

Jonathan Jackson

Year of Call: **2013**



Jonathan joined the Family Team of 18 St John Street Chambers in January 2017 and since then has developed a busy and varied practice, regularly appearing in the Family Court representing local authorities, parents, children and intervenors in both public and private children matters. Jonathan regularly appears in matters before the High Court. Jonathan has experience of representing clients in appeals and providing advice on appeal.

Jonathan has developed a reputation for meticulous preparation of cases and thorough cross examination. As a result, he is regularly instructed to appear in multi-day hearings in relation to allegations of both physical and sexual abuse, representing local authorities pursuing allegations before the court and representing those facing allegations. He has extensive experience of challenging the evidence of professional and lay witnesses, including medical evidence. Jonathan has experience of cross-examining vulnerable witnesses, including those with mental health difficulties and child witnesses.

Jonathan has also developed a busy practice representing children, through their 16.4 Guardians, at finding of fact and final hearings in private law proceedings, often where both parents are litigants in person. Jonathan is therefore adept at dealing with litigants in person.

Jonathan is public access accredited and accepts instructions from members of the public directly where necessary.

Jonathan is also available to deliver talks/seminars regarding various topics relating to Family Law. Jonathan most recently delivered a talk on secure accommodation orders on behalf of Child Concern.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Jonathan worked within the Family Department of a local law firm, developing a specialism of representing clients in Children Act and Family Law Act proceedings. Jonathan also undertook civil work during this time in the capacity of Solicitor's Agent.

In 2025, Jonathan was appointed as a Deputy District Judge. He sits on the North Eastern Circuit dealing with Civil and Family cases.

Away from Chambers, Jonathan has a keen interest in travel. He has recently spent time in various cities in the USA, and visited numerous islands in French Polynesia in October 2018.

[**VIEW PRIVACY POLICY**](#)

Education

BPP Law School, Leeds - BPTC
University of Birmingham - LLB Law

Professional Memberships

Deputy District Judge (North Eastern Circuit)

Notable Cases

Re M [2026] – representing a mother in care proceedings where the eldest child of the family presented at hospital with injuries consistent with sexual abuse. The child had made no allegations. Medical evidence from a number of experts was required to consider potential medical explanations for the child's presentation, to include, in particular, whether her diagnosis of cystic fibrosis had any impact on her presentation.

Re L [2026] – representing a mother in care proceedings led by Gemma Taylor KC. The matter was listed for 20-day finding of fact hearing before HHJ Loveridge. The allegations related to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and vulnerable young adults by the parents.

Manchester City Council v M, F and others [2026] EWFC 75 – representing a father, led by Andrew Norton KC, facing allegations of sexual abuse of a former partner's child and historic rape of an adult, where he was identified as the alleged perpetrator following DNA analysis. The case required a detailed analysis of DNA evidence as well as challenge to a poorly conducted ABE interview of the child.

Re B [2025] – second junior counsel to Fiona Holloran. Representing the surviving child of a family where it is the youngest child of the family died after suffering a serious head injury. Hayden J found that the mother had caused the death of the child. The mother was subsequently charged with murder and is awaiting trial.

Re H [2024] – representing the child, led by Michael Jones KC, in a fact-finding hearing before HHJ Edge involving catastrophic brain injuries, bruising and fractures, sustained by an 8-month-old baby. Additionally, the child suffered eye injuries which were alleged by the medical evidence to be caused by the deliberate and recurrent application of a caustic substance to the eye, or scraping of the eye, by the perpetrator.

Re: T (Fact-Finding : Second Appeal) [2023] EWCA Civ 475 – Led by Barbara Connolly KC. Representing the children on a second appeal against the decision of HHJ Greensmith to overturn findings of sexual abuse made a Deputy District Judge in care proceedings. Appeal allowed and findings restored.

Re L [2021] – representing a father in a 16 day fact finding and final hearing before HHJ O'Leary. The father was facing serious allegations of physical and sexual abuse of his 4 year old daughter and her mother and the child had been removed from his care by the Local Authority. After hearing evidence, the court made no findings against the father and found that the mother had exaggerated comments made by the child and encouraged her to make allegations. At the end of the lengthy proceedings, the child was returned to the care of the father after 16 months of being in foster care. The court allowed very limited, and professionally supervised, contact between the child and the mother due to an assessed high risk of future false allegations.

Re L [2020] – representing a father on an application made by local authority foster carers for an Adoption Order relating to his daughter. The mother applied for discharge of the Care Order upon receipt of the foster carers' application. During the course of the proceedings, the mother was assessed, as was a paternal family member put forward by the father. The paternal family member's assessment was positive. The case involved interesting legal argument about whether and when adoptive care plans should be approved when a family member has been positively assessed. Expert evidence was required and challenged at the final hearing. Ultimately, whilst the court found that all parties had acted in good faith and showed enormous dignity throughout the process, it could not approve a plan whereby all legal ties were severed through adoption when positive family assessments had been completed, notwithstanding the length of time the child had been placed with the foster carers (3 years) and the lack of relationship with the family member. The court dismissed the application for an adoption order and approved the Local Authority's revised final plan to move the child into the care of the paternal aunt under the existing care order. The case further involved cultural implications and discussion as the child was black Caribbean, placed with white foster carers, whereas the family placement offered a closer cultural

match.

Re B [2020] – second junior counsel to Rehana Begum in a 13-day finding of fact hearing in the Family Court at Manchester, representing an intervenor accused of causing extensive injuries to a 5-month-old baby. The court found the child’s mother responsible for all of the injuries and made no adverse findings against the intervenor.

Re H [2019] – representation of an intervenor in care proceedings at a seven-day finding of fact hearing in the Family Court in Manchester. The client was facing allegations of the most serious nature, including the deliberate burning of the subject child.

