



## Prudence Beever

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Year of Call: 2000

Pru read Law at Manchester Metropolitan University in 1979 -1982 and continued her studies there by taking her solicitor's final examinations. After undertaking two years as a trainee solicitor, she qualified as a solicitor in 1985.

Pru became the senior partner of a successful High Street Solicitor's Practice, and was called to the Bar in April 2000. She practises in most areas of family law including child care proceedings, adoption, secure accommodation, child arrangements, forced marriages, and child abduction.

### Memberships

- Inns of Court: Middle Temple
- Family Law Bar Association
- Trustee of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust

### Appointments

- Accredited for Direct Public Access instructions

## EXPERTISE

### Family - Children

Pru has had a wealth of experience in many areas of the law, but has been a family law specialist since 1994. In the past she was well known as personal injury and clinical negligence solicitor and her

notable and complex case of *AB v Others v Stockport and Tameside NHS Trust C of A* (Civil Division) 13.11.1996 was widely reported by the press. In that case she represented a large number of women, (as a solicitor instructing leading Counsel) in an action against the Health Authorities for negligence after advising the women that they had been operated on by a gynaecologist who had contracted AIDS.

Pru now has a particular interest in matters concerning Children including Local Authority Children Act cases, adoption, abduction, custody and contact disputes, now known as 'child arrangements' and forced marriages.

Pru regularly works for children, parents and other relatives as well as for foster carers and several Local Authorities.

Pru particularly specialises in complex Child Protection issues involving sexual abuse, serious and sometimes fatal injuries, including multiple rib and limb fractures, skull fractures, retinal and cerebral haemorrhages, and poisoning, suffocating and fictitious illness. She appears regularly in the Magistrates, County and High Courts and has been involved in several high profile and important cases.

Pru also sits as Chair of Domestic Homicide Reviews on behalf of Community Safety Partnerships and has a particular interest in homicide/suicide cases.

## Cases

### **LA v X and others [2011] EWCH 3401 (fam)**

Application by maternal grandmother of X prior to a fact-finding hearing for her 17-year-old son, who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome, to give oral evidence. Application refused. The balancing exercise set out in *Re W* [2010] UKSC 12 applied.

### **Re X [2012] All ER (D) 90**

Appeared on behalf of the child. The Local Authority instituted care proceedings re child, X – and the Court ordered fact-finding hearing – Intervenor seeking order for oral evidence from child, PJ – The question was whether application should be granted – The Family Division dismissed an application for a 17-year-old with learning difficulties to give oral evidence in care proceedings relating to his nephew.

### **Lancashire County Council v C, M & F (Children – Fact-finding) [2014] EWFC 3**

Appeared on behalf of the father with Leading Counsel. This involved a fact-finding hearing concerning two sisters, K and S, aged three and one respectively. Proceedings began after the death of S's twin and also concerned an injury to K in 2011 for which proceedings had been issued previously and withdrawn. The incident in relation to K was found to be accidental, and it was not possible to establish when or why L died. The court found that the threshold for intervention was not crossed in either incident, and returned the girls to their parents' care.

### **Other recent notable cases:**

- High Court matter on behalf of the father: Complex Finding of Fact Hearing involving fictitious

illness and life threatening deliberately inflicted injuries resulting in the child receiving multiple blood transfusions. The mother was found to have caused all the injuries to her child.

- High Court Matter on behalf of a father in a case involving a child born with life-threatening and debilitating illness, who was highly dependent upon oxygen. The Local Authority alleged the mother had tampered with her oxygen and attempted to kill her child and the father may have been aware. After a finding of fact hearing, the mother and father were exonerated.

## Public Access

Pru is accredited by the Bar Council to undertake direct public access work and has advised and represented a significant number of litigants in person.