

Private FDR and Early Neutral Evaluation

The problem

Delay in awaiting hearings is a regrettable feature of the current court system, inevitably leading to increased cost and stress.

The solution

Private Financial Dispute Resolution appointments (in finance cases) and Early Neutral Evaluations (in both children and finance cases) address this head-on. The basic idea of each is that the parties engage a barrister (or solicitor) of their choosing to read the papers and hear the legal arguments each wishes to present. Then the barrister will express a view as to the court's likely approach were the case to proceed further. The parties then negotiate, informed by the barrister's view. They will usually settle.

In finance cases, an additional benefit of a private FDR is that it replaces the court-based FDR which the parties would otherwise be obliged to attend. The great advantage of the private FDR is that it takes place at a time of your choosing, in comfortable surroundings and with your appointed barrister's undivided attention. Settlement rates are widely considered to be much higher than following a court-based FDR. Private FDRs and ENEs are a suitable and cost-effective option in the great majority of cases, indeed might be thought particularly apt where the costs of continuing litigation are becoming unaffordable or disproportionate.

How 4PB can help

Unusually, 4PB has market-leading expertise in both money and children work and our large team of barristers – which includes a large number of part-time judges – means there will always be an appropriate option whatever the issues and whatever level of seniority is required.

Private FDRs and ENEs can be held at any stage of ongoing proceedings. 4PB barristers are also increasingly instructed pre-proceedings, to see if litigation can be avoided altogether.

Private FDR Evaluators

Charles Hales KC

Christopher Hames KC

Judith Murray KC

Mark Johnstone

Katharine Bundell

Nicholas Fairbank

Harry Gates

Katie Wood

Rhiannon Lloyd

Kate Van Rol

Francesca Dowse

Samantha Woodham

Henry Clayton

Harry Nosworthy

Julia Townend

Early Neutral Evaluators

Charles Hale KC – (Finance / Children / International Children / Court of Protection)

Barbara Mills KC – (Children / International Children)

Alex Verdan KC – (Children / International Children)

Alison Grief KC – (Children)

Piers Pressdee KC – (Children)

Catherine Wood KC – (Children / International Children)

Rex Howling KC – (Finance / Children / International Children)

Christopher Hames KC – (Finance / Children / International Children)

Ruth Kirby KC – (Children / International Children)

Joy Brereton KC – (Children)

Judith Murray KC – (Finance / Children / International Children)

Dorothea Gartland KC – (Children)

Sally Bradley – (Court of Protection)

Katharine Bundell – (Finance / Children)

Nicholas Fairbank – (Finance)

Harry Gates – (Finance / Children)

Katie Wood – (Finance / Children)

Rebecca Foulkes – (Children / International Children)

Kate Van Rol – (Finance / Children)

Francesca Dowse – (Finance / Children)

Samantha Woodham – (Finance / Children)

Henry Clayton – (Finance)

Michael Edwards – (Children / International Children)

Harry Nosworthy – (Finance)

Specialist Private FDR and Early Neutral Evaluation Barristers



Charles Hale KC
Call: 1992 | Silk: 2014
Head of Chambers



Barbara Mills KC
Call: 1990 | Silk: 2020
Head of Chambers



Alex Verdan KC
Call: 1987 | Silk: 2006



Piers Pressdee KC
Call: 1991 | Silk: 2010



Catherine Wood KC
Call: 1985 | Silk: 2011



Rex Howling KC
Call: 1991 | Silk: 2011



Teertha Gupta KC
Call: 1990 | Silk: 2012



Christopher Hames KC
Call: 1987 | Silk: 2015



Alison Grief KC
Call: 1990 | Silk: 2015



Ruth Kirby KC
Call: 1994 | Silk: 2021



Joy Brereton KC
Call: 1990 | Silk: 2022



Judith Murray KC
Call: 1994 | Silk: 2023



Dorothea Gartland KC
Call: 2004 | Silk: 2023



Mark Johnstone
Call: 1984



Sally Bradley
Call: 1989



Katharine Bundell
Call: 1991



Nicholas Fairbank
Call: 1996



Harry Gates
Call: 2001



Katie Wood
Call: 2001



Rebecca Foulkes
Call: 2001



Rhiannon Lloyd
Call: 2002



Kate Van Rol
Call: 2002



Anita Mehta
Call: 2002



Francesca Dowse
Call: 2004



Samantha Woodham
Call: 2006



Henry Clayton
Call: 2007



Sophie Connors
Call: 2009



Michael Edwards
Call: 2010



Harry Nosworthy
Call: 2010



Rachel Chisholm
Call: 2010



Julia Townend
Call: 2011



Jonathan Nosworthy
Call: 2000
Associate Tenant