



# Mark Cooper

Year of Call: 2009

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## Overview

Mark practises exclusively in family law and specialises in matters relating to children. He has a busy practice and a reputation for providing excellent client care and being thoroughly prepared. Mark aims to provide realistic and pragmatic advice whilst always being prepared to fight his client's case.

Mark is a care specialist and in recent years has regularly appeared in lengthy and complex proceedings. He has been instructed in cases involving the most serious of allegations including the death of a child, brain injuries, multiple inflicted injuries, fabricated/induced illness and inter-familial sexual abuse. Mark is regularly led by Queens Counsel.

Mark accepts instructions on behalf of children in private law proceedings. He has particular experience of protracted proceedings involving intractable disputes and serious allegations of sexual and physical abuse.

Outside of his practice, Mark is the Secretary of the West Midlands Family Law Bar Association. As such he is responsible for organising training events and functions for the local family bar, as well as providing representation with the senior judiciary, the Birmingham Local Family Justice Board and various court user groups.

Within Chambers, Mark chairs the Equality, Diversity & Wellbeing Committee and is also the Equality & Diversity Officer and the Social Secretary.

Outside of his professional life, Mark enjoys the theatre, traveling and supporting Aston Villa FC.

## Practice Areas

### Public Law Children

Mark practises exclusively in family law and specialises in matters relating to children. He has a busy practice and a reputation for providing excellent client care and being thoroughly prepared. Mark aims to provide realistic and pragmatic advice whilst always being prepared to fight his client's case.

#### Children: Public Law

Mark is a public law specialist and is regularly instructed to represent parents, children, local authorities and interveners in care proceedings. He is also experienced in representing vulnerable adults and older children who are competent to provide their own

instructions. Mark has experience of cases involving:

- death of a child;
- serious head injuries, resulting from skull fractures and shaking;
- fabricated or induced illness (FII);
- multiple inflicted injuries;
- sexual abuse;
- female genital mutilation (FGM);
- forced marriage;
- inter-sibling sexual activity;
- torture;
- trafficking; and
- other forms of significant harm to children.

Mark is regularly led by Queen's Counsel and senior junior counsel in complex and often lengthy care cases. He also undertakes such cases as a single junior.

#### **Reported cases:**

[EF, GH, IJ \(care proceedings\) \[2019\] EWFC 75](#)

[Re P \(Sexual Abuse: Finding of Fact Hearing\) \[2019\] EWFC 27 \(01 May 2019\)](#)

[Re D & Ors \(Children\) \[2017\] EWFC B87 \(06 April 2017\)](#)

[Gloucestershire County Council v M & Ors \[2015\] EWFC B177](#)

## **Private Law Children**

Mark accepts instructions on behalf of children in private law cases pursuant to FPR r.16.4. He has extensive experience in these sorts of cases, especially when the other parties are litigants in person. Mark has concluded several cases of this nature which have been in Court for more than two years. Some of Mark's cases have included the following elements:

- trafficking;
- inter-country adoption;
- sexual abuse;
- physical chastisement / cruelty; and
- fabricated / induced illness.

## **Qualifications**

MA (Oxon)

Graduate Diploma in Law, Manchester Law School

Bar Vocational Course, Manchester Law School

# Memberships

Midland Circuit

Family Law Bar Association

Secretary of the West Midlands Family Law Bar Association

The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

Birmingham City School of Law Advisory Board

Local Family Justice Board (representative for the Birmingham family bar)

FreeBar

# Recommendations

**Chambers and Partners 2021:** "He prepares extraordinarily well and has a wonderful client manner. It does not matter whether it is the most sophisticated person or the most vulnerable person that he is representing, he has the ability to talk to them in a language that they understand." "He is graceful and calm on the surface but you know that he has put the work in to get to that point. I am always impressed with the speed of his work and the quality of his position statements."

**Legal 500 2021:** "A well-rounded barrister who goes above and beyond for his clients."

**Chambers and Partners 2020:** "He is personable, extremely well prepared and very focused on the right outcome."

**Legal 500 2019:** "He provides first-class client care."

**Chambers and Partners 2019:** "Calm and compelling, he grasps the issues in a case and wins the confidence of judges." "His cross-examination has a pinpoint accuracy which leaves the court in no doubt as to who is in control of the case."

# Privacy Notice

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