

Joanne Brown KC

Jo Brown KC is an erudite public law specialist bringing a wealth of experience and a calm head to any care proceedings, however problematic. Known for her ability to master the most complex and serious cases rapidly, she is bold, creative, approachable and empathetic. Her sensitive but incisive advocacy – often in situations of profound conflict – is highly valued by instructing solicitors.



Experience

Year of Call: 1990

Year of Silk: 2024

Practice Areas

- Public Children Law



Qualifications

LLB (Hons)

Education

Brunel University

Profile

Jo works solely in public law representing children, parents, local authorities and intervenors. The

bedrock of Jo's work is conducting complex and contentious care proceedings concerning infant fatality or catastrophic injuries, poisoning, factitious and induced illness, non-accidental head injury, sexual abuse, inflicted injuries, substance abuse, domestic abuse, neglect, child protection cases concerning concurrent criminal prosecution or enquiry.

Public Children Law

Jo's care work in recent years has included representing:

- An intervenor facing allegations of poisoning a severely disabled child with salt in a four week trial. The intervenor was exonerated entirely.
- A mother in an infant fatality case in the High Court, including appearing at the subsequent hearings relating to media applications to report the names of the parents and the deceased child.
- A 16-year-old child who required an interpreter and intermediary in care proceedings where he faced allegations of sexual abuse made by a younger sibling. A narrative was agreed with the result that neither child had to give evidence and the court was able to make threshold findings without making any findings against the child.
- A local authority in care proceedings which involved a complex background of NAI, domestic and emotional abuse where the mother had prevented the father from contact and had made false allegations that he had inflicted injury to the child. Jo successfully sought findings of NAI against the mother and her partner and findings against the mother relating to the false allegations. After assessment, the child was placed with father.
- A grandparent against whom allegations of sexual abuse were made in care proceedings. Jo successfully challenged the investigation by identifying multiple breaches of the ABE guidelines and good practice. No findings were made.
- A local authority in care proceedings with legal and procedural complexities. Both the parents were deaf and the children were hearing-impaired, requiring BSL interpreters and deaf relays.
- A mother of an infant who had been injured where mother and former partner were in the pool of potential perpetrators. Cross examination of the partner elicited an admission that he had inflicted the injury. The child was rehabilitated to the mother.
- A teenage girl who was alleging sexual abuse by three family members – one deceased and two young men. Cultural issues were relevant to the findings sought and sensitive cross-examination was required. Findings were made.
- A father accused of sexual abuse and infecting his child with gonorrhoea. Complex medical evidence was required on incubation and transmission of the disease.
- A father of twin children where both had sustained multiple fractures at different times where the pool of potential perpetrators included both parents and professional staff employed to provide childcare. The parents and two of the professional staff were exonerated and findings of inflicted injury made against the third.

Memberships

FLBA

ALC

Cases

20/01/2023	London Borough of Haringey v Q & Ors	Joanne Brown KC	[2023] EWFC 314 (B)
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16/12/2022	A, Re (A Child : Findings of Fact)	Michael Gration KC Joanne Brown KC	[2022] EWCA Civ 1652
27/04/2022	A Local Authority v M & Ors	Joanne Brown KC	[2022] EWFC 82
29/03/2021	J, G And H (Children: Supervision Orders)	Joanne Brown KC	[2021] EWHC 884 (Fam)
25/06/2018	Re P (A Child) (Application to Revoke Placement Order)	Joanne Brown KC	[2018] EWHC 3854 (Fam)
29/01/2018	P-J (A Girl), Re	Joanne Brown KC	EWHC 1546 (Fam)
01/12/2017	Kent County Council v A, M & Ors (Hair strand testing)	Kate Branigan KC Joanne Brown KC	[2017] EWFC B104
19/05/2017	Westminster City Council v H	Sam King KC Joanne Brown KC Sally Bradley	[2017] EWHC 1221 (Fam)
16/03/2017	H (A Child), Re (Interim Care Order : fact finding)	Alex Verdan KC Joanne Brown KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley	[2017] EWHC 518 (Fam)
20/08/2013	S (A Child) [2013]	Joanne Brown KC	[2013] EWCA Civ 1073
19/01/2012	Re M (A Child) (2012)	Joanne Brown KC	[2012] 2 FLR 121; [2012] Fam Law 511; [2012] EWCA Civ 165
19/01/2012	Re M (A Child) (2012)	Jo Delahunty KC Joanne Brown KC	[2012] EWCA Civ 165; [2012] 2 FLR 121 : [2012] Fam Law 511
10/03/2011	Re A (A Child) [2011]	Joanne Brown KC Rob Littlewood	[2011] EWHC 517 (Fam)
25/09/2008	H (A Child), Re	Joanne Brown KC	[2008] EWCA Civ 1245
14/10/2005	SC (a child), Re	Joanne Brown KC	[2005] EWHC 2205 (Fam)
14/10/2005	Re C (Abduction: Residence and Contact)	Joanne Brown KC	[2006] 2 FLR 277
11/04/2005	Re E (Children) (2005)	Joanne Brown KC	[2005] EWCA Civ 690
27/02/2002	W (A Child), Re	Joanne Brown KC	[2002] EWCA Civ 278