

Christopher is recognised in the directories as a leading junior who acts for local authorities and health trusts, parents, intervenors and guardians across the spectrum of cases involving children. He has particular experience in complex cases in which allegations of Fabricated Induced Illness (FII), sexual abuse and serious non-accidental injury have been made or where cause of death is in issue. He appears regularly in the Family Division of the High Court.



NOTABLE CASES

Re M (2023)

Representing a local authority in care proceedings concerned with the alleged interference with medical treatment of an eight month old baby (led by John Tughan KC)

Re B (2023)

Representing a local authority in care proceedings concerned with alleged intra-sibling sexual abuse (four of the parties were represented by leading counsel)

Re R (2023)

Representing the surviving sibling in care proceedings focused upon the cause of death of a child who had suffered more than 60 injuries (led by Timothy Donnelly)

Re P (2023)

Representing a local authority in care proceedings concerning life-threatening injuries suffered by a two year old child

Re G (2023)

Representing a father in care proceedings implicated in the death of his daughter (one of the parties was represented by leading counsel)

YEAR OF CALL

2012

AREAS OF PRACTICE

FAMILY Public Law (Children)





Re E (2023)

Representing the first intervenor who was alleged to have sexually abused two children aged 3 and 5

Re A (2022)

Representing a child in care proceedings who had suffered significant head injuries (two of the parties were represented by leading counsel)

Re K (2022)

Representing a parent in care proceedings who had been convicted of terrorism offences and whose children were said to be at risk of radicalisation (led by Timothy Donnelly)

Re B (2021)

Representing a parent in care proceedings concerned with alleged intra-sibling sexual abuse (led by Darren Howe KC)

Re R (2021)

Representing a parent in care proceedings concerned with allegations of Fabricated Induced Illness (FFI) and allegations of the most serious forms of domestic abuse and violence

Re J (2021)

Representing the first intervenor (a minor) in care proceedings brought by two local authorities (four-week finding of fact hearing) defending allegations of participation in a cross-county paedophile network and intra-familial trans-generational sex abuse (led by Frances Heaton KC)

Re R (2020)

Representing a parent in care proceedings defending allegations of sexual abuse made by a child (daughter)

Re S (2020)

Representing a parent in care proceedings defending multiple allegations of sexual abuse made by two different children (sons)

Re M (2020)



Representing a local authority in care proceedings concerned with allegations of Fabricated Induced Illness (FII) (spanning more than a decade)

Re W (2019)

Representing a parent in care proceedings defending wide-ranging allegations of abuse of a severely disabled non-verbal child with a life-limiting condition

Re M (2019)

Representing a parent in care proceedings commenced upon the discovery of significant injuries to a baby's head (conflict in expert opinion)

Re D (2019)

Representing a local authority in care proceedings concerned with establishing cause of injury suffered by a three-month old child (skull fractures)

F v M (2018)

Temporary leave to remove from the jurisdiction; abduction risk to non-Hague country

Recommendations and client feedback

Legal 500 2024 (Leading Junior)

Legal 500 2023 (Leading Junior)

'A remarkably conscientious, hard-working and thorough junior. He prepares his cases extremely well and is immensely personable with clients.'

Legal 500 2022 (Leading Junior)

Legal 500 2021 (Rising Star)

Memberships

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

North Eastern Circuit

Family Law Bar Association



Qualifications

Bar Professional Training Course (Outstanding)

University of Newcastle upon Tyne (LLB)

Rathmore Grammar School

Scholarships

Dean's Scholar (University of Northumbria)

Awards

Certificate of Honour (Middle Temple)

Baron Dr Ver Heyden de Lancey Prize (Middle Temple)

Louise Godfrey QC Memorial Moot (North Eastern Circuit)