

Rachel Chapman
(2017) Barrister

Specialist Areas

Public Law Children: Care Proceedings and Adoption

Private Law Children: Residence and Contact

Out of Court Solutions (NCDR)



Who is Rachel Chapman?

Rachel joined Chambers in October 2019 following successful completion of her pupillage with No18.

Rachel has a busy practice in Family law, with a particular interest in Children work. Rachel is known for her pragmatic approach to matters whilst always striving to reach the best outcome for her clients. She is able to manage parties' expectations, whilst being alive to the stress of the situation. Client care is something that matters to Rachel and is something which she takes great pride in during all of her cases, both towards her professional clients and lay clients.

Rachel has experience in dealing with vulnerable parties, both by representing them and also cross-examining them. Rachel has undertaken the vulnerable witness training and so has the skills and knowledge to ensure a sensitive approach is taken no matter who she represents.

Rachel's confident yet sensible attitude leads her to being regularly instructed by local solicitors.

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No.18 Chambers is a distinguished set of barristers based in Southampton, recognised for its strong reputation and presence across the South Coast of England. Our expertise cover a range of practice areas, including Family Law (Care Proceedings and Adoption, Private Law Children, Matrimonial Finance), Employment, Chancery and Commercial Law, Property Disputes, together with Dispute Resolution and Mediation. Our members are committed to delivering expert legal advice and representation to clients nationwide, offering extensive experience in handling both complex and sensitive matters.



Legal Expertise

For more information or to get in touch with Rachel please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Public Law Children: Care Proceedings and Adoption

Rachel regularly deals with Care proceedings and is able to accept instructions on a variety of matters from any party, as well as those who do not have full party status such as intervenors or family members. Rachel has considerable experience at all stages of proceedings, from EPO to final hearing and has experience in representing parties in multi-day final hearings and Fact-Finding hearings.

Rachel is also confident in dealing with vulnerable parties. Rachel has extensive experience in representing young parents, parents with learning needs, or parents who require the Official Solicitor. Rachel often appreciates the need for sensitivity and is able to deal with that whilst addressing the issues. Rachel has previously been praised for her manner when dealing with vulnerable clients.

Rachel has experience of dealing with matters involving allegations of non-accidental injury. Rachel has experience of dealing with such matters alone, as well as being led by Silk, both as a 1st Junior and as a 2nd Junior.

Rachel also has experience of proceedings being heard in the High Court.

Further, Rachel regularly represents children through their Guardians within care proceedings, having received repeated instructions. She also represents children who are competent enough to be separately represented when it is necessary to separate from the Guardian.

Rachel can also represent Local Authorities and has the ability to draft thorough case summaries and thresholds if necessary. She is confident in grasping the key issues in a case in a timely manner.

Rachel has the ability to accept instructions from any party at short notice for urgent hearings such as EPO's and ICO's.

Aside from Care proceedings, Rachel also has experience in DOLs applications and Secure Accommodation applications.



Legal Expertise Continued

For more information or to get in touch with Rachel please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Private Law Children: Residence and Contact

Private Law Children: Contact and Residence Disputes Under the Children Act 1989

Rachel regularly represents children through their Guardians under 16.4 of the Family Procedure Rules. She has considerable experience of all stages of proceedings, from the Guardian's first appointment through to Fact-Find and final hearing. Rachel is regularly instructed to remain on matters for continuity.

Rachel also has experiences in Appeals, having represented children through their Guardian in the High Court on appeal.

Rachel does also represent parents, either applicants or respondents in applications made under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. These include Child Arrangements Orders, Prohibited Steps Orders and Specific Issue Orders. She is able to accept instructions at all stages of dispute, from first hearings to contested final hearings, having represented some of her clients at every stage of their proceedings. Her confident and feisty attitude has left her clients requesting that Rachel represent them again.

Rachel is also able to deal with urgent applications and has successfully obtained prohibited steps orders on an urgent basis.

Domestic Violence & Injunctions

Rachel has a wealth of experience in dealing with applicants and respondents in Family Law Act proceedings, resulting in non-molestation orders and occupation orders. Rachel has succeeded in obtaining both non-molestation orders and occupation orders on an 'ex-parte' (without notice) basis. She is able to recognise and balance the effect of such orders with other concerns parties may have such as children of the family or further living arrangements.

Rachel can accept instructions at short notice and is able to handle cases at all stages, from first hearing to final hearings. She also has experience in dealing with vulnerable clients, including those with learning difficulties.

Rachel's experience in Family Law Act proceedings has often led her to representing her clients in these proceedings and then subsequent Children Act proceedings, allowing for continuity of counsel, which Rachel recognises is important to many.

Out of Court Solutions (NCDR)

Single Joint Advices/Early Neutral Evaluation

Round Table Meetings/Joint Conferences

Merits, Advice, Drafting And Support Package



Professional Info

For more information or to get in touch with Rachel please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Qualifications

University of Southampton, 2016, 2:1 LLB Law

Bar Professional Training Course, 2017, Outstanding

Completed the FLBA Vulnerable Witness Training; September 2022

Membership

Middle Temple (The Luboshez Scholar, 2016)

Western Circuit

Family Law Bar Association

Awards

The Luboshez Scholarship, Middle Temple (2016/2017)

Western Circuit Advocacy Prize (2017)

Personal Info

Outside of work, Rachel enjoys watching football in all leagues. She has a passion for cooking and regularly tries out new recipes.

Rachel is also a large fan of cruising, having cruised to many destinations all over the world.

Rachel is also an avid reader and enjoys regular exercise.



Cases of Note

For more information or to get in touch with Rachel please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Rachel Chapman, a barrister at No.18 Chambers, specialises in family law, with a focus on public and private children matters, including care proceedings and contact disputes. Her casework often involves complex issues such as parental learning disabilities and genetic conditions, requiring sensitive handling and detailed legal analysis. Recognised by The Legal 500 as a “down-to-earth advocate” who communicates effectively with both professional clients and vulnerable parents, she is praised for her extensive legal knowledge and practical approach. Her work frequently addresses nuanced questions of child welfare and parental capacity.

V v V & Anor [2025] EWHC 945



Reviews

For more information or to get in touch with Rachel please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Rachel was extremely professional and I was very impressed by her skills in Court. I would have no hesitation in recommending her to future clients. - George Orton Lyon Davidson Solicitors | Bristol, England

Rachel is able to get to grips quickly with complex cases. She is incredibly approachable and her advocacy is clear and firm. - Legal 500

Rachel is a down-to-earth advocate who can communicate well with professional clients and vulnerable parents. Her knowledge of the law is extensive, and she is always practical and sensible in her approach - Legal 500
