

1GC | Family Law

Sophie Prolingheuer

Year of Call: 2006



Practice Overview

Sophie has broad experience across child protection matters and all areas of work arising out of family breakdown. She has developed a practice with a strong focus on children work in both the public law and private law field. She has received praise from the Bench on her attention to detail, her thorough preparation and as a *“strong advocate with a pleasingly calm and understated style”*

Sophie also retains a family finance and property practice.

Children (public law)

Sophie has a busy public law practice and accepts instructions on behalf of local authorities, parents, extended family members and children. She appears in the County and High Court and has experience in complex multi-day fact and final hearings in respect of serious physical injury, sexual abuse, neglect including arising from substance misuse and domestic violence. Her experience, and commitment to representing local authorities, parents and children places her in an excellent position to anticipate arguments from all perspectives and accordingly achieve the best possible result for her client.

Children (private law)

In private law proceedings, Sophie has experience across all areas with a particular interest in intractable dispute cases with allegations of parental alienation and emotional and psychological abuse, often where the children are joined as parties and a Guardian is appointed.

Her practice covers:

- Child Arrangement Orders, including Fact Finding hearings
- Internal and External Relocation
- Prohibited Steps Orders; and
- Specific Issue Orders

She is recognised for her ability to think creatively to best progress her client’s case and provide clear and coherent advice in an empathetic manner.

Family finance & property

In addition to her children practice Sophie also has extensive experience in all aspects of financial remedies including:

- Proceedings pursuant the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973
- Disputes between cohabitants concerning financial provision of children (Schedule 1, Children Act 1989)
- Disputes between cohabitants concerning property (Trusts of Land and Appointments of Trustees Act 1995);
- Applications under the Inheritance Act (Provision for Family and Dependants Act 1975);
- Enforcement of orders including foreign financial remedy orders

International family law

Sophie's experience extends, both within her children work and her family finance and property work to cases with an international dimension including international placements by local authorities, relocation applications to Hague and Non-Hague Convention Countries and dealing with assets in foreign jurisdictions.

Domestic violence & injunctions

Sophie has regularly appeared on applications pursuant to the Family Law Act where domestic violence is an issue.

Reported Cases

Re Y (Autism - Care Proceedings - Deprivation of Liberty) [2018] EWHC B63 (23 April 2018)

DA & JA (Children: non-Hague summary return) [2018] EWHC 3429 (Fam) (15 June 2018)

Education

English and French Law LLB (Hons) 1st Class; University of Kent
Licence en Droit; Universite Montesquieu Bordeaux IV
LLM; Inns of Court School of Law
BVC; Inns of Court School of Law

Awards

Harmsworth Scholar of Middle Temple.

Memberships & Associations

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children