

Ricky Seal

Call: 2012

"Ricky is always calm, measured and professional, and his knowledge and written documents are always comprehensive and strong. He is extremely analytical and has a particular strength on complex cases where he excels. and his advocacy is always focussed and persuasive, often against KCs or in dealing with litigants in person."

Legal 500 2026



Ricky Seal practises exclusively in Family law, and is known for his expertise in Children Act proceedings.

He appears at all levels of the Family Court and in the Family Division of the High Court. He has also appeared in the Court of Appeal.

Ricky acts in both private law and public law proceedings.

He has experience of cases involving:

- Parental alienation and implacable hostility;
- Domestic and sexual abuse;
- Inflicted injuries to children;
- Jurisdictional disputes ;and
- Public interest immunity.

Ricky has completed the ICCA/FLBA's Advocacy and the Vulnerable training.

Ricky regularly delivers talks and seminars. Recent topics have included "When private law threatens to become public law" and "Finding of fact hearings where non-physical abuse is alleged."

Expertise

Private Law Children

Ricky is frequently instructed in private law children disputes by parents, family members and children.

Ricky's private law cases range from those with no safeguarding issues to those involving allegations of significant harm (including domestic abuse, sexual abuse and parental alienation).

Birmingham

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London

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Bristol

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DX: 7838 Bristol
Tel: +44 (0) 117 917 8501

These cases include applications for child arrangements orders, specific issue orders, prohibited steps orders, enforcement orders and special guardianship orders. This includes cases under Pathfinder.”

Ricky’s cases have also included disputes around:

- Living arrangements
- Contact;
- Schooling;
- Internal relocation;
- Temporary removal from the United Kingdom (to both Hague and non-Hague convention countries); and
- Citizenship.

Notable cases

Re NQ: Ricky represented a mother at a three day final hearing who was seeking to vary an existing child arrangements order and to defend an application for an enforcement order.

Re RU: Ricky represented a father in linked private law proceedings and public law proceedings (where the father was an intervener). This included a ten-day finding of fact hearing where the father was alleged to be a potential perpetrator of an inflicted injury to a child.

Re LB: Ricky represented the child (by their guardian) in complex and lengthy proceedings involving allegations of significant emotional harm and parental alienation. Ricky’s involvement covered private law proceedings, appeal proceedings and public law proceedings. He represented the child at over nine hearings including a four-day private law final hearing, an appeal hearing and a four-day interim care order hearing.

Public Law Care

Ricky is regularly instructed in care proceedings and acts at all stages of proceedings. He represents local authorities, parents, interveners, and children.

Ricky has been instructed in cases involving the inherent jurisdiction, wardship and deprivation of liberty. He has appeared in linked directions in criminal and care proceedings.

Ricky also has experience of contested Adoption Act proceedings both at the permission stage and where parents have been given permission to oppose an adoption order.

Published cases

Re M (Care Order: Risk: Family Placement)[2025] EWCA Civ 163: Ricky (led by Lorna Meyer KC) represented the local authority before the Court of Appeal. Ricky also represented the local authority at first instance. The case concerned a parent’s ability to protect the child from the future risks posed by the other parent (a convicted sex offender).

Re A & B (Children) (Contested Adoption)[2022] EWFC 17: Ricky represented the local authority in a contested application for an adoption order where the parents had already been given permission to oppose the making of an adoption order.

Re P (Sexual Abuse: Finding of Fact Hearing)[2019] EWFC 27: Ricky represented one of the children (by their guardian) in this 17-week finding of fact hearing into allegations of serial intra-familial and inter-familial child sexual abuse.

Other notable cases

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Re OS: Ricky represented the child (by their guardian) in public law proceedings and proceedings under the inherent jurisdiction. The case concerned the steps to be taken where a child subject to an interim care order had been abducted abroad.

Re RP: Ricky represented the local authority in a six day finding of fact hearing into allegations of serious physical abuse and beatings by the parents.

Non-Molestation Orders

Ricky also accepts instructions in relation to applications for non-molestation orders. He regularly acts for both applicants and respondents. This includes both stand alone proceedings and those linked to Children Act proceedings.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Protection Orders

Ricky has acted in cases for female genital mutilation (FGM) protection orders.

Forced Marriage Protection Orders

Ricky has acted in cases for forced marriage protection orders.

Awards



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Memberships

- Inner Temple
- Midland Circuit
- Family Law Bar Association
- Resolution
- Association of Lawyers for Children

Ricky also sits on No5's pupillage committee.

He sat on the YRes West Midlands committee for over five years.

Qualifications

- Bar Professional Training Course (Outstanding; College of Law)
- LLB in Law with European Legal Studies (First Class Honours; King's College London)
- Associateship of King's College London

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