

Name

Melissa Vaughan

Year of Call

2014

Areas of Law

Family Law, Family Law Act Proceedings, Mediation

Overview

Melissa is a barrister specialising in family law, with a focus on both private and public children proceedings. She is known for her meticulous preparation, measured approach, and ability to build strong professional relationships with clients and solicitors alike. She is a popular choice for her approachable and conscientious advocacy.

Education

- BPTC, BPP Leeds, 2014
- Accredited Mediator in civil and commercial disputes, 2014
- LLB University of Leeds, 2012

Further Information

In private law, Melissa has represented parents in child arrangements disputes, including applications for prohibited steps orders, specific issue orders, and parental responsibility. She has significant experience in cases involving complex disputes, findings of fact, same-sex relationships, vulnerable parents, mental health difficulties, parental alienation, and cases with Rule 16.4 Guardians. She is also experienced in cross-examining vulnerable witnesses.

In public law proceedings, Melissa regularly appears in the Family Court on behalf of parents, grandparents, guardians, intervenors, and local authorities, often in complex multi-day hearings. She has dealt with cases involving neglect, drug and alcohol abuse, non-accidental injuries, and issues of radicalisation.

She is also frequently instructed on Family Law Act applications, including non-molestation and occupation orders. Melissa is accredited under the Direct Access scheme, allowing her to accept instructions directly from the public.

In addition to her family practice, Melissa is an accredited mediator in civil and commercial disputes.