



William Tautz

YEAR OF CALL: 2004



William Tautz is a children's family law specialist. He practices in both public and private children's law, including care proceedings, adoption, international cases, and deprivation of liberty.

William is well known for his calm demeanour, and he emphasises listening to clients so that they know that they are being heard. His client handling skills are informed by his twenty plus years of experience combined with his compassionate approach. He is able to focus lay clients on the issues in the case and predict how judges will perceive the evidence in order to ensure the best outcome.

William is particularly suited to representing vulnerable clients, including those with a background of mental health issues, trauma, learning needs, or neurodiversity.

If you would like to get in touch with William please contact the clerking team:

familyclerkmailbox@gclaw.co.uk | +44 (0)20 7993 7600

You can also contact William directly:

FAMILY LAW: CHILDREN

William acts on behalf of parents, children, and local authorities. He undertakes complex and serious cases including those involving allegations of sexual abuse and serious physical harm.

William is a committed legal aid lawyer who continues to undertake publicly funded private children's law cases that involve complex issues and where very experienced counsel is required. He also accepts privately funded instructions in both public and private law proceedings.

NOTABLE CASES

Past notable cases can be viewed below. [Click here to see a list of recent notable cases.](#)

Re: S [2024]

Representing a parent in care proceedings, successfully secured at final hearing the return of one child from foster care, with the proceedings continuing in relation to two other children who are residential care.

A v N [2024]

Representing a parent, successfully persuaded a court at a fact-finding hearing to discharge the fact-finding exercise on the basis of the likely harm that it would have caused to the child: by reducing the conflict, the parties were able to agree a constructive and child-focused way forward.

Re: C (Parental Alienation: Permanent Removal to Germany [2023] EWHC 1955 (Fam)

Representing a parent, from fact-finding to welfare determination in a complex case involving allegations of domestic abuse, forced return from Scotland, permanent removal from the jurisdiction, and parental alienation.

A local authority v SK and AP [2023]

Representing both parents of an adopted teenager who was made subject to care proceedings; complexity arose through the young person's birth family entanglements and long-standing shortcomings on the part of the local authority.

Re: S 2013

Representing a local authority in the Principal Registry in a case involving physical abuse of children aged nine and 12; the children were Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviewed and chose to give live oral evidence via video-link resulting in findings against the parents and care orders.

Re: C 2012/13

Represented a father pro bono, including in the High Court, who, though not the biological father of the child, sought a shared residence order and to prevent the child's removal from the jurisdiction.

Re: N 2012/13

Represented a local authority in long-running case centred on domestic violence in the Family Proceedings Court; on advice, the local authority did not seek to contest removal of the child, despite repeated threats, and a negotiated solution involving a temporary kinship carer and eventual return to the mother was achieved. Represented a local authority in long-running case centred on domestic violence in the Family Proceedings Court; on advice, the local authority did not seek to contest removal of the child, despite repeated threats, and a negotiated solution involving a temporary kinship carer and eventual return to the mother was achieved.

Re: R 2012/13

Representing a father in private law proceedings in the High Court in which allegations against him of serious violence and sexual abuse were found a) to be unproved, and b) to have been deliberately fabricated by the mother, resulting in a shared residence order.

Re: A 2012

Second junior counsel, led by Jenny Boswell, for a mother accused of factitious illness syndrome relating to a child with very complex health needs; at the 11 day fact-finding, for which he had less than a week to prepare, William cross-examined a key witness of fact and the treating paediatrician.

Re: L 2012

Represented a mother of three boys, between the ages of eight and 14, in care proceedings in the Principal Registry where the father was said to be violent and the family had experienced racist abuse and harassment in another borough; the mother achieved the return of all the children to her care, including the eldest from secure accommodation, and the proceedings finished with no order.

Re: P 2012

Successfully represented a local authority in the High Court on an application for a reporting restriction in a high-profile case.

MENTAL HEALTH LAW AND COURT OF PROTECTION

William has a background in representing clients in both mental health tribunals and the Court of Protection. William has a first degree in psychology and worked for a number of years as a manager in mental health before coming to the Bar. He is particularly skilled at cross-examining psychiatrists and psychologists.

EDUCATION LAW

William previously practised in the SEND first tier tribunal, and he is re-developing a practice in education law.

PRO BONO WORK

William is committed to legal aid and the representation of individuals who cannot afford legal services. He is public access qualified, and regularly acts pro bono.

William is happy to consider giving pro bono advice on defamation to charities and campaigning organisations prior to publication.

BACKGROUND

William Tautz has a BA degree in psychology from Truman State University in the US. His former career was in managing mental health services in London and so he has a very strong lay understanding of related issues that informs his practice in all areas.

At the age of 33 he returned to education and obtained an LLB (Hons) degree from South Bank University, earning a first class degree and the Law Department's Sweet & Maxwell Prize for outstanding student. In 2002 he won a £2,000 prize in The Times Law Awards.

After completing the Bar Vocational Course, he undertook pupillage at Garden Court Chambers. His experience also includes criminal law - with trials in both the crown and magistrates courts - and civil law.

William's interest in family law stems from his commitment to his own children and his belief that decisions that relate to family life will have a profound and long-term impact not just on the individuals concerned but on society.

William is married and has five children aged between nine and 22 years. He practices meditation and yoga.

PUBLICATIONS

'New Tricks' *Counsel* June 2008

'Psych versus Psych: A Diagnostic Dispute and the Implications for Expert Witnesses in Family Proceedings'
Family Law Week June 2013

As a sideline to his practice, William provides pre-publication legal advice to several national newspapers.

William is happy to consider giving pro bono advice on defamation to charities and campaigning organisations prior to publication.

EDUCATION

BA Psychology

LLB (Hons)

Dip Law

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Family Law Bar Association

If you would like to get in touch with William please contact the clerking team:

familyclerkmailbox@gclaw.co.uk | +44 (0)20 7993 7600

You can also contact William directly:

+44 (0)20 7993 7866



57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LJ

Email: info@gclaw.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7993 7600

DX: 34 Chancery Lane