Matiss Krumins



Year of Call: 2008
Solicitor: 2011
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Family

Care and Adoption Proceedings

Matiss has significant experience in all types of proceedings relating to children:

- All areas of care proceedings, including complex/highlight technical concerns:
  - Neglect/emotional harm;
  - Drug and alcohol abuse;
  - Domestic violence.
  - Sexual abuse (inter-generational and inter-sibling) and child sexual exploitation.
  - Non-accidental injuries;
  - Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII)
  - Cases with a foreign element (particularly transfer of proceedings pursuant to Brussels II and placement of children outside of the jurisdiction)
  - Applications in respect of child witnesses (application of Re W), in all types of cases.
  - Cases involving individuals with learning difficulties/learning disabilities.
  - Cases involving children with significant or profound disabilities, including life limiting conditions.
  - Cases where one parent has killed another.
  - Cases where a parent/adult has killed a child.
  - Cases involving terrorism.
  - Discharge of care
  - Human rights infringements
  - Designated local authority

- Adoption
  - Placement applications
  - Applications for post adoption contact
  - Applications to discharge placement orders
  - Applications to oppose adoption orders
- Special Guardianship

    - Placement of children
    - Application of support regulations
    - Inter-local authority disputes
- Specialist applications in respect of:
    - Female Genital Mutilation
    - Forced Marriage
    - Press/Reporting injunctions
    - Wardship
- Appeals of care orders (interim and full) and placement orders.

Judicial Review/Human Rights
Matiss has significant litigation experience advising and drafting documents in respect of judicial review challenges and is accustomed to dealing with these matters on short notice, including applications for declaration of infringement of human rights in the following areas:

- Application of section 17 and section 20 duties, including:
    - Child in Need – including all forms of support, with emphasis on financial/accommodation support.
    - Child Protection.
    - Fostering (both external issues and administration of local authority fostering duties, including assessment and termination of foster carers, and family and friend carers).
    - Post-18 support to children, including children subject to immigration restrictions.
    - Children within the criminal justice system, including issues around detention in police stations.
    - Assessment and support for disabled children, including personal payments.
    - Duties to individuals who are deemed No Recourse to Public Funds and associated immigration matters.
    - Duties to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Minors including assessment and support
- Injunctions to prevent removal of children
- Applications for human rights declarations and damages
- Negotiating settlements in all types of the above matters, including large financial settlements.
- Costs in relation to all the above matters.

Local Government
Matiss has experience of the regulatory functioning of local authorities and can assist in:

- Advising on policy/procedural implications of changes in statute or case law, having previous experience of advising and assisting on:
    - Policies and procedures in respect of foster carers, including family and friends foster carers
    - Policies and procedures in respect of disabled children's services;
    - Policies and procedures in respect of terrorism.
- Advising on the application of local government constitution.
- Advising on consultation requirements.
- Advising in respect of Serious Case Reviews, having had experience of assisting with nationally reported Serious Case Reviews.

Reported cases

Re J (A Child) (Inflicted Injuries) [2025] EWFC 385

F (A Child) (placement order and failure by local authority to contact wider birth family) [2025] EWFC 259 (B) (21 July 2025)

The Father (Appellant) v Worcestershire County Council (Respondent) - [2025] UKSC 1

P and E (Care Proceedings: Whether to Hold Fact-Finding Hearing), Re [2024] EWCA Civ 403

X City Council v M [2023] EWHC 1767 (Fam) : Represented local authority in a fact finding where the mother was alleged to have poisoned her child with salt on multiple occasions.

E (A Child) (Care and Placement Orders) [2023] EWCA Civ 721: appeal by a mother against care and placement orders made in respect of her son, E, who is now just over a year old. The appeal was opposed by the local authority and by the children's guardian. Judgement can be found here.

P (A Child: Fair Hearing) [2023] EWCA Civ 215

Re Y (Children in Care: Change of Nationality) [2020] EWCA Civ 1038

A City Council & M & F & C [2020] EWHC 947 (Fam)

Local Authority X v HI and others [2016] EWHC 1123 (Fam): this is a case whereby information arose by way of a 15-year-old child's disclosure to the social worker that they did not want communicated to their parents within care proceedings. The local authority considered itself subject to a duty to disclose and the guardian sought to maintain the confidentiality of the disclosure. The court weighed the issues of relevance of the information, gravity and magnitude of harm and the rights of the individuals protected by the Human Rights Act 1998 in the balance.

Birmingham City Council v AB & others [2014] EWHC 3090 (Fam): this is a case where the father violently killed the mother. The children were initially placed with their grandmother, who sadly misappropriated £32,500 of their compensation monies. The local authority sought and were granted care and placement orders, in a case that had many complex elements.

Articles

3PB's Matiss Krumins represented the local authority before the Supreme Court in respect of the father's appeal in *The Father (Appellant) v Worcestershire County Council (Respondent)*
[2025] UKSC 1.

View Article

Recommendations

"The barrister provides an exceptional level of client service, consistently demonstrating responsiveness, clarity of advice, and a pragmatic, solutions-focused approach. He is adept at managing the expectations of professional clients in highly sensitive and often urgent matters, ensuring that complex legal issues are communicated in an accessible and reassuring manner."
"His legal advice is thorough, detailed and clear. His in-depth understanding enables him to advance cases effectively."
"Matiss strikes a perfect balance between technical proficiency and pragmatic insight into his client's needs. He always delivers high quality advice and representation on high-stakes complex matters, despite very often being under significant time pressures due to the urgency of the situation. He is a safe pair of hands who can be relied upon to step up and grapple with novel and complex work without flinching."
Chambers UK 2027/Family: Children/Midlands

'Mr. Krumins is an excellent advocate, with outstanding technical legal skills and a firm grip on the evidence and issues in any case. He is also adept at providing sensible, pragmatic advice, which is extremely valuable, particularly in cases that are both complex and urgent. Mr. Krumins draws on a wealth of experience and has a very strong reputation across our whole team for

being calm and reliable no matter what he is faced with. Mr. Krumins cuts to the chase and looks to resolve the key issues with a minimum of fuss, while always standing his ground. As an advocate, Mr. Krumins is effective and thorough, a really safe pair of hands for cases of all levels of complexity.'
Legal 500 2027/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/Leading Juniors/Midlands

Matiss Krumins is another notable practitioner with prowess in administrative law and judicial review proceedings - he appeared in the unusual case of The Father v Worcestershire CC, representing the local authority in the Supreme Court against a litigant in person, who sought the return of his children from a care order not through any family law remedy but through a writ of habeas corpus.

'Matiss is incredibly easy to instruct, with a natural ability to understand and execute complex instructions with precision. In court, his advocacy is both effective and calm, and when it comes to cross-examination, he is formidable.'
Legal 500 2026/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/Leading Juniors/Midlands

'A great communicator with lay and professional clients alike, providing clear advice in complex cases.'
Legal 500 2021/Child Law (Public and Private)/Leading juniors/Regional Bar - Midlands Circuit