

CHARLENE HENDERSON

Year of call
2009



Charlene's practice covers all aspects of private and public children's law work.

Charlene began her practice in both crime and family, equipping her with knowledge of the crossover between the criminal and family jurisdictions. She accepts instructions in the following areas.

- Care Proceedings & Adoption
- Court of Protection
- Forced Marriage Protection Orders
- International Family Law
- International Abduction
- Private Law Children Proceedings
- Surrogacy, Assisted Reproduction & Same Sex Parenting

Charlene is qualified to accept instructions directly from clients and is registered under the Bar Council's Public Access Scheme, meaning that members of the public who seek specialist advice can come direct to her. In addition, she welcomes instructions from solicitors, in-house law departments, qualified foreign lawyers, and clients licensed by the Bar Council to give instructions direct to barristers under the Bar Council's Licensed Access Scheme. For more information, please visit our Direct Access page [here](#).

LEGAL EXPERTISE

Family Law

Charlene has experience in representing local authorities, parents, interveners, related parties, children's guardians and competent children at all stages of care proceedings. She appears before all levels of the

judiciary, including in the High Court and Court of Appeal. Her work in this field includes the below.

- Fact finding hearings comprising serious non-accidental injury ('shaken' baby allegations, multiple fractures and multiple bruising).
- Fact finding hearings involving sexual abuse allegations.
- Re-litigation/challenge to historic findings.
- Mental illness or learning difficulties, including when the client is represented by the Official Solicitor.
- Representation of young clients.
- International and cross-border disputes.
- Child abduction.
- Removal from jurisdiction.
- Appeal hearings.

Selected Cases

[Re Z \(A Child: Committal Proceedings\) \[2020\] EWFC B5](#)

Court of Protection

Charlene is developing a practice in Court of Protection work and is open to receiving instructions in this area. Her extensive experience in representing vulnerable clients in her family work makes her a natural fit for Court of Protection work. She draws upon her expertise in representing clients through the Official Solicitor and ensures sympathetic and effective representation.

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- Lincoln's Inn