

Tara Vindis

Call: 1996

E	tvindis@dekachambers.com
T	+44(0)20 7832 0500



Tara Vindis started life in chambers as a common law barrister, undertaking all aspects of civil and criminal work notably personal injury, clinical negligence and fraud and family.

Over the last few years Tara has specialised in family law and her busy practice concentrates on children, principally in complex public and private law disputes. She is instructed by applicant local authorities, children's guardians, parents and intervenors in all types of serious cases including alleged radicalisation, grave allegations of sexual assault or non-accidental injury and death and those involving international elements. She is able to marshal large volumes of material and produce focused written arguments. She has considerable experience in dealing with professional witnesses and medical evidence and experts, given her successful background in personal injury and clinical negligence.

Tara is also instructed in all aspects of Court of Protection work and to advise in relation to evidence and attend Inquests.

She is able to accept instructions through Direct Access.

Her clients consider her to be thorough, diplomatic and calm. Tara is often required to advise on the way forwards in difficult cases and tenaciously argue her client's position.

Areas of Expertise

Family Law

Tara is often instructed on the most serious and complex family cases where there are international elements such as jurisdiction and forced marriage, allegations of radicalisation, sexual abuse and serious or fatal injuries to babies and children involving complex medical evidence.

Notable Family Law cases

Re KL

Representing the mother (together with leading counsel) in a serious High Court case concerning her baby following the death of his older sibling who was living with the mother and her partner. The 18m old had a number of other injuries alongside those that resulted in his fatality. The mother and intervenor face serious charges (the police investigation continues) including murder. A four week fact finding hearing took place in July and following the Court of Appeal's decision for the HC Judge to recuse herself a second 3 week fact finding hearing concluded in December 2020. Nine medical professionals gave evidence with 30 witnesses in total.

Re B

Instructed on behalf of the father who has mild learning difficulties and uses cannabis. At the final hearing in March 2019 the Father successfully argued for an adjournment of the Placement Order application (Local Authority not supporting rehabilitation) to consider rehabilitation. At the final hearing in January 2020, the judge ruled the father out. The Court of Appeal granted the father permission to appeal and 2 days before the appeal was listed in March 2020, the appeal was conceded with the child finally returning to her family after a further (third) final hearing in June 2020.

Re K

Represented a father in a non-accidental injury case. Four month old baby suffered a metaphyseal ankle fracture, rib fracture and facial injuries in the care of his parents and serious allegations of domestic violence were made by mother against the father. The FFH took place over 7 days in early 2019 and then a further 7 days later that year to test the parents' assertion that the tibial fracture had occurred in the course of venepuncture procedure at hospital. Evidence was heard from a Consultant Paediatric radiologist, Consultant Paediatrician and from treating clinicians. Both parents found in pool. The proceedings finally concluded in January 2021.

Re K

Representing the mother (who has learning difficulties and needs the support of an intermediary) who together with her partner face serious allegations of inflicting a severe head injury on the mother's toddler in April 2020. Findings are also sought in relation to multiple bruises and other historic injuries found on the child, and the case is pleaded in the alternative that the mother failed to protect her child from her abusive partner. Evidence has been obtained from a paediatric neurosurgeon, paediatric ophthalmologist and a paediatrician and the fact finding hearing is listed for June 2021. There are concurrent criminal proceedings.

Re J

Tara represented a father (a professional) who faced serious allegations of harming his disabled child (causing a brain injury) who had a rare condition making his condition complex. The medical evidence was extremely complicated. Together with leading counsel who also represented him at the final hearing the LA were persuaded to withdraw the proceedings and the Court agreed agreeing to recitals ensuring that both parents had been cleared of any wrong doing and allowing the family to finally be reunited.

Court of Protection

Tara is instructed on all aspects of Court of Protection work.

Notable Court of Protection cases

Re T

Representing the LA in a case in which the protected persons' father was self representing and who was extremely difficult and non-cooperative.

Re FAH

Representing a local authority where the protected person wished to move to another country.

Inquests

Tara is often instructed on behalf of local authorities in respect of vulnerable adults or children who have died

Notable Inquests cases

Re Child X

Advised and represented the LA in relation to their lessons learned document and at the hearing.

Education

- LLB Exeter University 1995

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- Association of Lawyers for Children
- Court of Protection Bar Association

- Inner Temple

Notable Cases

- K-K (Children), Re [2024] EWCA Civ 1025 – Tara and Ed Lamb KC represented the LA before the Court of Appeal who upheld all of the sexual abuse and failure to protect findings made by the lower court.
- X and Y Re (Children: Withdrawal of proceedings) [2024] EWFC 102 – Tara represented the Local Authority in proceedings involving a terminally ill child who was suspected to have been made more gravely ill by her mother. Following careful analysis of the medical evidence the LA were advised to withdraw the proceedings and the Court agreed.
- Re K-K (Children : Fact Finding : retracted allegations) [2024] EWFC 271 (B) (15 April 2024) – Tara represented the Local Authority seeking findings in relation to sexual harm against a competent child by her stepfather, and against her mother for failing to protect. The case was made more complex given the evidential difficulties including a number of retractions made by the child which she maintained. All of the findings sought were made.
- MBC v AM & Ors (DOL Orders for Children under 16) [2021] EWHC 2472 (Fam) – Tara represented a competent child in this important High Court test case.
- O, Re (A child: The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963) [2021] EWHC 908 (Fam) – Tara represented the child through her guardian involving allegations of trafficking.
- DE, Re (A child: Non Accidental injury) [2020] EWFC 112 – Tara represented the mother in a case involving long-standing and serious abuse of a child who died and was found to have been killed by his stepfather.
- Re C (A child) [2020] EWCA Civ 987- representing the mother with leading counsel in her successful appeal for the judge at first instance to recuse herself after she was overheard to make pejorative comments about the mother's evidence to her clerk through the court link which had not been ended after the judge rose from court.
- Re KL (2019-21) – Representing the mother (together with leading counsel) in a serious High Court case concerning her baby following the death of his older sibling who was living with the mother and her partner. The 18m old had a number of other injuries alongside those that resulted in his fatality. The mother and intervenor face serious charges (the police investigation continues) including murder. A four week fact finding hearing took place in July 2020 and a second re-hearing took place in December 2020. Nine medical professionals gave evidence with 30 witnesses in total. The anonymised judgment will be published later this year.
- Re S (2018-2021) – Represented a father in a non-accidental injury case. Four month old baby suffered a metaphyseal ankle fracture, rib fracture and facial injuries in the care of his parents and serious allegations of domestic violence were made by mother against the father. The FFH took place over 7 days in February and then a further 7 days in November to test the parents' assertion that the tibial fracture had occurred in the course of venepuncture. Evidence was heard from a Consultant Paediatric radiologist, Consultant Paediatrician and from treating clinicians. Both parents found in pool. The proceedings finally concluded in January 2021.
- Re G (2020-21) – Representing the mother (who has learning difficulties and needs the support of an intermediary) and together with her partner face serious allegations of inflicting a severe head injury on the mother's toddler in April 2020. Findings are also sought in relation to multiple bruises and other historic injuries found on the child, and the case is pleaded in the alternative that the mother failed to protect her child from her abusive partner. Evidence has been obtained from a paediatric neurosurgeon, paediatric ophthalmologist and a paediatrician and the fact finding hearing is listed for June 2021. There are concurrent criminal proceedings.
- Re O (2020-21), representing the child from the DRC who had arrived in the UK in unusual circumstances. The Court agreed with the LA and the children's Guardian that the LA was permitted to withhold notification of the care proceedings to the Congolese authorities. Mr Justice Keehan's Judgment is shortly to be published.

- Re G (2021) representing the Local Authority in a forced marriage prevention order application. The case involves jurisdictional elements that will be determined later this year.
- Re B children (2020-2021) representing the Local Authority in Care and Wardship proceedings involving an international element and jurisdiction.
- Re L (2020-2021) representing a competent child in care proceedings in which he suffered serious physical and emotional abuse. Orders were made under the inherent jurisdiction against his mother curtailing her PR so that it she had no ongoing involvement in his and his siblings lives coupled with NMO and PSO.
- Re B (2019-2020)- Instructed on behalf of the father who has mild learning difficulties and uses cannabis. At the final hearing in March 2019 the Father successfully argued for an adjournment of the Placement Order application (Local Authority not supporting rehabilitation) to consider rehabilitation. At the final hearing in January 2020, the judge ruled the father out. The Court of Appeal granted the father permission to appeal and 2 days before the appeal was listed in March 2020, Re B B4/2020/0359 Court of Appeal, the appeal was conceded with the child finally returning to her family after a further (third) final hearing in June 2020.
- Re R (2020)- representing the father in private law proceedings who faced serious allegations of harm made by the mother which were rejected by the Court.
- Re J 2020 – Tara represented a father (a professional) who faced serious allegations of harming his disabled child (causing a brain injury) who had a rare condition making his condition complex. The medical evidence was extremely complicated. Together with leading counsel who also represented him at the final hearing the LA were persuaded to withdraw the proceedings and the Court agreed agreeing to recitals ensuring that both parents had been cleared of any wrong doing and allowing the family to finally be reunited.
- A Local Authority v M, F, CDEF [2017] EWCH 2851 – Tara represented the children through their Guardian in this High Court radicalisation case before Mr Justice Newton. This judgment relates to the welfare hearing.
- A Local Authority v M, F, CDEF [2016] EWCH 2851- Tara represented the children through their Guardian in this High Court radicalisation case before Mr Justice Newton. This judgment relates to the fact finding hearing.
- Re A [2016] EWCA Civ 820 Tara represented the child through her Guardian on the mother's successful appeal against the making of Care and Placement Orders.
- London Borough of Redbridge v A, N and E (Failure to comply with Directions) [2016] EWHV 2627- Tara represented the child through her guardian in a case in which post Court of Appeal hearing MacDonald J was very critical of the LA's conduct. At paragraph 27, "Ms Tara Vindis on behalf of E submitted that this case is one that requires now to be put into "special measures". That is an apt analogy.

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