



# George Smith

Year of Call: 2018

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## Overview

George Smith is a Barrister who specialises in children matters and accepts instructions in both private law and public law family matters.

In care proceedings, George has acted for all parties including the Local Authority, Parents, Guardian's, separately represented children and intervenors. George frequently appears in case management hearings, contested hearings on evidence and multi-day fact find and welfare proceedings. George is regularly led by silks and senior juniors and has recently been involved in a complex 20 day hearing and is due to appear in a death case in the High Court.

In Private Law proceedings he has acted for parents and children in matters from the Magistrates court to the High Court involving domestic abuse, contact and non-molestation orders. George regularly acts in contested fact-find hearings and other multi-day hearings. George has an active 16.4 practice and regularly advises guardian's in contentious and protracted proceedings.

## Practice Areas

### Public Law Children

In care cases he has acted for Local Authorities in multi-day contested hearings for the placement of children. When acting for parents he often receives urgent instructions for contested removals, this requires him to quickly assimilate information and advise clients. He has also acted in hearings for children who have complicated welfare needs. George has appeared in multiple day hearings in front of Magistrates, District Judges, Circuit Judges and has appeared in the High Court. Recently George was led in a 17-day hearing by a senior member of chambers. The case involved cross examination of a child and parties who were litigants in person.

### Private Law Children

As a Family law practitioner, George regularly appears in the family court dealing with all private children and care matters.

In his private law work, George has experience of taking cases from inception through to final hearings achieving favourable orders for his clients. He has acted for parents in contested fact find hearings, including a case whereby he successfully applied for to the court to use its case management powers not to consider the allegations made against his

client. George has had experience acting for Guardian's in acrimonious parental disputes involving Child Arrangement Orders. He has received instructions in hearings for enforcement of Child Arrangement Orders and in contested applications to vary orders.

George has also acted in applications for non-molestation orders.

## Qualifications

Bar Professional Training Course, University of Law, Very Competent, July 2018

Middle Temple Scholarship 2018

Law (Hons), 2:1 Birmingham University, July 2017

## Memberships

West Midlands Family Law Bar Association (Training Officer)

Member of St Ives Chambers Complaints Committee

Member of St Ives Chambers Equality and Diversity Committee

Family Law Bar Association

Midlands Circuit

## Reported Cases

AA & Others [2022] EWFC 200

George Smith was led by Timothy Bowe KC whilst representing a number of children in protracted and complicated care proceedings. The case was a combined fact find and welfare hearing regarding neglect and medical non-compliance by two litigant in person parents.

To read this reported case please click [here](#).

## Recommendations

Legal 500 2024: Ranked Tier 1 "rising star" - 'George is a very strong advocate in court. His advocacy is dynamic. His preparation for court is meticulous, and he is always very familiar with a matter when it comes to hearing. His client care is excellent for a range of clients, including vulnerable clients.'

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