DEANS COURT CHAMBERS

Elizabeth Morton

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Education	Professional Associations
Withington Girls' School	Family Law Bar Association - FLBA
The University of Manchester (LLB Hons)	Child Concern
The Inns of Court School of Law (BVC)	Northern Circuit
	Association of Women Barristers
	The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

Areas of Specialism

- Family
- Child Abduction and Leave to Remove
- Cases with an International Element
- Linked Care/Criminal Proceedings
- Children (Private)

Profile

Beth specialises exclusively in Family Law. Called to the Bar in 1999, she has practiced in both public and private law children work but since 2024, she has decided to focus her practice exclusively on her private children law work.

Beth commenced her career in London with a general common law pupillage and early years of tenancy at 4, King's Bench Walk Chambers in the Temple. She specialised in Crime and Family initially and often defended and prosecuted at Crown Court level. However by 2004, she had also established a thriving family law practice and developed a keen interest in the subject. She decided to concentrate solely on Family Law.

Beth then relocated with her family back to Manchester, where she was born and brought up. She then joined 18 St John's Street Chambers, Manchester in 2005 and practiced there successfully for five years before being invited to join Deans Court Chambers in 2010. There she represented Local Authorities, parents and Guardians. She appeared in the Court of Appeal and in the High Court. She was involved in the leading case relating to electronic tagging of parents in care proceedings before Sir James Munby, the then President of the family Division, led by Julia Cheetham KC.

She appeared in the High Court before Mr Justice Jackson (now Jackson LJ) led by Mr Karl Rowley KC in a case involving issues of radicalization and allegations that parents attempted to take their children to a war zone namely ISIS controlled Syria.

Beth is currently involved in a case for Cafcass led by Susan Grocott KC involving allegations of extreme severity and an issue being the proportionality of a finding of fact hearing and the guidance set out in *Oxfordshire County Council v DP, RS and BS [2005] EWHC 1593.*

Beth has developed a busy and thriving specialist family law practice and enjoys representing private clients and children and obtaining the best outcome for them. She uses a sensitive and yet forceful approach and has an eye for detail and an objective point of view.

Beth is an experienced practitioner who has dealt with a vast array of work of the utmost seriousness and complexity, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, FGM, parental alienation, international and internal relocation. She is regularly instructed to appear for Guardians at Cafcass and for NYAS caseworkers on Rule 16.4 FPR matters. Beth has experience of complex and unusual cases, involving finding of fact hearings, domestic abuse and drug and alcohol misuse.

She has recently dealt with cases involving contested issues of parental responsibility (between two adoptive parents), denied controlling and coercive behaviour (required a 7 day finding of fact before HHJ Singleton KC), contested non molestation injunctions and occupation order (required several hearings at DJ level). She has also recently dealt with cases relating to change of residence (NYAS recommendation contested by Mother), section 37 direction (serious emotional harm that warranted intervention by the Local Authority).

Please contact Beth's clerks, Gavin Reeves or Louise McCarty if you wish to enquire about her availability.

Private Children Law

Beth acts for parents, children, Guardians, NYAS caseworkers and any others in private law proceedings and is regularly instructed in respect of children's living arrangements involving allegations of alienating behaviours, implacable hostility, domestic abuse, physical and sexual abuse. She also acts in cases dealing with specific issues with regards to schooling, travel overseas, holiday arrangements, relocation both at home and abroad.

Knowing that this is an increasingly complex area of work which requires specialist legal advice and tailored, focused approach to each client's circumstances, Beth decided to specialize in this area of work. She tries her best to make sure that she can continue to represent the client at each hearing and to have a conference with clients in advance of the case. She believes that affords the client the representation they deserve and continuity of Counsel. She has recently been successful with an internal relocation case (UK) which was contested by the Father. Beth has been instructed to appear in the High Court in respect of international abduction proceedings (most recently to Canada), matters invoking the Inherent Jurisdiction and appeals from the Family Court.

Beth has a rapport with clients and can provide reassuring and supportive advice in difficult circumstances.

Associated Chambers

4, King's Bench Walk, 2nd Floor, Temple, London, EC4Y 7DL
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Notable Cases

Re X and Y (Children) (No 1) EWHC 2015 2265 Fam dated 30.7.15 and Re X and Y (Children) (No 2) EWHC 2358

Practice Area: Family

Appearing for the children led by Julia Cheetham KC before Sir James Munby, the President of the Family Division - case involving allegations that the parents attempted

to take the children to Syria - consideration of interim care Orders and whether they could be discharged in favour of

wardship and a series of protective measures including electronic tagging of the parents.

https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/x-and-y-pfd.pdf

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Lancashire County Council v M and Ors (2016) EWFC 9

Practice Area: Family

Appearing for the Father led by Karl Rowley KC before Mr Justice Jackson (now Jackson LJ) and where the Court considers what care arrangements are appropriate for children with an extremist father/ step father and focus is on the safety of the children.

https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWFC/HCJ/2016/9.html

https://vardags.com/family-law/family-law-child-radicalisation

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Re D

Practice Area: Family

Before King J - one of the first cases in the High Court dealing with the issue of Female Genital Mutilation. Child rehabilitated to parents care following assessment.

Re S (A child) [2013] EWCA Civ 1835

Practice Area: Family

Appeal by mother against care order and authorisation to place S for adoption. Refusal of application for direct contact with Y. Appeal dismissed and permission to appeal refused. Court of Appeal.

Re S (A child) [2013] EWCA Civ 1835

Practice Area: Court of Appeal

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more

RE JL (2009) EWCA CIv 876

Practice Area: Court of Appeal

Acting for the LA in an Adoption case involving an appeal by a litigant in person against Orders made preventing a child being placed with a sibling in a complex family situation. Appeal refused.

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