

Toby Craddock

2015 Middle Temple, craddock@deanscourt.co.uk



| Education | Professional Associations |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School | Northern Circuit |
| University of Exeter, Law LLB (Hons) | Family Law Bar Association |
| BPP University Manchester, BPTC (Very Competent) | Advocate Volunteer |
| Middle Temple Jules Thorn Scholar | Association of Lawyers for Children |
| | Child Concern |

| Areas of Specialism |
|---------------------|
| Family |
| Children (Public) |
| Children (Private) |

Profile

Toby has practised exclusively in family law since he was called to the bar in 2015 and specialises in both public and private children's law.

Toby has established himself as a talented junior practitioner and is frequently instructed on behalf of local authorities, parents, and children at all stages of proceedings — in both the Family Court and Family Division of the High Court.

Feedback from professional and lay clients acknowledges Toby's meticulous preparation, reassuring manner and robust advocacy across the full spectrum of cases he undertakes, which involve issues of non-accidental injury, fabricated or induced illness, sexual abuse, deprivation of liberty, international child abduction, and alienating behaviours.

Toby is also accredited to cross-examine children having successfully completed the FLBA's 'Advocacy and the Vulnerable' training programme.

Toby is developing his practice in surrogacy law and frequently delivers seminars on parental orders. He is always happy to provide advice in-person, in writing or by video conferencing.

Outside Court, Toby is the secretary to Greater Manchester's Family Law Bar Association and sits on Greater Manchester's Local Family Justice Board.

Toby provides court skills training in partnership with the University of Manchester.

Public Children Law

Toby has considerable experience at all stages of care proceedings – from advice at the pre-proceedings stage through to representation at fully-contested final hearings.

Toby's reputation and conscientious approach has made him a popular choice for local authorities wanting to defend their position, vulnerable parents who wish to challenge professional recommendations, and children's guardians who are driven to protect the young people they represent. His written advocacy is characterised by its fluency and is deployed

best when drafting schedules of findings, chronologies, and skeleton arguments.

Recently, Toby's caseload has included:

Representing a young person where the interplay between gender dysphoria and fabricated or induced illness falls to be determined by the Court.

Representing two children at a 13-day finding of fact hearing where allegations of sexual harm were being pursued by the local authority. Toby was led by Timothy Bowe KC.

Representing a father who was in the pool of perpetrators for inflicting a medically complex skull fracture. At the conclusion of the 11-day hearing, no adverse findings were made against the father.

Representing a sibling group of four at a 10-day finding of fact hearing where the local authority contended that each of the children had been the victim of fabricated or induced illness. Toby was led by Peter Rothery at the fact-find and then continued to act for the children at the welfare stage.

Private Children Law

Toby's pragmatism shines through in the private law sphere. He is solution-focussed when helping his clients devise the best arrangements for their children, and when representing the children themselves by their r16.4 guardian.

Toby has considerable experience where safeguarding concerns have been raised as a bar to contact, and where there are concurrent proceedings under the Family Law Act 1996. His familiarity with public children's law inevitably assists in such cases; especially when evaluating the evidence and scrutinising the decisions made by safeguarding partners.

Having appeared on behalf of the child in the case of *Re X* – Toby is frequently asked to advise parents who are attempting to negotiate safe, foreign travel arrangements for their children.

The judgment in *Re X* can be accessed here: <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Fam/2021/3778.html>

Notable Cases

Re X (Temporary Removal: Non-Hague Country) [2021] EWHC 3778 (Fam)

Practice Area: Family Law

Instructed to represent the child by their children's guardian before Russell J. Successfully opposed the father's application for permission to temporarily remove the child from this jurisdiction to Saudi Arabia.

Parental Responsibility and the Falsehood of Paternity: Interpreting s 4(2A) of the Children Act 1989

Practice Area: Publication

Published in the Family Law Journal, November 2023.

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