



# Amanda Meusz

YEAR OF CALL: 1986



Amanda Meusz's practice focuses on all areas of the law relating to children, including the provision of services to children and young people.

Amanda won Family Law Case of the Year at the Family Law Awards 2022. She acted for the children's guardian in the Supreme Court case of *H-W (Children) (No 2)* [2022] UKSC 17.

"Amanda Meusz is an incredibly well-respected barrister who specialises in children law work. Meusz has vast knowledge of matters including non-accidental injury, abuse and fabricated illness, among many others. She has appeared at all levels of court, including the Supreme Court."

CHAMBERS UK, 2024 (FAMILY: CHILDREN)

"Amanda is fantastic; she fights for her clients and works at an incredible level of detail. She has made a difference to the outcome of cases for a

number of families."

CHAMBERS UK, 2024 (FAMILY: CHILDREN)

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"Amanda worked on a very difficult case with complex dynamics and her empathy for the client was second to none. The aftercare advice she offered me was above and beyond."

CHAMBERS UK, 2024 (FAMILY: CHILDREN)

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"Amanda is an exceptional barrister. She is highly skilled, extremely knowledgeable, and someone with remarkable client care."

CHAMBERS UK, 2024 (FAMILY: CHILDREN)

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"Amanda's expertise, written submissions and determination were pivotal in the case's outcome. Without her, I know the outcome would have been very different (life changing in the most negative way) to my family. Thank you for always going above & beyond and for safeguarding my family & our future. I will be forever grateful for everything you have done for us."

DIRECT ACCESS CLIENT, 2024

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"Amanda is a fearless advocate, meticulous in her preparation and will fight to the end."

LEGAL 500 2023 (FAMILY)

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

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## **FAMILY LAW: CHILDREN'S LAW**

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Amanda has always been interested in the rights of children in the context of legal proceedings and in the wider society. Amanda is regularly instructed to act for parents, grandparents, kinship-carers, competent children and children's guardians in complex care cases.

Cases have involved child and parent fatalities, catastrophic injuries to a child, non-accidental head injuries, poisoning, including a number of cases of salt poisoning, FII, re-litigation of cases involving historical abuse, child sexual abuse, including intergenerational, inter-sibling, maternal abuse, internet exploitation and ritualistic sexual abuse, allegations of witchcraft, radicalisation cases, as well as cases of neglect.

In addition, Amanda is often instructed in cases under the inherent jurisdiction involving hospital trusts where medical treatment and/or end of life treatment and care is in issue. In one notable case, (*Re AB(A child)* [2018] EWFC 3), the LA care plan would have resulted in the child's life coming to an end many years after the conclusion of proceedings - the child is still alive and living with his parents.

Amanda is a passionate advocate for the rights of children and the most vulnerable parents in society. She has a wealth of experience in representing parents and children who have been victims of trauma, and parents & children with mental health difficulties and learning disabilities. She also frequently acts for Gillick competent teenagers in care proceedings. Amanda has developed a trauma-informed approach to her work, along with innovative practices to assist vulnerable clients in negotiating proceedings and the aftermath of proceedings. She regularly provides training in how to best represent vulnerable clients.

Her client care is second to none, always compassionate but focused on achieving the best possible outcome for her client.

Amanda is committed to providing trauma-informed representation to survivors of domestic abuse in private and public law proceedings.

## **NOTABLE CASES**

[Amanda won Family Law Case of the Year at the Family Law Awards 2022.](#) She acted for the children's guardian in the Supreme Court case of *H-W (Children) (No 2)* [2022] UKSC 17. She was led by Cyrus Larizadeh QC of 4PB Family Law and instructed by David Barney & Co.

### ***Re T (A Child)* [2021] UKSC 35**

The case concerned a young person placed in an unregistered secure placement insufficient where there were no places available in registered secure children's homes and the test was to be applied under the inherent jurisdiction.

### ***Re R and S (Children) (Welfare: long-term foster care)* [2022] EWFA B20**

Represented a learning-disabled father in a Serious NAI case.

### ***Central Bedfordshire Council -v- F, D, C [2022] EWFC 130***

Representing the younger children in a case where serious NAHI was alleged. The court found the injury to be accidental.

### ***Re AB(A child) [2018] EWFC 3***

Representing parents of a child with significant life-limiting neurological impairment where the care plan would have resulted in the death of the child. This case had also been the subject of proceedings under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court.

### ***Re W (No 1) Preliminary issue scope of Hearing [2019] EWFC 75***

A complex care case involving a disputed diagnosis of FASD.

### ***Medway Council -v- Kent County Council [2016] EWA Civ 366***

### ***Re S (A Child Care Order) [2014] EWHC 529 Fam***

## **COURT OF PROTECTION CROSSOVER**

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Amanda's experience relates primarily to cases involving 16-17 year olds who lack capacity and the crossover with the Children Act 1989, the Inherent Jurisdiction of the High Court and the Court of Protection. She has undertaken cases involving medical treatment and Deprivation of Liberty. She acted for the Applicant LA in *Re T* at first instance, in the Court of Appeal and UK Supreme Court.

## **BACKGROUND**

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Amanda has taught land law and the law of trusts.

Amanda returned to the Bar and to Garden Court following a period of time as a full-time mother. During this time, she was appointed as Company Secretary and trustee of a Kent-based children's charity providing services to children and families in an area of considerable social deprivation. The charity also worked with teenage mothers and refugee families and their children.

Immediately prior to her return to the Bar Amanda worked as a childcare lawyer for a local authority. This experience has given her invaluable insight into the workings, not only of a local authority but also of the work of a solicitor.

Amanda has been a single mother of three children for many years.

## EDUCATION

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LLB Honours University College London

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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Honourable Society of Grays Inn

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children

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

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