

# Tory Putnam

Call 2005

Tory is a dual qualified Solicitor-Advocate and Barrister specialising in complex care proceedings and fact-finding hearings in private law proceedings. "Tory is a fabulous advocate: persuasive, engaging and focused." Legal 500

## EXPERTISE

Tory is a dual qualified Barrister and Solicitor-Advocate who has specialised in family law for the majority of her career. The focus of her practice is private and public law children and she has a mixed portfolio of privately paying and legally aided clients.

The mainstay of Tory's practice is complex care proceedings and complex fact-finding hearings in private law proceedings.

Tory has a thorough but pragmatic approach to cases. She ensures that she has a strong grasp of the factual matrix of the case and is able to identify the key, determining issues.

She will robustly challenge parties and the legal framework whilst managing client expectations as to realistic outcomes.

### Public Law

Tory has significant experience in care proceedings, spanning over 15 years. Prior to joining Chambers, she was the senior in-house advocate for one of the largest public child care legal teams in the Country and was also Legal Team Manager for a Children's Services Trust. Accordingly, Tory has the detailed knowledge of internal procedures and practice that only comes from being a Local Authority advocate over a number of years.

As well as working as senior in-house Counsel, she has held the most serious of cases including multi-jurisdiction matters, a terrorism case, cases involving significant media interest in concurrent criminal proceedings and cases involving serious harm to children, murder and unexplained death.

Tory represents Local Authorities, parents and Guardians in the most serious and complex childcare matters and appears regularly in the County Court and High Court. She has a keen interest and developing practice in the interface between the Children Act/Deprivation of Liberty applications and the Court of Protection.

Recent complex children care matters in the County and High Court include cases of non-accidental injury fact find, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), sexual abuse of children, possession of indecent images, contested adoption and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) applications.

### Private Law

Tory appears for both parents, family members and guardians in private law matters in relation to children with a developing specialism in private fact find hearings, including allegations of domestic violence and abuse, emotional harm to spouse and children, coercive and controlling behaviour and financial abuse.



## Expertise

Family – Public Law & Children

Court of Protection & Adult Care

Tory is a sought-after advocate for cases involving serious welfare issues.

## Public Access

Qualified Direct Access barrister who is able to accept instructions directly from members of the public in suitable cases.

## MEMBERSHIPS

- North Eastern Circuit
- Family Law Bar Association
- The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn



## Clerking team



**Steven Preen**  
Lead Family Clerk  
0191 245 9551



**Ken McLafferty**  
Family & Immigration  
Clerk  
0191 245 9531



**Paula McLure**  
Family Clerk  
0191 245 9530



**Erin May**  
Family & Court of  
Protection Clerk  
0191 245 9590



**Fiona Bullock**  
Direct Access Clerk  
01642 247 569



**Chris Gibbin**  
Clerk  
01642 247 569

## What Others Say

66

"Tory is a fabulous advocate: persuasive, engaging and focused."  
**Legal 500, 2025**

## Notable Cases

### Public Law

- Re A 2024. Led by Aiden Vine KC on behalf of a Local Authority in complex and long running case involving applications to discharge a final care order, application for Wardship, application for Deprivation of Liberty orders, applications for s.34 Contact orders and allegations of Local Authority failing in relation to a child with complex mental health issues and dispute as to diagnosis.
- Re L 2024. Instructed for Local Authority on multi-day fact find on separate limb fractures and bruises to non-mobile infant. Required drafting of extensive chronology and cross reference between numerous professional records to establish the extent of differing accounts posed by the parties to differing professionals and establish the extent of parental collusion and culpability.
- Re C 2023. Led by Kate Branigan KC for the Local Authority in 12-day fact find before the High Court involving multiple injuries over an extensive timeline, including where the preliminary explanations had been accepted by initial treating clinicians as plausible. A complicating fact was that experts and treating hospitals were divided on the cause of injuries.
- Re B 2023. Led by John Vater KC directly instructed by elder children before s.9 Judge. A complex and unusual case involving police asserting public immunity of source evidence, resulting in disclosure arguments with redacted judgment being handed down and arguments as to Human Rights and Fair Trials being posed.
- Re L 2022. Conducted a 13-day fact find for the Local Authority before s.9 Judge with 2 parents and 4 intervenors. Both parents were represented by Kings Counsel and Juniors. Challenges included complex legal argument being mounted by parents as to the legal test for collusion and as to whether collusion between the parents had been proven by the Local Authority.
- Re C 2022. Conduct of long running matter involving multiple applications and hearings culminating in a 10 day final hearing before s.9 Judge. Hearings had included High Court out of hours applications for 'TipStaff' following child abduction, phone analysis applications and contested interim separation. Matter appealed to Court of Appeal by family with Tory instructed to draft response document for the Local Authority. The Court of Appeal dismissed the application by the family.
- Re E 2021. Representing a father on a multi-day final hearing charged with making indecent images. The Local Authority alleged child grooming, falsification of electronic and papers files and sexual risk. Required delicate management of a client who asserted he had personality disorders and management of concurrent criminal investigations.

### Private Law

- Re B 2023. Representing a respondent parent facing numerous allegations of domestic abuse, violence, coercive behaviour and abuse of professional position. The client also made cross-allegations against the applicant parent. Any finding of fact would have carried not only personal but professional consequences and referral to professional body for the client. Following robust challenge of primary evidence and cross examination, no findings made against the client and findings as sought made against the applicant parent.
- Re B 2021. Representing a child in fact find whereby allegations made by Mother against unrepresented father of rape, coercive control and child sex abuse.