

For expert advice please contact our
Family and Child Care Team
☎ +44 (0) 203 5406340



Merchiston
SOLICITORS

Children & Family Law



Merchiston
SOLICITORS

City Reach • 7th Floor • Capital Suite
5 Greenwich View Place
London E14 9NN • United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)203 5406 340
Fax: +44 (0)203 6429 256
Email: info@merchistonsolicitors.co.uk
www.merchistonsolicitors.co.uk

merchistonsolicitors.co.uk



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Merchiston
SOLICITORS

Making Legal Sense

CHILDREN LAW

We are specialists in children law and have substantial experience in advising public and private sector clients. We are in the unique position of having solicitors who have a strong public law background and have represented local authorities over the past decade.

Our solicitors specialise in the full range of matters in children law including:

- UK and Intercountry Adoption;
- Care Proceedings;
- Child Arrangement Orders in relation to residence and contact;
- Placement Orders;
- Special Guardianship Orders;

We are also children law advocates and are experienced in advising and representing local authorities and parents in Court to ensure that our clients have the same lawyer assigned from beginning to end.

In addition, we have a wealth of expertise on children and immigration. We are members of the Immigration Practitioners Association (ILPA). This niche area of our practice is a particular strength, which complements our knowledge and experience of children law.

FAMILY LAW

We are a member of Resolution, which is an organisation for family lawyers who specialise in dealing with family matters in a non-confrontational way in order to enable parties to communicate and mediate to resolve issues without resorting to Court, which can be stressful and expensive.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We have significant experience in representing clients in complex domestic violence cases with multiple allegations and witnesses. We represent both victims of alleged violence as well as the accused partner.

Where necessary we can take steps to secure an urgent order to protect a parent and his or her children from a violent partner by obtaining an injunction (known as a 'non-molestation order'). We also help secure appropriate orders ('occupation order') to ensure that the primary carer of children can continue to remain in the family home in the event of a relationship breakdown.

We can prevent children from being removed from a parent's care by another parent, or another family member, by applying for a 'prohibited steps order'. We provide advice on what steps to take to prevent someone from applying for a passport for a child. We can of course take immediate action by making urgent applications to the Court without notice to the other party.

DIVORCE & SEPARATION

Our specialist solicitors advise on all aspects of relationship breakdown including divorce and separation, in which we have expertise whether or not we represent the Petitioner (starting the claim) or the Respondent (responding to the Petition). Although it is often a fine balance to be struck, we empathise with our clients and are sensitive and responsive to their needs.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

We also advise on the financial aspects of divorce, often known as 'ancillary relief', including custodial arrangements for children, payment of maintenance and division of matrimonial assets including emergency court applications (e.g. known as a 'freezing injunction') to prevent partners from disposing of assets. Agreeing the financial arrangements of divorce can be lengthy and expensive. We help guide our clients through this often complex legal quagmire.

AREAS OF SPECIALISM

- Adoption
- Divorce & Separation
- Domestic Violence Injunctions
- Children Law
- Financial Arrangements
- Prenuptial Agreements

Contact our children and family law specialist solicitors for expert advice and assistance on 0203 5406 340.