



Mini Pupillage FAQ's

1. Where will my mini pupillage take place?

- We are a Manchester based chambers and, where possible, at least some of your mini pupillage will take place in Manchester however we also have chambers in Preston and undertake work all over the country so in order to give you the best possible experience of chambers you may be asked to meet a barrister at a court centre outside of Manchester City Centre.

2. How long will my mini pupillage last?

- Mini pupillages at Deans Court Chambers are for 3 days.

3. What sort of work will I see?

- Where you have expressed a preference we will try and ensure that you see some work in your chosen field during your time with us. Depending upon the type of work which you wish to see you may be in court, in a conference in chambers or in discussion with a barrister who specialises in another area of law.
- You should bear in mind that some of the cases which we deal with, particularly in crime and family can have a distressing subject matter. If this is the case the barrister who you are with will explain this to you before the case starts.
- If you have any areas of concern you should not hesitate to let us know immediately.
- Whilst every effort will be made to allocate a mini-pupil time with a barrister in the specialty or specialities requested, candidates will be aware that there are court cases which are not suitable for the attendance of mini-pupils and, occasionally, there may not be a barrister available to take a mini-pupil until later in the day.

4. Can I join in discussions about the case with the client or solicitor or help with advice?

- In a word, no. The role of a mini-pupil is to observe only.
- You will have a full opportunity to discuss the case with the barrister afterwards. The barrister who you are with will explain who you are and why you are there and will ask permission from the client, the other party and the court for you to be present. It is important to remember that for the client going to court can be extremely stressful particularly if they will be required to give evidence.

5. Who will my point of contact be?

- Your points of contact will be Jade Andrews who will initially contact you re your mini pupillage, and Louie Morrissey who is the clerk in charge of arranging the

placements. Louie will explain where you need to go and how to get there. It is useful to put our chambers website in your favourites so that you will be able to recognise the barrister who you will be with in case you need to meet them at court.

6. Should I do any preparation?

- In order to get the most out of your mini pupillage you may wish to ask about the sort of cases you will be seeing and do some reading about them.
- Previous mini-pupils have said that the best way to approach it is to immerse yourself in the day and listen carefully throughout. You may want to concentrate on the style of the advocacy, the application of the law to the facts, think about how the barrister you are with deals with their opponent, other professionals and court staff as well as the judge and take in the general atmosphere of the court.

7. Can I talk to my friends and family about the cases I have seen?

- Barristers are bound by very strict rules about confidentiality and you must not discuss confidential information with anyone other than the barrister who you are with. If in doubt ask them. You will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement at the start of the mini pupillage. If you have taken notes which contain personal information they will need to be securely destroyed in chambers.

8. What should I wear?

- Court dress is formal. Most barristers choose to wear a dark suit (usually black, navy blue or dark grey) and a white or other light coloured shirt. Men wear ties. Women sometimes wear a black dress and jacket. A smart dark coloured trouser suit is also fine for women. During your mini pupillage you will be treated as if you were a chambers pupil in their first 6 months of training and you will be representing chambers.

9. Do I need to bring anything with me?

- You should bring a notebook and pen. It is a good idea to make notes to remind yourself of any questions you may have later.
- We want you to get maximum benefit from your mini pupillage experience. Making the most of your time with us by having a positive attitude, taking notes throughout and asking good questions at appropriate times will enable you to gain an insight into life at the Bar and what it entails. If you have any other questions please e-mail Jade or Louie and they will do their best to help.

10. Feedback

- If you have any comments regarding your experience, whether positive or negative, it is useful to know so that we can continue to provide the best possible experience. Any feedback can be sent to Jade Andrews at jandrews@deanscourt.co.uk.