

# Lucy Hendry KC

**Year of Call:** 1988
**Email Address:** lucy.hendry@3pb.co.uk
**Secure Email:** lucy.hendry@3paper.cjsm.net
**Telephone:** 01202 292 102

## Family

**Public Law**

Lucy Hendry KC accepts instructions on behalf of parents, children, intervenors and wider family members.

Lucy is known for her formidable cross examination, informed by her ability to analyse lay professional and expert evidence in the most complex and unwieldy of cases. She is rigorous in her research, especially with regard to evolving medical and scientific / genetic issues, which tend to be prevalent in her caseload.

She has particular interest and expertise in the following:

- Allegations of child death and catastrophic brain injury
- Extremely serious physical injury, including poisoning, bites, burns and lesions
- Allegations of sexual abuse
- Fabricated and induced illness - in parents and their children
- Medical best interest decisions for subject children
- Human Trafficking
- Issues of cultural diversity and whether state intervention is justified
- Vulnerable witnesses: children, young people and parents with cognitive and sensory impairments
- Personality disorders, mental health and addiction issues affecting parenting capacity

**Private Law**

Lucy is renowned for dealing with sensitive and seemingly intractable cases. First and foremost, a highly effective advocate in the courtroom, Lucy is also renowned for taking a collaborative child focused approach to try to achieve agreed and enduring arrangements for children, thereby reducing the risk of (further) polarisation between parents and averting the need for a trial.

She has a particular interest and expertise in the following:

- Allegations of 'alienation', often including applications for a transfer of residence
- Serious allegations of abuse of subject children: sexual, physical and emotional
- Allegations of rape by spouse or partner
- Domestic Abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour: the application of PD12J
- Complex cases requiring intervention by the local authority

- Separate representation of competent children
- Internal and/or international relocation

**Reported cases:**

**Re J (A Child) (Inflicted Injuries) [2025] EWFC 385:** These proceedings concern a young boy, referred to as 'J', who was born at 26 weeks and 3 days gestation. Birmingham City Council applied for a care order and a placement order in his respect. I represented the Mother in the proceedings.

**Birmingham City Council v Mother v Ors [2023] EWHC 905 (Fam):** My teenage client was exonerated in respect of allegations that he had repeatedly raped and digitally penetrated his sister. During cross examination, I demonstrated how several professionals, through their unquestioning belief in the complainant's narrative, had contaminated her account of abuse. Furthermore, I exposed a wholesale failure by professionals to review primary evidence rendering them ignorant about the nature and extent of the complainant's online activity with peers and others.

**Lancashire County Council -v- M (1) F (2) and C (3 By his Children's Guardian) [2020] EWFC 43:** Our client, who had significant mental health issues, faced allegations of causing cerebral injuries and fractures to his baby's limbs and digits. A creative approach, endorsed by the court, safeguarded his right to a fair trial and ensured that he was able to participate fully throughout.

**C v D [2020] EWFC 83:** Representing a father who was seeking contact with his son in circumstances where the court had found that he had raped and otherwise abused the mother.

**Oxfordshire County Council v a mother, a father and W, X, Y and Z (Children: welfare) [2020] EWFC 29:** Representing the children, I differentiated between cultural issues (Arabic and Russian) and deficient parental care - particularly in respect of the youngest of 4 children who had unmet specialist health needs.

**PR v JS & TR (Appeal: Sexual Abuse, Fact Finding) [2019] EWHC 791 (Fam):** A successful appeal followed by a rehearing: [2019] EWFC 69. My client was exonerated in respect of allegations that he had sexually abused his 4 year old daughter. After expert intervention, contact between himself and his daughter resumed.

**Re T (A Child) [2018] EWCA Civ 650, [2018] 2 FLR 926:** Acting pro bono on behalf of the mother, I was instrumental in the appeal being allowed. Describing the case as "unprecedented", the Court of Appeal held that the judge was wrong when she made care / placement orders after the local authority refused to act on her judgment that the child be brought up within the family and not placed for adoption

**Kent County Council v A, B, C and D (Children) [2017] EWFC B72:** Weight to be attached to evidence after flawed ABE interviews.

**Notable cases:**

**Re G (2024):** A case concerning extremely serious allegations of sexual abuse which required me to cross examine a number of vulnerable young witnesses. My client's fragile mental health was such that considerable skill was required to facilitate his full participation during the three week trial last.

**Re T (2024):** A cut throat defence culminated in my client being exonerated and her ex-partner being found culpable of causing cerebral injuries to their 5-month old baby daughter.

**Re E (2023):** Shortly before trial, the local authority abandoned extremely serious allegations that my client had fabricated and induced illness in both children. Furthermore the court found that my client had not caused fractures and bruising to one of the subject children – she was immediately able to resume unsupervised care of both children.

**Re B (2023):** It was common ground that my teenage client, who was selectively mute, had been sexually abused. However, he also faced allegations that he had sexually abused his sisters. In the course of compromising proceedings, I maintained that my client should be viewed as a victim rather than as a perpetrator of sexual abuse and further that he should receive much needed therapeutic help in a residential setting.

**Re H (2023):** Key issues for trial were the integrity of the 4-year-old child's alleged account of sexual abuse by my client, the reliability of a single positive test result and, if sexually transmitted infection was established, who was responsible for transmitting it. At the conclusion of the trial, no adverse findings were made against my client and he was subsequently able to resume care of his daughter.

**Re B (2022):** Both parents had been in the house when their new-born baby suffered catastrophic head injuries and subsequently died. After cross-examining an array of experts, I was able to establish that my client's account was entirely consistent with the injuries being inflicted by the father whilst she was out of the room. At the conclusion of the trial the court exonerated my client.

**Re T (2022):** I represented a vulnerable mother who denied that she had been assaulted by her violent partner, causing her to lose her unborn baby when she was heavily pregnant. During the trial I cross-examined several medical experts as to complex issues associated with the cause of the baby's death.

**Re B (2022):** 6 years-worth of litigation regarding post separation arrangements for the subject child had been exacerbated by conflicting expert opinion from three different psychologists as to which parent was responsible for causing significant emotional harm to her.

**Re H (2021):** I successfully demonstrated that accounts by the alleged victim and another sibling, of sexual abuse perpetrated over the course of several years, were wholly inconsistent and inherently unreliable. As a consequence, the court made no adverse findings against my 15 year old client.

**Re W (2021):** My client, the father, and his wife were completely exonerated in respect of allegations that either or both had caused fractures to their 5 week old baby.

**Re L (2021):** I represented a mother who faced allegations of human trafficking and of exposing her son to risky persons and to organised crime.

**Re H (2021):** I represented a mother whose teenage son had been cleared of terrorism charges. At final hearing, I achieved findings of coercive and controlling behaviour against the father as well as successfully supporting the child's allegations against his father - of physical and emotional harm.

**Re O (2021):** My client, the father faced allegations of causing significant harm to his baby (near drowning and several fractures). Cross examination of the expert elicited evidence of a single fracture, caused accidentally when he rescued his baby. Successful reunification of baby and both parents.

**Re B (2020):** I represented a young mother with significant learning difficulties and sensory impairment (deafness). Through cross examination I successfully demonstrated that the children's accounts of sexual abuse allegedly perpetrated by the mother, her partner and other third parties over several years were inherently unreliable. As a consequence, the court refused to make findings of sexual abuse against my client and others.

**Re H (2020):** Representing a father whose ex-wife, in the aftermath of an acrimonious divorce, was found by the court to have fabricated and exaggerated illness in their teenage daughter. The court further determined that as a consequence of the mother's conduct, the daughter had somatised her own clinical signs and presentation.

**Re L (2019):** Representing a father whose youngest child had died as a consequence of 'overlaying'. Despite this and further injuries (fractures) that predated the child's death, the court ultimately approved a plan for reunification of the older two children with my client and the mother.

**Re T & T (2019):** Representing a vulnerable teenage mother, I achieved findings that her partner, rather than she, had been responsible for causing 19 fractures to their 8-week old baby.

**Some other noteworthy cases:**

**Re O:** Representing a mother whose child, in the context of intractable and complex marital breakdown, had become mute and was refusing to attend school.

**Re W:** Representing a mother who tried to drown her 5 year old son whilst suffering with a serious psychotic / mental illness. The central issue at final hearing was whether it was in the child's best interest for him to be rehabilitated to his mother's care.

**Re C:** Representing a 14 year old child, who required detention, assessment and treatment under the Mental Health Act in a secure psychiatric unit.

**Re S&G:** Representing the parents of three children whose adoptive placements had broken down.

**Re K:** Seeking and obtaining leave from the Court of Appeal for a mother to defend adoption proceedings in respect of her two children.

**Re S:** Representing the guardian. The subject child was made a ward of court so that a best interests medical plan could be achieved in the face of persistent obstruction by both parents.

**Re L:** Representing the children whose mother had been murdered by their father. Achieving placement of both children with their grandmother.

# Recommendations

Lucy Hendry KC is an experienced children law specialist whose expertise extends across public and private law. She is active in highly sensitive matters involving allegations of sexual abuse and non-accidental injuries, often with linked issues of drugs and alcohol abuse.
Strengths: "Lucy Hendry is very knowledgeable in relation to medical issues."
"Despite Lucy's extensive legal knowledge and expertise, she approaches clients in a calm and considered manner and ensures they understand the complex terminology; this makes them feel at ease."
"Her advocacy skills are exceptional."
"Lucy Hendry is my preferred KC for the extremely complex matters."

**Chambers UK 2025**/Family//Children/Leading Silks/Band 1

Strengths: "Lucy's tenacious and incisive yet realistic approach is very impressive." "She is an exceptional advocate with a real grasp of complex issues." "Lucy is thorough and very good with clients."

**Chambers UK 2024**/Family//Children/Leading Silks/Band 1

Strengths: "Lucy is a great all-rounder with huge depth of medical knowledge."
"Lucy is really hugely well prepared and really just a charming advocate. She's an effective cross-examiner."
"Lucy is a fierce advocate and equipped with a deep knowledge of family law. She instils confidence in her clients and focused leadership for those instructing."

**Chambers UK 2023**/Family/Matrimonial/Western Bar/Leading Silks/Band 1

Strengths: "She's conscientious and calm with a very good style of advocacy." "She is excellent at preparing for cases, is very thorough with a great presence in court."

**Chambers UK 2022**/Family/Matrimonial/Western Bar

Strengths: "She is brilliant with clients and she is always thoroughly prepared and extremely conscientious." "She prepares cases is a very logical and thorough way, yet always has dynamic ways of progressing matters."

**Chambers UK 2021**/Family/Matrimonial/Western Bar

She acts on cases involving wide-ranging issues including adoption, abuse, neglect, addiction and mental health. Her clients include parents, guardians and local authorities.
Strengths: "She's brilliant with clients, fantastic to deal with and is very conscientious. She can process large amounts of information very quickly and keeps you up to speed. She is very approachable and helpful with anything you might need."

**Chambers UK 2020**/Family/Matrimonial/Western Bar

"Incredibly bright and hard-working." "A formidable advocate. She is always professional and pays excellent attention to detail."

**Chambers UK 2019**/Family/Matrimonial/Western Bar

'Excellent advocate' Lucy Hendry KC frequently handles children's cases related to both public and private law with specific expertise in challenging sexual abuse cases.

'Lucy has faultless attention to detail and is an excellent advocate for witnesses with vulnerabilities. She is skilled in assimilating complex medical evidence.'

**Legal 500 2025**/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Leading Silks/Western Circuit - Tier 1

'Lucy is an extremely experienced family law KC, doing the most complex cases. She always has the case forensically ready from the outset, so as to set her tactics and strategy and to guide often vulnerable clients through these most difficult of cases. She is a real team player and is an extremely effective communicator, always finding a way to deliver her questions and submissions with devastating effect.'

**Legal 500 2025**/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Leading Silks/Midlands Circuit - Tier 1

'Lucy is an outstanding advocate. Her preparation is impeccable, and she is incredibly good with clients.'

**Legal 500 2024**/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Leading Silks/Midlands Circuit - Tier 1

Lucy Hendry KC, who represents lay parties, subject children, intervenors, and guardians in factually and medically complex cases, is widely considered a 'top-class advocate' for both public and private children law cases.

'Lucy is without doubt one of the best silks around. She has huge depth of knowledge and outclasses her opponent every time. She is wonderful with clients and an inspiration to us all. Her advocacy skills are finely honed and she cuts through the issues with precision.'

**Legal 500 2024**/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Leading Silks/Western Circuit - Tier 1

Lucy Hendry KC is 'calm, measured and focused', 'thorough', 'has an excellent manner with clients and the court' and 'her cross examination is beautifully polite but deadly' – 'she is everything a silk should be'.

'Lucy sets her clients at ease, delivers realistic advice, and fights every case to its fullest potential. A ferocious advocate on her feet. Persistent and persuasive.'

Legal 500 **2023**/Child Law (Public and Private)/Leading Silks/Western Circuit

'Lucy is incredibly hard-working, clever and has exceptional attention to detail. Her cross- examination is precise, thorough, pertinent and relentless, and her written submissions are both analytical and flawless.'

**Legal 500 2022**/Child Law (Public and Private)/Leading Silks/Western Circuit

'Lucy is a formidable advocates with admirable attention to detail and forensic analysis of a case. She has an outstanding ability to digest large amounts of evidence in short order and present her case to the court. She is brilliant with her client care and clients always feel at ease with her representing them.'

**Legal 500 2021**/Child Law (Public and Private)/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Combines second-to-none client skills with great intellect and a faultless work ethic.'

**Legal 500 2020**/Family and children law/Leading juniors/Regional Bar - Western Circuit

'A fabulous junior with the makings of a silk.'

**Legal 500 2018/19**/Family and children law/Leading juniors/Regional Bar - Western Circuit

`Subtle in her dealings and very effective in court.'

**Legal 500 2017**/Family and children law/Leading juniors/Regional Bar - Western Circuit

'Hardworking, persistent and excellent on her feet.'

**Legal 500 2016**/Family and children law/Leading juniors/Regional Bar - Western Circuit

'She is sensible in negotiations, exerting a calming influence on the case as a whole.'

**Legal 500 2015**/Family and children law/Leading juniors/Regional Bar - Western Circuit

'3PB's Lucy Hendry `stands out'.'

**Legal 500 2013/14**/Family/Western Circuit

## Academic qualifications

- LLB (Hons) Law, Kingston

## Professional qualifications & appointments

- Accredited Mediation Advocate

## Professional bodies

- Family Law Bar Association
- Western Circuit