

Richard Carroll

(2006) Barrister

Specialist Areas

Public Law Children: Care Proceedings and Adoption

Private Law Children: Residence and Contact

Family: Finance

Out of Court Solutions (NCDR)

Who is Richard Carroll?

Richard comes from a common law practice background but now specialises solely in family proceedings with a particular emphasis on children cases involving high conflict, serious allegations and expert evidence, in particular when expert evidence is being challenged. He has extensive experience in non-accidental injury cases and representing particularly vulnerable clients. Richard regularly deals with fact-finding and final hearings involving bruising, fractures, injuries by way of a shaking mechanism, inter-relational rape, child sexual abuse (including rape), serious domestic violence and dishonesty. He regularly deals with clients who have issues in respect of their capacity, are represented through the official solicitor or require intermediaries. He also has experience in dealing with international abduction, leave to remove from the jurisdiction and appellate cases. Richard works collaboratively with solicitors and also has extensive experience of representing suitable clients on a direct access basis when necessary.

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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 Richard please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Private Law Children: Residence and Contact

Richard is regularly instructed in very complex matters, and has considerable experience in cases involving alleged non-accidental injury, complicated medical evidence, sexual abuse cases and neglect. He has extensive experience in dealing with fact-finding and welfare hearings which involve significant challenge to expert evidence and has been instructed against leading counsel as sole counsel as well as acting as a junior to leading counsel. He is always willing to advise as to the suitability of silk at an early stage of proceedings.

Richard not only represents local authorities parents and guardians but has experience of representing intervenors for fact finding hearings and family members seeking to challenge initial or final assessments and can do so on a solicitor instructed or direct access basis as required.

Richard also has experience of dealing with international jurisdiction issues applicable to public law proceedings, issues as to disclosure between parties and to non-parties, as well as medical treatment issues, including, sadly, declarations as to cessation of treatment involving children.

Private Law Children: Residence and Contact

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

Richard has extensive experience in a wide range of private law children applications from the more standard disputes to cases involving serious allegations of domestic violence, sexual abuse, fabricated allegations and emotional abuse of children. He also deals with specific issue order hearings such as determining the appropriate school provision, removal from the jurisdiction, relocation within the jurisdiction, religious upbringing or medical treatment for a child and applies the same level of diligence to all matters, understanding the importance these issues have to both his client and their children.

He has over time developed an impressive reputation for giving sensible frank advice from an early stage and assisting parties to resolve matters amicably where possible and with the best possible outcome in the circumstances on matters which necessitate full contest. He often receives referrals from those involved with a parents charity and is willing to provide bespoke assistance to fit a client's budget when full representation by a solicitor and barrister on all matters is not affordable and is willing to advise on when assistance by a solicitor may be of more benefit to that of counsel dependant on the assistance required.

Domestic Violence & Injunctions

Richard has considerable experience in injunctive proceedings under the Family Law Act 1996, dealing with both ex parte and on notice applications. He has represented Applicants and Respondents in serious non-molestation matters and occupation orders, more often where there are concurrent or anticipated related proceedings.



Legal Expertise Continued

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

Family: Finance

Divorce & Separation

Richard's family finance work frequently involves complicating factors such as trusts, hidden assets, and enforcement. He also has experience in more modest cases that regularly involve difficult or creative solutions.

Richard has a strong practice in matrimonial finance and property disputes and attends all hearings during the course of proceedings including MPS applications, final hearings and enforcement at all levels.

Out of Court Solutions (NCDR)

Private FDR

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 Richard please contact the clerks room who will be happy to assist you.

Membership

LLB (Hons) University of Leicester

BVC, University of the West of England

Membership

Richard has provided bespoke in house training to solicitors as well as generalized training on conducting family proceedings.

Personal Info

Richard is a keen, (if not accomplished tennis player) and enjoys hiking when he can find the time.



Cases of Note

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

AXX v AXY and Others [2024] EWFC 101 (B) - Circuit Judge case before the Designated Family Judge for the Thames Valley concerning a highly complicated case where the children had entrenched views against their mother which did not match the court's findings of fact. The mother was a victim of domestic abuse and the eldest child had suffered life changing injuries whilst in the care of the mother.

Dorset Council v Mother and others [2024] EWFC 246 (B) - Circuit Judge case before the Designated Family Judge for Dorset concerning exceptional circumstances where a supervision order should be made alongside a special guardianship order.

Re C-D (a child) (care order) - [2020] EWCA Civ 501 [2020] All ER (D) 68 (Apr) - Court of Appeal case concerning a challenge to a final care order and order under s.91(14) Children Act 1989

G v G v Chief Constable of Dorset Police – [2018] EWHC 1100 (Fam) - High Court case concerning a novel injunction by the police to delay service of a Cafcass report until post interview.

Cowthorpe Road 1-1a freehold limited v Wahedally [2017] L. & T.R - 4 collective enfranchisement; service of counter-notice by email. Circuit Judge case before the Designated Civil Judge for the Central London County Court on the validity of serving a counter notice via email.



Reviews

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

Richard is a tenacious advocate who is thorough in his preparation of cases and forensic in his cross examination. He has an easy manner which allows him to put clients at ease whilst dealing with incredibly distressing topics and getting to the heart of their instructions in a short space of time to be able to effectively give voice to their case. Richard is realistic and empathetic in his advice and can often settle matters where appropriate in a manner which the client is able to walk away happy with.
