

# 1GC | Family Law

## Andrew Norton QC

Year of Call: 1992 Year of Silk: 2016



## Practice Overview

Andrew specialises in cases relating to children in the Family Court or the Family Division of the High Court as well as matters of welfare relating to incapacitated adults in the Court of Protection. He primarily appears at the High Court or appellate level. He brings his years of experience as it relates to children in both the public law (care and adoption) sphere and in private law (child arrangement) disputes.

Whilst Andrew is an extremely effective advocate and highly experienced in court disputes, he is passionate about alternative methods of Dispute Resolution as a means to conclude proceedings in appropriate cases. He is skilled in identifying which cases would benefit from a conciliatory approach and which cases require a robust and forthright approach to resolve longstanding or deep seated areas of dispute.

Andrew is a trained mediator able to work in both children cases and within the Court of Protection. He has a special interest in mediation used to resolve Elder Care disputes.

He is an Arbitrator and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb).

Andrew accepts public access instructions.

## Children (public law)

Within public law proceedings, Andrew represents local authorities, parents, other family members, and children.

His expertise is in cases where serious, life threatening injuries have occurred. He regularly conducts fact-finding hearings involving complex medical issues.

Many of Andrew's cases have an international element and he is highly skilled at advising local authorities on placement of children overseas and adoptions with international elements, often receiving instructions in cases involving child abduction, Forced Marriage and Diplomatic Immunity issues.

## Children (private law)

Within private law proceedings, Andrew acts for parents and other adults involved in the most complicated, often intractable disputes relating to children.

He has a detailed knowledge of cases of alienation requiring a specialist approach and early intervention to identify such cases and ensure effective outcomes.

He has successfully obtained - and resisted - permissions to relocate children both within England and Wales and overseas.

## **International family law**

Many of Andrew's cases have an international element and he is highly skilled at advising and representing parties considering planned relocation. He has particularly strong links with the United States and can provide some guidance on legal issues in that jurisdiction, signposting specialist American legal advice when required.

## **Court of Protection**

Within the Court of Protection Andrew receives instruction from the Official Solicitor to the Senior Courts to represent the protected party, from local authorities seeking guidance on complex cases and from families seeking to resolve difficulties regarding a family member.

## **Arbitration**

Andrew is an Arbitrator and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCI Arb).

Andrew is the convener of 1GC's Dispute Resolution team.

## **Mediation**

While Andrew is highly experienced in court disputes, he is passionate about alternative methods of Dispute Resolution as a means to conclude proceedings in the most effective way for the parties. He is a trained mediator able to work in both children cases and within the Court of Protection. He has a special interest in mediation used to resolve Elder Care disputes.

He has undertaken training both in the UK and also through the Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, drawing on the experience of that organisation in resolving significant community disputes, thereby broadening his mediation skills.

## **What the directories say**

**2016:** *"Recommended for his Hague Convention expertise."* **Legal 500**

**2014:** *"He has a persuasive and dedicated style in mediations and is an engaging advocate."* Chambers UK

**2013:** *"recommended as a children's public law expert who has experience of appearing in the Court of Protection."* Chambers UK

**2012:** *"extremely effective" advocate and a "good communicator."* Chambers UK

## Notable Cases

R -v- Cornwall 1999 1FLR 1055

*A Local Authority v S* [2004] EWHC 1270 (Fam)

*R (Adoption Contact) 2005 EWCA Civ 1128* [2006] 1 FLR 373

Merton London Borough Council -v- K 2005 EWHC 167 [2005] 2 FLR 422

*Re B (Children)* [2012] EWCA Civ 1901

*Surrey County Council -v- AB* [2014] EWHC 1115 (Fam)

*Re L* [2015] EWFC 48

*D (a child) (Habitual Residence: Consent and Acquiescence)* [2015] EWHC 1562 FAM

*A London Borough and M and F and B* [2015] EWHC 2407 (Fam)

*Re X* [2016] EWHC 1668

*F v M & Anor* [2017] EWHC 949 (Fam)

*Re B* [2017] EWCA Civ. 1635

## Education

BSc (Hons) Southampton University

Diploma in Law

Trained Mediator

Arbitrator (MCI Arb)

## Appointments

In 2016 Andrew was appointed to sit as a Recorder in private and public family law.

## Memberships & Associations

[Family Law Bar Association](#)

Society of English and American Lawyers  
Association of Lawyers for Children  
Resolution

### Court of Protection Bar Association

Seminars, publications and training

Andrew is regularly invited to provide training on legal developments and has written and presented courses on changes to statute to enable Local Authorities to be prepared for new procedures and concepts.

Andrew has provided guidance to child protection medical professionals regarding report writing and court attendance.

He is a regular speaker at Chambers and external seminars.

He produces the Private Law update for the FLBA magazine Family Affairs.