

## Lucy Reed – Family Law



YEAR OF CALL: 2002

INN: LINCOLN'S INN

JUDICIAL OFFICE:

DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGE IN 2013  
(PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAW  
CHILDREN TICKETS), RECORDER

“ A determined and polished advocate. Lucy is acute, focused and thorough, going beyond the call of duty to ensure that all possible aspects of the case are explored and prepared.”

LEGAL 500, 2022

CHILD LAW (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)

## Areas of Expertise

### Children Private and Public Law

Lucy is a family law specialist and has practised in family law throughout her professional career. Her practice now spans all areas of 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, 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 instructions also encompass cases involving suspected trafficking, county lines and gang involvement, honour violence and FGM/c.

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.

### Court of Protection

Lucy is a family law specialist and has practised in family law throughout her professional career. Her practice now

spans all areas of family law with a particular emphasis on children work. In addition to her children practice Lucy is able to deal with Court of Protection work.

## Recent Cases:

- ▶ Griffiths v Tickle [2021] EWCA Civ 1882
- ▶ JB v SW [2021] EWHC 812 (Fam)
- ▶ Y and Z (Separation of siblings) [2020] EWFC B59
- ▶ X County Council v Y (A mother) & Ors [2020] EWHC 3638 (Fam)
- ▶ BT & GT (Children: twins – adoption) [2018] EWFC 76
- ▶ C (interim judgment on expert evidence) [2018] EWFC B9
- ▶ Re M & L (Children) [2016] EWHC 2535 (Fam)
- ▶ A Local Authority v X, Y & Z [2016] EWFC B72
- ▶ A and B (Findings against a social worker) (Children) [2016] EWFC B115
- ▶ Gloucestershire County Council v M & C (Rev 1) [2015] EWFC B147 / [2016] EWFC B4
- ▶ Torbay council v M, F Re A B C [2015] EWFC B218
- ▶ Louise Tickle v Council & Borough of North Tyneside v G v H, J & I [2015] EWHC 2991 (Fam)
- ▶ PAM & PAF (Mr and Mrs PA) v South Gloucestershire Council (LA) & Ors [2014]
- ▶ Q v Q, Re B (A Child), Re C (A Child) [2014] EWFC 31
- ▶ D v K and B (a child) [2014] EWHC 700 (Fam)

## Recommendations

"Lucy is approachable and contactable and excellent with clients and tribunals. She is thorough and willing to go the extra mile on her own initiative. She is someone who thinks more widely rather than just on what's happening in the courtroom."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022  
FAMILY/MATRIMONIAL

"Lucy is extremely dedicated to her work. She is extremely knowledgeable and has great attention to detail. Lucy works very hard to try to get the best outcome for the clients and she ensures she is fully apprised with the law in the area and all options available to the client. She is also very good with clients and is sensitive to their needs."

LEGAL 500, 2020  
FAMILY AND CHILDREN LAW

"Lucy is very persuasive, gives very good advice and makes clients feel comfortable."

CHAMBERS UK, 2021  
FAMILY: CHILDREN

"A highly competent barrister who works diligently and with determination to solve complex cases."

LEGAL 500, 2020  
FAMILY AND CHILDREN LAW

"Lucy specialises in children work, and acts for clients on a wide variety of public and private cases. 'She has an incredible memory for detail and is supportive to both client and solicitor through the process. She is involved in case managing and representing, and wades through vast tranches of material with ease.' "

CHAMBERS UK, 2020  
FAMILY/MATRIMONIAL

## Appointments:

- ▶ Deputy District Judge in 2013 (private and public law children tickets)
- ▶ Recorder (Western Circuit)

## Professional memberships:

- ▶ Family Law Bar Association
- ▶ Association of Lawyers for Children
- ▶ Western Circuit
- ▶ Legal Aid Practitioners' Group (LAPG)

## Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ 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)
- ▶ Lucy has completed vulnerable witness training via the Western Circuit and FLBA, and is an accredited facilitator for FLBA Vulnerable Witness Training.

## Additional information:

- ▶ Member of FLBA National Committee
- ▶ Chair of The [Transparency Project](#)
- ▶ Member of [Justice Working Party on Improving Access to Justice for Separating Families](#)

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 gave oral evidence to the President's Transparency Review in March 2021, and has been appointed as the legal blogger for the Family Court Transparency Implementation Group (TIG).

Lucy is the author of 'The Family Court without a Lawyer – A Handbook for Litigants in Person' (3rd edition 2017, Bath Publishing – 4th Edition forthcoming 2022) and co-author of 'Transparency in the family courts: Publicity and privacy in practice' (2018, Bloomsbury Press).

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 or via the website accompanying the book ([www.nofamilylawyer.co.uk](http://www.nofamilylawyer.co.uk)).

Lucy has been writing about family law since 2007 primarily through her popular Pink Tape. Lucy was awarded the Family Law Readers Commentary Award 2012, and was shortlisted for Most Innovative Family Lawyer. 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, inews and The Guardian. Lucy now writes extensively for The Transparency Project blog, particularly their Family Court Reporting Watch project. Lucy was Bristol Law Society's 'Barrister of the Year' in 2016.

Lucy is involved with local initiatives to develop support for litigants in person, including the [www.familycourtinfo.org.uk](http://www.familycourtinfo.org.uk) website.

She is also a trained mediator (non-practising).

Lucy delivers workshops and lectures within chambers and externally, including:

- ▶ Case law updates and topical seminars e.g. Teenagers: secure accommodation, deprivation of liberty and the inherent jurisdiction
- ▶ Transparency (various to Family Justice Boards, Judicial College, International Conferences)
- ▶ Legal blogging workshops
- ▶ Litigants in person

Lucy has participated in debates and panel discussions on a range of family law topics including domestic abuse, covert recording, and the reporting of family courts.

Lucy participated in the 2018 Family Justice Council Debate.

### Contact Lucy:

[Lucy.reed@stjohnschambers.co.uk](mailto:Lucy.reed@stjohnschambers.co.uk)

### Contact the clerks:

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