



New Park Court

Date: 24 June 2026

Time: 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Place: Leonardo Hotel
Fry Street,
Middlesbrough TS1 1JH

Family Law Seminar

Hosted by The Newcastle and North of England Law Society
and in association with New Park Court Chambers

Sally Terris
Barrister



Public Law:

Sally Terris will speak about threshold criteria and the legal test that a local authority must satisfy before a court can make a care order or a supervision order under section 31 (2) of the Children Act 1989.

She will examine developments since the landmark case of *Re A (A Child) (2015) EWFC 11*, which established important rules for how the threshold should be drafted and proven to ensure that 'state' intervention is justified.

Emma Hughes
Barrister



Private Children Law:

Emma Hughes will discuss finding of fact hearings post *re H-N and Others (Children) (Domestic Abuse: Finding of fact hearings) (2021) EWCA Civ 448*.

Particular consideration will be given to Practice Direction 12 J and domestic abuse cases, including the three recent cases of:

- *ER v NT (Need for fact-finding hearing) (2025) EWHC 2146 (Fam) Mr Justice MacDonald*
- *Re A (Appeal: Finding of Fact) (2025) EWHC 1279 Mr Justice Hayden*
- *Re A (A Child) (Appeal: finding of rape) (2025) EWHC 1500 Ms Justice Henke.*

Booking: Limited spaces available. To reserve your places(s) at this free Family Seminar, please email: mail@newcastlelawsociety.co.uk

The Speakers:

Introduction by Valerie Sterling, Head of the Family Team at New Park Court Chambers. Her family practice covers the full range of family law, including finance, private law children cases, and public law care cases. Valerie has in-depth skills in private law Children Act proceedings involving complex and intractable residence and contact disputes, Prohibited Steps Orders, Specific Issue Orders, applications to relocate both internally and internationally, and Article 15 Brussels ii.

Sally Terris

Year of call 1997

Sally Terris has specialised in family law for 30 years, having appeared at all levels of court. She is recommended for matrimonial finance (including complex issues such as pensions, trusts, inheritance, business and property), private children (including Child Arrangements Orders, abduction and adoption) and public law (including Children Act, care, domestic and sexual abuse).

Sally represents local authorities, parents, extended families, children, and guardians in the public law arena. She has extensive experience with difficult contact and residence applications, including those involving a Rule 16 Children's Guardian. She is also experienced in care cases with international elements.

Sally has acted in a wide range of care cases involving baby-shaking, domestic violence and sexual abuse. She is an expert in cases involving complex medical issues, radiological and/or neurological evidence, fictitious and/or induced illness and conflicting expert evidence, personality disorders and sexual abuse.

Emma Hughes

Year of call 2015

Emma has a wealth of experience of both private and public family matters. She is regularly instructed in private family law proceedings by both applicants and respondents in applications such as Child Arrangement Orders to determine residence and contact for a child, specific issues and prohibited steps orders. Finding of Fact hearings are also run successfully by Emma in both the private and public arenas.

Emma also appears in matters of injunctive relief where domestic violence is alleged (for both the accused and the accuser), such as Non-Molestation Orders, at both ex parte and contested hearings.

Emma is capable of representing both sides in cases where allegations are made, which prevent contact taking place between a parent and a child.

Emma's involvement in public family law proceedings often finds her representing respondent parents against allegations of neglect, failure to protect, sexual abuse and/or non-accidental injuries.

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mail@newcastlelawsociety.co.uk

Refreshments will be available after the seminar presentations.



New Park Court

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