



# Natalie Cross

Year of Call: 2009

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## Overview

Natalie is a family law specialist, having completed a family law pupillage at a Midlands set, before returning to her West Midlands roots. She conducts work at all court levels.

Natalie is Public Access trained which enables her to accept instructions direct from clients.

Natalie prides herself on her ability to deal with clients in very difficult situations and is well-regarded for her attention to detail and thoroughness in preparation, often at short notice. She is sympathetic to the individual needs of her client and is dedicated to securing the best possible result for them. She aims to provide her client with practical, realistic advice.

## Practice Areas

### Public Law Children

Natalie represents the local authority, parents and children, and is regularly found representing parents with mental health and learning difficulties, including experience of clients being represented via the Official Solicitor. Her experience includes cases involving non-accidental injuries, allegations of sexual abuse, neglect, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol misuse, some of which have had international elements in the case. Natalie has experience of all stages of hearing, including interim hearings, multi-day contested final hearings, finding of fact hearings and appeals.

Natalie has a keen interest to develop her practice in relation to Deprivation of Liberty applications and has recently been instructed on numerous cases of this nature. She has represented local authorities in urgent applications. She has also represented the young adult who has been subject of the application, chosen for her ability to discuss matters with them in an age-appropriate and pragmatic way.

#### Recent Cases

*Re B (Care Proceedings: Finding of Fact Hearing: Skull Fractures)* [2017] EWFC B30. Read more [here](#).

Natalie represented a father in public law proceedings where serious allegations of violence had been made against him. She was successful in ensuring no findings were made and the children were placed in his care.

In public law proceedings, Natalie successfully opposed an adoption plan in her representation of the mother, despite the plan being recommended by the local authority and supported by the children's guardian.

## Private Law Children

Natalie undertakes work in private law children matters, from the first hearing through to contested final hearings. This includes cases involving where a child should live, who and how often the child should spend time with a person, and relocation cases both in the United Kingdom and abroad. She represents parents, grandparents and children under FPR rule 16.4, often in complex matters where both parents are litigants in person, which have included issues such as parental alienation, serious issues of domestic abuse and inter-sibling sexual activity.

She is also instructed to represent clients who require injunctive relief, often at urgent hearings.

### Recent Cases

Natalie represented a father in the High Court opposing an application by the mother to take the child on holiday abroad. The court considered that there was a risk the child would not be returned, led by Natalie's cross-examination, and refused the application for removal.

Natalie appeared for a mother following an application from an unrepresented father for a child arrangements order. Following a finding of fact hearing, the court proceeded to make all of the findings that the mother sought after lengthy questioning of the father by Natalie. Thereafter, the court endorsed orders for no direct contact between the child and her father, as well as a section 91(14) order in favour of the mother, orders entirely consistent with the mother's position.

In proceedings for the father where allegations had been made against him of a serious and intimate nature, Natalie was able to mitigate the findings made against him despite much more serious ones being pursued by the mother.

## Qualifications

LLB Hons Degree Law: First Class – University of Derby

Bar Vocational Course: Very Competent – College of Law

## Memberships

Midland Circuit

Family Law Bar Association

The Honourable Society of Inner Temple

## Awards/Scholarships

Inner Temple: Major Scholarship and Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award

## Further Information

Alongside her practice, Natalie led the Child Protection Module at the University of Derby for three years. She overhauled the course material during this time and conducted seminars, tutorials and assessments as part of her role.

Prior to the Bar, Natalie worked as a specialist family law paralegal for two years and was appointed as a Special Constable with West Midlands Police Force.

## Privacy Notice

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