

John Tughan QC

“He’s a heavyweight in children matters who is empathetic, expert in his field, knowledgeable and powerfully persuasive.”
Chambers and Partners 2018

Experience

Year of Call: 1991

Year of Silk: 2015

Practice Areas

- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Dispute Resolution

- Early Neutral Evaluation

Direct Access

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Education

Campbell College, Belfast

Liverpool University, LLB (Hons) 1990

Profile

John’s practice encompasses both private law and public law proceedings relating to children. He is experienced in the most complex cases and he regularly appears in high profile and complex matters. His experience (in both the private and public fields) includes cases involving sexual abuse, the death or injury of a child (including very complex medical evidence), intractable parental disputes, press injunctions, human rights applications, adoption and the inter-relationship with the judicial review jurisdiction. John represents all parties in such cases. He is experienced in lengthy and complex trials.

In private proceedings John is experienced in proceedings with intractable issues, internal and external relocation of children and serious and complex allegations. John is often instructed in the most difficult cases requiring expert inter-personal skills.

John is experienced in media management and applications for press reporting restrictions orders. This experience has included some of the most high profile cases in recent years and has included the “Baby P” litigation and the “Little Ted’s Nursery” scandal. Such issues often include both the national and international media.



John regularly advises local authorities on issues of policy and is often asked to draft such policies within a team of professionals. He enjoys such collaborative work.

John appears in Judicial Review proceedings that include issues of family law. Such issues include local authority policy, educational issues and the inter-relationship between the limits of the Court's jurisdiction and the role of the local authority.

John has been continuously recommended by Chambers and Partners as a leading junior in the field of children law for a decade.

John does undertake direct access work.

John writes a quarterly updating article for Family Law Week

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Midlands Circuit

Inner Temple

Directories

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse at the most serious end of the spectrum. Tughan is particularly effective in matters concerning allegations of fabricated illness, risk assessment and medical issues.

Strengths: "John's enthusiasm and his mature and accomplished delivery of his advocacy is addictive to watch."

Chambers & Partners 2020

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse and relocation matters at the most serious end of the spectrum. He is particularly effective in matters concerning allegations of fabricated illness, risk assessment and medical issues.

Strengths: "His unique selling point is his ability to deliver mesmerising, meticulously prepared, compelling and superbly executed written and oral submissions. He is calm, intelligent and approachable, and has stellar client care skills."

Chambers & Partners 2019

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse and relocation matters at the most serious end of the spectrum. He is particularly good at matters concerning fabricated allegations, risk assessment and medical issues.

Strengths: "He's a heavyweight in children matters who is empathetic, expert in his field, knowledgeable and powerfully persuasive."

Chambers & Partners 2018

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse and relocation.

Strengths: "Tenacious, hardworking and willing to push the boundaries for his clients." **Chambers & Partners 2017**

Equally adept at dealing with both public and private law children cases. His expertise includes serious physical abuse and child abduction matters. He is respected by his peers for his work ethic and tenacity.

Strengths: “He is a very capable opponent, who is a good cross-examiner and persuasive in negotiations. He’s a very reasonable opponent and a good person to do business with.” “Dedicated and tenacious. He will leave no stone unturned.”

Chambers & Partners 2016

Deals with both public and private law proceedings, including cases of serious or fatal injury or sexual abuse, or those concerning challenging medical evidence.

Expertise: “He believes in them and will fight for them however hopeless the case seems.”

Chambers & Partners 2015

Represents children, parents and local authorities, among others, in complex and high-profile care cases, and enjoys a fine reputation for his work on matters pertaining to death, injury and sexual abuse.

Expertise: “He is focused and tenacious – a real fighter and an excellent advocate.”

Chambers & Partners 2014

The “charming and well-prepared” John Tughan is a well-respected specialist in care proceedings and private law matters such as contact and residence.

Chambers & Partners 2013

John Tughan “wastes no time in getting to the gist of the matter,” and stands out for his impressive public law children practice. He represents children, parents, interveners and the local authorities in the most complex matters.

Chambers and Partners 2012

John Tughan, meanwhile, is highly regarded for representing local authorities in public children law proceedings.

Chambers and Partners 2011

John Tughan’s advocacy is clear, persuasive and direct, and he is well liked in the profession.

Chambers and Partners 2010

John Tughan is described as a “no nonsense barrister” with public and private law proceedings at the heart of his practice.

Chambers and Partners 2009

His “firm but approachable style” and “ability to smooth the waters” has won him a loyal following of many solicitors [Chambers & Partners 2005]. John is described as “excellent in both advocacy and substantive law.”

Chambers & Partners 2008

Cases

21/11/2019	Re A (No. 2) (Children: Findings of Fact)	John Tughan QC Rebecca Foulkes	[2019] EWCA Civ 1947
17/06/2019	Salford CC v M (Deprivation of Liberty in Scotland) (2019)	John Tughan QC	[2019] EWHC 1510 (Fam)

16/11/2018	Re X (A Child) (2018)	John Tughan QC	[2018] EWHC 3883 (Fam)
31/08/2018	M v Derbyshire County Council & Ors (2018)	John Tughan QC	[2018] EWHC 3734 (Fam)
25/07/2018	A (Children) (2018)	John Tughan QC Rebecca Foulkes	[2018] EWCA Civ 1718
16/03/2018	Re A (2018)	John Tughan QC	[2018] EWFC B34
22/12/2017	L (A Child), Re (2017)	John Tughan QC Rebecca Foulkes	[2017] EWHC 3707 (Fam)
29/09/2017	H (A Child : Hair Strand Testing) (2017)	John Tughan QC Paul Hepher	[2017] EWFC 64
25/04/2017	Re R-T (2017)	John Tughan QC	[2017] EWFC B17
08/03/2017	SW & TW (Human Rights Claim: Procedure) (No1) (2017)	John Tughan QC	[2017] EWHC 450 (Fam)
06/02/2017	In The Matter Of R (An Infant)	Alison Grief QC John Tughan QC Dorothea Gartland	[2016] EWFC 60
30/01/2017	Barnet London Borough Council v AL & 9 Ors (2017)	John Tughan QC	[2017] EWHC 125 (Fam)
30/01/2017	SL Permission: Barnet London Borough Council v AL & 9 Ors (2017)	John Tughan QC	[2017] EWHC 125 (Fam)
04/08/2016	Medway Council v MI & Ors (2016)	John Tughan QC Joanne Porter	[2016] EWFC 74
24/02/2016	Re (1) AD (2) AM (Children) (2016)	John Tughan QC Sally Bradley Julia Townend	[2016] EWHC 326 (Fam)
04/02/2016	C (Children) (2016)	Alison Grief QC John Tughan QC	[2016] EWFC B45
17/09/2015	H v A (No.2) (2015)	John Tughan QC	[2015] EWHC 2630 (Fam)
02/09/2015	RY v Southend Borough Council [2015]	John Tughan QC Sally Bradley	[2015] EWHC 2509 (Fam)
04/08/2015	Re M (A Child) [2015]	John Tughan QC Rebecca Foulkes	[2015] EWFC 71
25/02/2015	G (A Child) [2015]	John Tughan QC	[2015] EWCA Civ 119
20/02/2015	Re G (A Child) (2015)	John Tughan QC	[2015] EWCA Civ 119
15/10/2013	Re AK and MK (Fact finding: physical injuries) (2013)	John Tughan QC	[2013] EWHC 3158 (Fam)
08/10/2012	Re L [2012]	John Tughan QC	[2012] EWHC 3069 (Fam)

01/06/2012	A Local Authority and C and D and A & B (by their Childrens Guardian)	Alex Verdun QC John Tughan QC	[2012] EWHC 1975 (Fam)
11/02/2011	A Local Authority v C (2011)	Alex Verdun QC Kate Branigan QC John Tughan QC	[2011] EWHC 231 (Fam)
08/01/2009	F and L v A Local Authority and A	John Tughan QC	[2009] EWHC 140 (Fam), [2009] 2 FLR 1312, Hedley J.
04/11/2008	R (on the application of (1) Ainsworth T (2) Thermutis T (3) S v Newham London Borough Council (2008)	John Tughan QC	[2008] EWHC 2640 (Admin); (2009) 1 FLR 311
05/03/2008	Lambeth London Borough Council (applicant) v (1) S (2) C (3) v (4) J (by his children's guardian n) (respondents) & (1) Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (2) Secretary of State for the Home Department (intervenors) [2007]	John Tughan QC	1 FLR 152, [2006] EWHC 326 (Fam)
22/11/2007	B County Council v R (2007)	John Tughan QC	[2007] EWHC 2742 (Fam); (2008) 1 FLR 1252
13/03/2007	Re L (Special Guardianship: Surname)	John Tughan QC	2 FLR 50, CA [2007] EWCA Civ 196