

Melanie De Freitas

Year of Call: 1995
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Overview

Melanie De Freitas specialises primarily in child care work (public and private law).

In public law cases she has been instructed by Local Authorities, Guardians and Parents

Academic qualifications

- BA

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Accredited Mediation Advocate

Professional bodies

- Member of the Trinidad and Tobago Bar

Expertise

Family

Recent Public Law cases include:

- Representing mother involving allegations of rape on a 4yr old by a 12 year old (11 day hearing)
- Physical abuse, neglect and, more recently, factitious illness
- A case involving serious NAI injuries to a baby. Complex medical issues resulting in numerous medical experts giving conflicting opinions (20 day hearing)
- Case involving serious neglect and sexual abuse involving disabled parents (26 day hearing)
- Hearing involving a serious factitious illness case heard in the High Court (8 day hearing)
- Section 38(6) application representing long term drug/alcohol user (7 day hearing)
- Represent a mother whose already disabled child suffered acute subdural haemorrhages and the central issues resulting in a finding of fact hearing to decide the range of possibilities on how the injuries were caused. Complex medical evidence hearing necessary (9 day hearing)
- G and H (welfare of the children) [2021] EWFC B21 (06 April 2021)
- OCC v P [2020] EWFC B48 (21 October 2020
- OCC v P [2020] EWFC B47 (01 June 2020)

Recent Private Law cases involve:

- Private law residence, contact and removal out of the jurisdiction
- Involved in cases with particular cultural and religious aspects. An example of such a case involving Kurdistan refugees had a final hearing (12 day hearing)
- Complex case involved a convicted murderer seeking contact with child in the High Court before Correride J
- Dealt with child aged 14 in a dispute between parents running for 10 years resulting on complex issues of education, residence and relocation before Paulfey J
- Instructed by a Pakistani mother dealing with an allegation of serious domestic violence requiring a fact find hearing and then proceeded to deal with relocation within the UK (5 day hearing)
- Lecture given on 'Removal out of Jurisdiction' after final hearing lasting 4 days in High Court.