



# Matthew Fiddy

Year of Call: 2011

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## Overview

Matthew is a family law specialist. Matthew has an established practice in public and private children's cases and in family finance matters.

## Practice Areas

### Public Law Children

Matthew accepts instructions in public law proceedings to act on behalf of local authorities, parents, children, and intervenors. Matthew regularly appears in care cases before every level of judge and frequently appears in lengthy final and fact finding hearings. His public law experience includes:

- Contested final hearings
- Fact-finding hearings – including non-accidental injury and sexual abuse cases
- Appeal proceedings
- Applications for declarations authorising local authorities to deprive children of their liberty
- Applications for expert evidence and assessment under section 38(6)
- Contested interim removal applications
- Applications for FGM Protection Orders
- Matthew was recently led in a lengthy fact-finding hearing that concerned allegations of sexual abuse and FII.

Matthew has experience of cases involving serious allegations of physical and sexual abuse, and cases involving allegations of radicalisation and extremism. Matthew is also regularly instructed to advise on issues concerning the law and practice in this area.

Matthew is a Bar Pro Bono Unit Panel Member and frequently accepts instructions to represent vulnerable clients on a pro bono basis.

### Notable Cases

[Re PQR \(Children\) \[2017\] EWFC B86.](#)

[C \(Children\) \[2016\] EWFC 6](#)

[Y v S \[2017\] EWHC 1020 \(Fam\)](#)

## Private Law Children

Matthew's practice covers the full range of hearings in private law children's cases, from first directions hearings, to fact-finding hearings and contested final hearings. Matthew has experience of appearing before every level of judge in private law matters. He is regularly instructed to act in connection with the following applications:

- Orders under section 8 of the Children Act 1989
- Temporary and permanent removal of children from the jurisdiction
- Abduction and cases involving Brussels II and the Hague Convention
- Wardship and matters arising under the inherent jurisdiction
- Enforcement of child arrangements orders
- Declarations of parentage

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## Family - Finance

Matthew has a wide range of experience in family finance matters – including ancillary relief, TOLATA, and schedule 1 claims. Throughout his practice, Matthew has represented clients at interim hearings, FDR appointments, and fully contested final hearings. Matthew has also acted for clients in section 37 cases and maintenance pending suit applications. In addition, Matthew is experienced in drafting pleadings and providing written advice on family finance matters.

Matthew regularly advises clients in conference, both before and after the issue of proceedings. Matthew accepts instructions to act on behalf of husbands, wives, and intervenors at all stages of family finance disputes.

## Qualifications

Bar Professional Training Course, BPP Law School (Very Competent), 2011

Bachelor of Laws, 2:1, University of Birmingham, 2010

# Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Matthew is a panel member at the Bar Pro Bono Unit and willing to accept instructions in pro bono family law matters

# Recommendations

**Chambers and Partners 2020:** "He's a safe pair of hands, and is very good for directions hearings." "He's able to deliver unpalatable advice well."

# Awards/Scholarships

Birmingham Law School Lady Barber Prize for Mooting 2009

Inner Temple BPTC Exhibition Scholarship Award 2010

Inner Temple Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award 2010

BPP Law School Outstanding Contribution to Pro Bono Projects Prize 2011

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