in residence dispute with ISW report. Argued for child to live with the mother and secured favourable order against hostile father.
- **S v A** (2016): Acting for a mother against a father seeking contact from prison.
- **L v C** (2016): Acting for Special Guardians in an application by birth parent for contact.
- **Local Authority v P & G** (2016): Fact-finding hearing into suspected NAI with child sustaining ALTE injury, bruising and suspected strangulation marks.
- **Local Authority v G** (2015): Application during care proceedings for permission not to give father notice of the proceedings due to risk of violence towards mother and child.
- **Local Authority v D** (2014): Fact-Finding hearing into suspected NAI. Child sustaining injuries to the face. Issue as to causation.
- **L v L** (2013): Successfully defended a father against allegations of sexual abuse. Findings made that the allegations had been fabricated by the Mother in order to frustrate contact.
- **Re W (A Child)** [2012] EWCA Civ 106; [2012] 2 F.L.R. 240: Acting for the father before the President of the Family Division in a case concerning separation under an Interim Care Order.

# Children (Private Law)

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In Private Law Clare has dealt with, *inter alia*, the following

- Cases of Implacable hostility and parental alienation
- Intractable contact / residence disputes and cases where all contact has broken down following the breakdown of a relationship
- Specific issue orders / Prohibited Steps orders (including for education / holidays abroad / holidays to non-Hague convention countries)
- Cases where a Rule 16.4 Guardian has been appointed
- Interim transfer of residence cases
- Private law cases involving S.37 investigations
- Internal and external relocation cases

# Domestic Violence & Injunctions

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Clare represents clients in injunctive proceedings including where allegations of serious domestic violence or abuse have been made. She has gained much experience of such applications, particularly where those applications are linked to concurrent Children Act 1989 proceedings.

Listen to Clare discuss coercive and controlling behaviour as applied in the family courts in episode 43 of our podcast Law Pod UK [here](#).

# Direct Access

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

# Appointments

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- Associate, School of Social Work and Social Care, University of Sussex.

# Awards

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- Inner Temple Exhibition Scholarship for CPE (2007-2008)
- Inner Temple Exhibition Scholarship for BVC (2008-2009)
- Winner of the University of Sussex Mooting Competition (2008)

# Education

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- Keble College, Advanced Advocacy Training (2015)
- College of Law, London, BVC (Very Competent), (2009)
- University of Sussex, CPE (Merit), (2008)
- University of Sussex, BA (Hons) Contemporary History (First Class), (2004)

## Memberships

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- FLBA
- Bar Pro Bono Unit

## Publications

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- Law Pod UK [Family Law Podcast Series](#).
- *Dignity, Fairness, Equality, Respect and Independence*; [Family Law](#) [2019]
- *How to approach allegations of coercive and controlling behaviour in private law proceedings*; [Family Law](#) [2019] Fam Law 541
- Law Pod UK Ep. 43: *Coercive and controlling behaviour as applied in the family courts*