Poppy May Watson



Year of Call: 2020
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Family

Poppy Watson is regularly instructed on family children cases, acting both on a private and publicly-funded basis. She regularly acts in multi-day final and finding of fact hearings dealing with cases involving:

- Serious domestic abuse
- Allegations of sexual abuse of a child by a parent and family members
- Possession of indecent images of a child
- Serious injuries to a child
- Vulnerable parents requiring the assistance of an intermediary
- Evidence from experts

Poppy has acted for a local authority in the High Court in respect of an application made by a grandmother for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. As part of her practice, Poppy is often providing skeleton arguments, position statements, opening notes and advices to, and for, her clients.

Private Law

Poppy is instructed in a wide range of private law children proceedings including urgent hearings, FHDRAs, DRAs, fact-finding and final hearings. She has experience representing both parents and wider family members and dealing with cases involving issues such as domestic abuse, allegations of drug and alcohol misuse, poor parental mental health and sexual abuse.

Poppy is also experienced in dealing with proceedings under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996, including ex parte hearings, return date hearings and contested final hearings.

Public Law

Poppy has an established public children practice on the South Coast of England and receives regular repeat instructions from local solicitors. She is frequently instructed in cases of greater complexity including cases involving non-accidental injury and sexual abuse.

Poppy has a particular interest in public law children proceedings and has experience acting for parents, Children's Guardians and Local Authorities throughout proceedings including at EPO hearings, ICO hearings, CMHs, IRHs, contested hearings and multi-day final hearings.

Recommendations

"Poppy is incredibly thorough when preparing for a case, and she is always fully appraised of the background."

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

Academic qualifications

- BPTC LLM, Outstanding and Distinction, University of Law, 2020
- LLB, First Class Honours, University of Winchester, 2019

Scholarships

- Winner, BPTC Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing Prize, 2020
- Winner, BPTC Advanced Criminal Litigation Prize, 2020

Professional bodies

- Family Law Bar Association
- Honourable Society of Middle Temple