



Lucy Reed

Call 2002 (Lincolns Inn)

Qualifications Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law (2002), PGDip Law/CPE City University (2001), MRes Humanities & Cultural Studies, Birkbeck, University of London (1998) BA(Hons) Exon English Studies (1997)

Professional Memberships Family Law Bar Association, Association of Lawyers for Children, Human Rights Lawyers Association, Western Circuit.

Judicial Office Deputy District Judge

Practice Overview

Lucy is a family law specialist and has practiced in family law throughout her professional career. Her practice now spans all areas of family law with a particular emphasis on children work. She often acts in complex, multi-party or high conflict intractable private law disputes. In public law children cases she acts for parents, children, local authorities and extended family. Lucy has experience of handling cases involving suspected non-accidental injury and FGM/C, sexual abuse, neglect and domestic abuse, where there are parental mental health, learning disability or capacity issues, concerns around substance abuse and addiction, and involving children with special educational needs and disabilities / complex medical needs.

Lucy's practice includes matters with international aspects, including abduction, leave to remove and cross border families. Lucy is also experienced in dealing with in post-care applications such as applications for discharge of care or placement orders, leave to oppose adoption orders and contested adoptions.

In addition, Lucy is experienced in cases involving Human Rights Act claims or issues relating to reporting restriction orders or publicity. Her practice also encompasses the range of injunctive work, including Pt IV Family Law Act and forced marriage.

Lucy is instructed at first instance in the Family Court and High Court and in appellate work. In appropriate cases Lucy will undertake family work via [public access](#).

Areas of Practice

Children

The focus of Lucy's practice is on children work.

In public law cases Lucy acts for parents, children, local authorities and extended family. Lucy has experience of handling cases in cases involving suspected non-accidental injury, mental health or learning difficulties, special educational needs, substance abuse and addiction, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Lucy also often acts in complex, multi-party or high conflict intractable private law disputes, where children are separately represented. Lucy has acted both for parents and children in such cases, through CAFCASS and NYAS.

Lucy has experience of private law disputes involving same sex parents, leave to remove, internal relocation, parental alienation, serious domestic or sexual violence and allegations of abuse of a child or NAI.

Lucy also has experience of international child abduction work including Hague Convention, and international adoption matters.

Lucy has a particular interest in issues concerning the privacy of children proceedings.

Court of Protection

In addition to her children practice Lucy is able to deal with Court of Protection work.

Education

Lucy has a background in education law and has represented clients at SENDIST Tribunals, and her family work often involves acting for children or the parents of children with special educational needs in the form of learning difficulty, emotional or behavioral difficulty or physical ill health / disability, or for the local authority responsible for their education and welfare.

Other

Alongside her court practice Lucy writes and talks on family law and has particular interests in issues arising from the involvement of litigants in person in family cases, and in issues surrounding the publication of information arising from family proceedings and transparency.

Lucy has a background in education law and has represented clients at SENDIST and Child Support Tribunals, and she is able to draw upon her experience in that field in family work.

Lucy is the author of '[The Family Court without a Lawyer – A Handbook for Litigants in Person](#)' (2nd edition 2014, Bath Publishing).

Lucy has also produced a series of free self-help videos for Litigants in Person. The three videos are available to view for free on YouTube [here](#) or via the website accompanying the book (www.nofamilylawyer.co.uk).

In March 2011 Lucy was named one of The Times' best legal bloggers for her [Pink Tape](#) family law blog. In May 2011 [The Guardian](#) described Lucy as "one of the best legal bloggers for style and content". Lucy was awarded the Family Law Readers Commentary Award 2012, and was shortlisted for [Most Innovative Family Lawyer](#) for her writing on Pink Tape. In October 2014 Lucy was shortlisted for a third time for the Readers' Commentary award. Lucy has written for various publications including the New Statesman and Guardian. Lucy is the Bristol Law Society's 'Barrister of the Year' 2016.

Lucy is a member of the Family Law Bar Association National Committee and editor of the FLBA website.

Lucy is the chair of [The Transparency Project](#). Lucy is involved with local initiatives to develop support for litigants in person, including the www.familycourtinfo.org.uk website.

Lucy is a [Bar Pro Bono Unit](#) panel member.

Lucy was appointed as a Deputy District Judge in 2013 (private family ticket).

Other Expertise

Lucy is a trained mediator (non-practising).

Cases

- [*A and B \(Children\)*](#) [2016] EWFC B115 (1 April 2016) / [*A and B \(Findings against a social worker\) \(Rev 1\)*](#) [2016] EWFC 68 (11 July 2016) - Lucy acted for the mother in care proceedings, securing findings of dishonesty against a social worker following the discovery of discrepancies in social work records. The social worker sought permission to appeal against the findings, but permission was refused by Baker J following an inter partes hearing. The case concluded with no orders being made.
- [*Re M & L \(Children\)*](#) [2016] EWHC 2535 (Fam) (14 October 2016) – a case concerning the power to submit a request to the court of another country to assume jurisdiction under Article 8, or for authorisation to exercise jurisdiction under Article 9, of the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-Operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.
- [*A Local Authority v X, Y & Z*](#) [2016] EWFC B72 (02 September 2016)
- [*Torbay council v M, F Re A B C*](#) [2015] EWFC B218 (17 November 2015)
- [*Gloucestershire County Council v M & C \(Rev 1\)*](#) [2015] EWFC B147 / [2016] EWFC B4 - acted for vulnerable mother in on-going care proceedings, commenced a year after removal of her child under s20. Case involves Human Rights Act damages claim arising from delay in issue and alleged unlawful retention of child following withdrawal of consent to accommodation.
- [*Louise Tickle v Council & Borough of North Tyneside v G v H, J & I*](#) [2015] EWHC 2991 (Fam) - acted for freelance journalist Louise Tickle in *Tickle v Council & Borough of North Tyneside v G v H, J & I (Children)* EWHC 2991 (Fam) in which she successfully secured permission for her to anonymously report information relating to the proceedings involving the children of a mother whose youngest child was removed at birth but was rehabilitated to her care at the conclusion of care proceedings.
- [*PAM & PAF \(Mr and Mrs PA\) v South Gloucestershire Council \(LA\) & Ors*](#) [2014] EWFC B202 (28 October 2014)
- [*Q v Q, Re B \(A Child\), Re C \(A Child\)*](#) [2014] EWFC 31 (06 August 2014) - This was a combined judgment on three cases. Lucy acted for the Mothers in each of *Re B* and *Re C* which were two unrelated sets of private law Children Act proceedings in which the mothers each made an allegation of rape against the relevant father, who were in both cases unable to obtain legal representation as a result of LASPO 2012.
- [*D v K and B \(a child\)*](#) [2014] EWHC 700 (Fam) (27 January 2014) - Private law Children Act proceedings in which the mother made an allegation of rape against the father who was unable to obtain legal representation. The court expressed its concern about how the trial could be conducted in the absence of legal representation for the father.

Recommendations

- "Lucy is a practical, down to earth and compassionate barrister. She is guaranteed to be on top of any latest development, and her reputation as a legal commentator is equalled by her reputation in court. You will always get sensible advice with Lucy and clients appreciate her style." "Lucy Reed is quiet but deadly, because she masters the facts of the case so well that she is never surprised by any tactic used by the other side. Her preparation skills are quite exceptional." **Chambers UK, Family/Matrimonial (2018)**
- "An extremely able barrister, who is liked by her clients." **Legal 500, Family and Children Law (2017)**
- "Lucy specialises in children work, and is able to act for clients on a wide variety of public and private cases. She regularly advises on matters involving challenging or vulnerable parties, such as parents with substance abuse or mental health issues, and children with disabilities and learning difficulties. 'Lucy is humane, sensible and crafts her submissions with precision and insight.' 'Combines a massive intellect with really meticulous forensic preparation, and has enormous humanity as well.'" **Chambers UK, Family/Matrimonial (2017)**
- "Lucy is rigorous in her analysis of every argument." **Legal 500, Family and Children Law (2016)**

- "Lucy appears in High Court cases concerning serious domestic violence and child abuse matters. She is widely praised for her skilled handling of vulnerable clients with learning difficulties or substance abuse problems. 'Her client care is fantastic.' " **Chambers UK, Family/Matrimonial (2016)**
- "Lucy will not be browbeaten by an opponent." **Legal 500, Family and Children Law (2015)**
- "Lucy specialises in children law and domestic violence cases. She regularly represents vulnerable parties on particularly challenging cases that involve international elements, serious allegations of harm and contentious medical considerations. 'She has excellent expertise and is highly experienced.' 'She is very accessible, with a sound understanding of all the latest developments within family law.'" **Chambers UK, Family/Matrimonial (2015)**
- "Lucy is quietly astute and able." **Legal 500, Family and Children Law (2014)**
- "Lucy is excellent on complex and tricky cases." **Legal 500, Family and Children Law (2013)**
- "Lucy is hardworking and a strong advocate." **Legal 500, Family and Children Law (2012)**
- "Lucy has an impressive ability to get to the crux of a complicated and messy dispute." **Legal 500, Family and Children Law (2011)**

Seminars

Lucy has delivered seminars / workshops on the following topics:

- Transparency (St John's Chambers' Family Law Conference, February 2016)
- Transparency – clear as mud? (Kent Legal Services Conference, October 2015)
- Coercive Control and the Family Court, Coercive Control Conference 2015 (October 2015)
- Workshop on Pro Bono and vulnerable litigants at Bar Conference 2015 (October 2015)
- Litigants in Person (Judicial College, November 2014/January 2015)
- Litigants in Person (NAPO Conference, September 2014)
- FLBA 'Private Law Children and the New Child Arrangements Programme (St John's Chambers, July 2014)
- Education, health and care plans and the New Code of Practice – an overview of the new SEN system (St John's Chambers' The Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3) seminar, June 2014)
- Transparency Made Clear (St John's Chambers Children Law Conference, May 2014)
- Public Law Update (Bristol Resolution Spring Lecture, May 2014)
- Keeping your head above water (St John's Chambers, December 2013)
- Family Workshop: litigants in person (Young Bar Conference, October 2013)
- Public Law update (Bristol Civil Justice Centre, September 2013)
- Litigants in Person (Napo Conference, May 2013)
- Press, Social Media and the Internet (Oct 2012, South Wales Legal Consortium)
- Adapting to the Self Represented Opponent (ALC Conference Nov 2012, Bristol Resolution March 2013)
- Litigants in Person – Videocast for Law Society (2012)
- Family Procedure Rules 2010 – Preparing for Change Seminar
- Family Proceedings In The Public Eye – April 2009
- Contact: Hard Cases – Bad Law?
- Children Act Case Law
- Spousal Maintenance post Miller and McFarlane
- Ancillary Relief – Costs

Publications

- [Why are we still waiting for transparency in the family courts?](#) (*Guardian*, June 2016)
- [In child protection cases, healthy scepticism too often turns to dangerous distrust](#) (*The New Statesman*, 14 August 2015)

- [How legal aid cuts scupper physical or sexual abuse cases in the family courts](#) (*The New Statesman*, 16 July 2015)
- The transparency consultation : a blogger's response January [2015] Fam Law 82 (*Family Law*, 2015)
- [Section 98 of the Children Act 1989: bad or just misunderstood?](#) (*Family Law*, 26 June 2014)
- [Giving litigants in person a helping hand](#) (*The Law Society Gazette*, 23 June 2014)
- [Known unknowns: the impact of litigants in person](#) (*Solicitors Journal*, 1 May 2013)
- [How to avoid humiliation when you're cross examined in court](#) (*Community Care*, 6 December 2012)
- [How to appoint a Barrister](#) - (*OnlyMums / OnlyDads*, December 2011)
- [Cohabitees' property rights: still as clear as mud](#) - (*Guardian*, November 2011)
- [Why Clare's Law won't prevent domestic violence](#) - (*Guardian*, July 2011)
- [Falling on Deaf Ears](#) (*Solicitors Journal*, 27 June 2011)
- [Ignore the warnings about legal aid changes and risk meltdown in courts](#) (*Guardian*, 23 June 2011)
- [Section 91\(14\) orders - a never ending story?](#) (*Family Law Week*, June 2011)
- [Family Courts without a lawyer - a Handbook for Litigants in Person](#) Bath Publishing, May 2011
- The Family Procedure Rules 2010, *Busy Solicitors' Digest*, (Lawtel doc nos AB0000744, AB0000745, AB0000746)
- [Publication of Information in Children Matters - Children Schools & Families Act 2010](#) [2010] Fam Law 708
- [Placement, Assessment & Adoption Overseas after A \(A child\)](#) [2009] EWCA Civ 41, *Family Law Week*
- [North v North](#): Revisiting Periodical Payments [Aug 07] *Family Law Week*
- McKenzie Friends in Family Proceedings [2005] Fam Law 820
- The Draft Mental Incapacity Bill [2003] Fam Law 771.

Podcasts

- Contact Enforcement: The New Provisions (Family Law Week 2009)

Lucy has also contributed articles to in-house publications at her previous chambers dealing with (for example) Bankruptcy in Ancillary Relief Proceedings, and Interim Care Orders in Private Law Proceedings.

Contact details

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