

Susan Todd

Year of Call: 1991
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Family

Public Law Care and Adoption

Susan does a large variety of care, adoption and special guardianship work for parents, other relatives and for children's guardians. She has a great deal of experience in dealing with clients from diverse backgrounds.

Reported and notable cases include:

15 January 2025 (anon): case involving allegations of serious child abuse including a fracture to a 4 week old baby. Secured exoneration of mother and return of child to mother after 9 months of separation.

Re M (Care Order: Risk: Family Placement) [2025] EWCA Civ 163: representing father in case involving assessment of sexual risk in family placement. First instance decision set aside on appeal and matter remitted to High Court for hearing.

Re AZ (A Child) (Special Guardianship Order) [2025] EWFC 474 (B): representing child in care proceedings alongside foster parents' special guardianship application.

Re M [unreported, July 2023]: Acted for mother in her applications to remove father as party from care proceedings and to terminate his parental responsibility. Father serving sentence for attempted murder, kidnapping, rape of the mother, whom he kept imprisoned in her flat with the children. Mother's applications granted.

Re R [unreported, Jan 2023]: Acted for Sri Lankan mother in sexual abuse case. Court deciding that fact finding was not necessary as child did not want to return home.

Re W [unreported, 2021, 2022]: Lengthy hearing at welfare stage after fact finding in long running West Midlands sexual abuse case.

Re T [unreported, 2020- 2021]: Junior to leading counsel in fact finding and welfare hearings in Pakistani sexual abuse case for father, involving fraud and corruption.

Re J (Care Proceedings: Placement in Bangladesh) [2020] EWHC 490 (Fam) [2021] Fam Law 190 [2020] 3WLUK 740: Acted for mother in Bangladeshi NAI case at fact finding and welfare stages. Child was relocated to Bangladesh; involving expert opinion on Bangladeshi law.

Re K [unreported, 2020]: acted for father in case involving Slovakian family subject to human trafficking and modern slavery of adults and children in the family.

Re V-Z (Children) [2016] EWCA Civ 475: The Court of Appeal gave guidance on assessing potential carers in other jurisdictions, particularly when the relevant country will not allow assessment by UK social workers. Acted for Slovakian father.

Private Law Children and Domestic Abuse

Susan has extensive experience of private law cases. She has represented clients in intractable contact cases, change of name, change of school, relocation and removal from the jurisdiction (Hague Convention and non Hague Convention), private law special guardianship and adoption, and in cases involving children with special needs such as autism. Susan represents children in Rule 16.4 cases where they have their own Guardian.

Reported and notable cases include:

Re S (unreported, 2023): acted for mother in case of alleged alienating behaviour; issues of neurodiversity in parents and child.

Re P (unreported, 2020): acted for mother in private law residence matter where the child was resident in the UK, the father was Italian, mother was Polish and the Italian Court of Appeal had made previous determinations.

Recommendations

"Susan is an excellent advocate. She has excellent attention to detail in a case and is not frightened to argue a parent's case where there are good reasons to. Susan is always prompt in her feedback after court with attendance notes and emails. Susan also has a good bedside manner with clients."

Legal 500 2027/Family: children and domestic abuse/Midland Circuit

`Susan is an exceptionally hardworking member of the Bar with outstanding attention to detail. Her dedication and precision in every task is truly impressive, and she consistently ensures accuracy in all aspects of her cases, from thorough research to meticulous document preparation.'

Legal 500 2026/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/Midlands Circuit

'Susan is a phenomenal barrister - she is meticulous in her preparation and you underrate her at your peril. She really doesn't pull any punches in her fearless advocacy. She is super organised in her preparation and really makes her clients feel empowered, confident and above all aligned with the strategy.'

Legal 500 2025/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Midlands Circuit

"Please can I ask you to pass on our sincerest thanks to Susan Todd, who has performed at the highest level and without whose contribution it is difficult to imagine how we could have achieved the result we so desperately needed. We are overwhelmed and overjoyed."

Lay Client in Private Law case, to instructing solicitor

Academic qualifications

- BA Hons Law (Cantab)
- MA Social And Political Thought, Sussex University

Professional qualifications & appointments

FLBA/Inns of Court College of Advocacy: "Advocacy and The Vulnerable" training

Professional bodies

- National Family Law Bar Association
- West Midlands Family Law Bar Association
- Family Law Bar Association
- Member of Gray's Inn