

Ruth Richards

Specialising in a wide range of complex matters relating to children, including issues of fostering and adoption, non-accidental injury and death, sexual abuse; paedophile rings, incest, abuse and child neglect.



Clerk: Wayne Digby

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Overview

Ruth Richards specialises in all matters pertaining to children. She was called to the Bar in 2016, having initially qualified as a solicitor in 1998. After being in general family practice for four years, she worked as a specialist child and adult protection solicitor within local authorities for more than 10 years.

As a consequence of her local authority roles, she became legal advisor to an adoption panel and a fostering panel, legal advisor to a serious case review sub-committee, and legal advisor to a secure panel.

As a solicitor, Ruth was a member of the Children Panel and is well versed in representing children.

Family

Ruth Richards is known to be a confident and robust advocate, and her tenacious approach has resulted in a number of notably successful outcomes. She has considerable experience in serious and complex children's cases, and has been instructed on behalf of local authorities, parents and guardians.

She has worked on the most complex cases including issues of jurisdiction; Brussels II and Article 15; matters of designation; cases involving non-accidental injury; child death; Roma and travelling families and their nuances; cases involving pseudonyms; sexual abuse; paedophile rings and incest; the emotional abuse of children and cases of neglect appeals; and the revocation of placement order applications.

She has particular knowledge and expertise of the process and procedures of local authorities. Additionally, she has a wide range of experience in all types of private law proceedings and undertakes work in cases involving domestic abuse and Family Law Act injunctions, child arrangement orders, and Rule 16.4 appointments. She has handled a number of forced marriage protection orders.

Ruth has delivered training on secure accommodation and updates to the Children Law. She has also

Called: 2016

Appointments:

Family Law Bar Association
North Eastern Circuit
Legal advisor to F5 Foster
Care

Education:

LLB (Hons)

spoken at an event dealing with forced marriage and learning disability. She is legal advisor to F5 Foster Care, an independent fostering agency.

She is committed to the welfare of children and indeed has five of her own. She has personal knowledge of children with additional needs and always tries to keep children at the centre of all she does.

Significant Cases

Public law – children

Re Z – A local authority case where the safety and identity of a young person (a witness in a gang-related murder trial) needed protection. Care proceedings were brought in, in an effort to keep the young person safe. Applications were also made for secure accommodation orders to try and protect the young person. Pseudonyms and vulnerable witness procedures were key features of the case. The matter was dealt with before the High Court. The case is an example of the need to work closely with the police in such cases.

Further information

How much will Ruth Richards' services cost?

Ruth mostly works on a fixed-fee basis for the main hearing, with a daily refresher rate for any subsequent date of hearing, although this depends on the type of work you request. If you'd like a quotation for her legal services in a particular matter, please contact our clerk using the details below and we'll be very happy to help. Please also refer to Bank House Chambers' standard terms & conditions.

What might influence the timescales of the services Ruth offers?

Ruth would normally expect to arrange a preliminary conference with your client within 7 days of first contact from you. After that, despite our best intentions, we can't always control timescales or the amount of time we spend on a case. These can be affected by factors such as urgency; complexity; your own (or your client's) availability; Ruth's availability and that of any third parties; the volume of documents she needs to review or must request; and the court's availability.

Can you have confidence in Ruth's work?

She is regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

How can you contact Ruth Richards?

In the first instance, please contact our senior clerk, Wayne Digby, on 0114 275 1223 or email him at w.digby@bankhousechambers.co.uk.

