



Tom is experienced in acting for parents, children and members of the extended family in all aspects of private-law disputes. He is sensitive toward the particular challenges which are posed in private law litigation whilst maintaining a tactically-driven approach. Tom prefers to be instructed at an early stage in private proceedings and to work in partnership with his solicitors so that his clients have the benefit of their full legal team.

Tom has recently been instructed in cases with issues including:

- Alleged serious physical and sexual violence
- Alleged parental alienation
- Alleged drug and alcohol misuse
- Internal and external relocation, including to non-Hague Convention countries
- Challenging section 7 reports
- Transfer of living arrangements
- Contact
- Schooling
- Change of name
- Declarations of parentage
- Special guardianship



Rebecca is popular with solicitors and clients in difficult, complex and/or high-conflict private children cases. Rebecca receives instructions in private law proceedings acting for both parents, grandparents, connected carers and children (through their Rule 16.4 Guardian).

Rebecca has wide experience in the representation of parties in private law proceedings. This includes experience of:

Complex child arrangement proceedings such as those involving allegations of domestic abuse, allegations of alienation and challenge to section 7 reports;

Transfer of living arrangements;

- Cases involving Re W determinations and where appropriate, the cross-examination of children (and other vulnerable witnesses);
- Cases with an international element including international relocation;
- Applications relating to surrogacy and declarations of parentage;
- Female genital mutilation (FGM);
- Forced marriage;
- Allegations of factitious illness;
- Child and parental death;
- Cases involving the invocation of the inherent jurisdiction;
- Proceedings which have current or previous local authority involvement;
- Special guardianship
- Adoption.



Malvika is a specialist family law practitioner. She was named a Tier One 'Rising Star (Children Law: Public and Private)' in the Legal 500 2023. She regularly acts in cases of a level of complexity beyond her year of call. She prides herself on her approachable manner and her ability to put even the most vulnerable and anxious clients at ease.

Malvika has a busy private law children practice, acting for both parents and children. She regularly handles complex fact-finding hearings concerning allegations of serious domestic abuse. She has undertaken the Family Law Bar Association's 'Advocacy and the Vulnerable' training and she has co-authored a book entitled 'A Practical Guide to Practice Direction 12J and Domestic Abuse in Private Law Children Proceedings'. The link to the book can be found by clicking [here](#).

Malvika's areas of interest include:

- Allegations of domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour, emotional abuse and sexual abuse;
- The internal and international relocation of children;
- Forced marriage (Malvika recently appeared in the reported case of K (Forced Marriage Protection Orders; Abuse of Process) [2021] EWFC 94);
- Intractable contact disputes;
- Non-accidental injuries to children;
- Transparency in the family courts.



Holly has a varied private law practice, appearing on behalf of both parents and children (through their rule 16.4 Guardian). Holly appears at all stages of proceedings and always provides an exceptional level of client care.

Holly is adept at dealing with various applications in private law, including:

- Child Arrangements Order
- Applications to vary a Child Arrangements Order
- Enforcement of Child Arrangements Orders
- Specific Issue Orders
- Prohibited Steps Order

Holly has experience in cases involving parental alienation, emotional abuse, allegations of sexual abuse, fabricated illness and physical abuse. She is often instructed in multi-day fact-find and final hearings.

Holly also has experience in fertility/surrogacy law, having recently secured a Parental Order before Mr Justice Hayden sitting in the High Court at the Royal Courts of Justice.



Zara has a diverse and thriving private law practice. She regularly receives instructions acting on behalf of parents, children (through their FPR 16.4 Guardian) as well as extended family members across all stages of hearings including finding of fact hearings and final hearings.

Zara is incredibly popular with both solicitors and clients within private law matters and has significant experience dealing with a range of private family law matters including:

- Applications for a Child Arrangements Order (Live With/Spend Time With);
- Applications to vary a Child Arrangements Order (Live With/Spend Time With);
- Applications for Specific Issue Orders and/or Prohibited Steps Orders;
- Applications for a Special Guardianship Order;
- Applications for Non-Molestation Orders; and
- Applications for Occupation Orders.

In particular, within the private children law sphere Zara's caseload specifically encompasses a range of complex issues such as:

- allegations of domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour, physical, emotional and sexual abuse;
- the international relocation of children; and
- allegations of implacable hostility and intractable contact disputes.

As an advocate, Zara is confident, robust and fearless; she is well known for her meticulous attention to detail and her analytical approach. She further has a vast amount of experience in representing vulnerable clients, including those with cognitive functioning difficulties.