

JOHN PAUL CREGAN

Year called 1990

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OVERVIEW

“Outstanding” barrister John Paul is highly regarded for his professionalism in cases with sensitive issues.

John Paul has extensive experience across a broad range of cases in private law proceedings representing parents and children. He specialises in complex matters involving parental alienation and high conflict and intractable disputes which often involve cross-allegations of psychological and domestically abusive behaviours requiring a fact find hearing.

An experienced and adept trial advocate, he is effective in presenting and pursuing his client’s case. John Paul is accessible, approachable, and happy to advise both lay and professional clients. He particularly welcomes being consulted early in proceedings to guide clients through all stages of what is often a stressful and anxiety-provoking process. His strength is to identify the real issues and to focus on and highlight these avoiding becoming caught up in tactical distractions. John Paul’s calm, sensible and courteous but determined manner is widely regarded and appreciated by judges he appears before.

PRACTICE AREAS

Private Law Children

Finance and Private Client

Public Law Children

EXPERIENCE

John Paul Cregan has practised exclusively in family law throughout his career spanning private law, public law, and financial remedies.

Specialising in complex high conflict private law intractable disputes particularly involving child arrangements and relocation, John Paul is skilled in getting to grips with and handling cases where there is a complex history of previous proceedings, cross-allegations, parental alienation, hostility, and obstruction.

He is frequently instructed by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) and Rule 16.4 Guardians to represent children who are joined as parties in protracted private law proceedings which feature a range of contentious issues especially allegations of coercive and controlling behaviour.

Recent cases include:

- 11-day fact-finding in a private law dispute where child joined as a party involving cross allegations of alienation and sexual abusive behaviours.
- 5-day fact-finding hearing in a private law case involving cross-allegations made by the parents of physical abuse, parental alienation mental health issues.
- 6-day fact-finding hearing in private law proceedings involving cross allegations of coercive controlling behaviour physical and emotional abuse and alienation.
- Successfully argued to reopen previous findings made in a private law matter within subsequent proceedings.
- 4-day final hearing representing grandparents seeking a child arrangements order in the face of implacable opposition from the mother.
- Frequently represents parents in private law cases where issues of mental health and or alcohol misuse raised to obstruct or impede time spent arrangements.

John Paul is also instructed in international child abduction matters.

John Paul's work representing parents and children in public law proceedings includes serious cases involving complex physical and emotional issues. His wide experience enables him to manage voluminous papers, cut through significant police and medical disclosure and identify the core evidence required to present and make a successful case for his client.

He welcomes instructions for these cases through the Direct Access Scheme.

John Paul frequently speaks at conferences such as:

- Coram Conference 2023
- More recently delivered webinar on coercive and controlling behaviour to Gordon + Slater, Pennington Manches Cooper.
- He also regularly writes case summaries for Family Law Weekly

TESTIMONIALS

A Father who wrote to John Paul to thank him for his representation in a Children's Private Law case. "Firstly, I wanted to email anyway to say thank you so much. Far be it from me to be able to judge you! But I did think you were superb, and I am genuinely very grateful for that".

The client (a mother) and the client's relative wrote to thank John Paul "for the very professional way you worked X's case with its many delicate issues ...thank you for your excellent work and strong efforts of achievement throughout the whole day and beyond usual court functioning time... ". The client's relative noted that through John Paul's efforts, the mother was allowed to continue to exercise her parental responsibility to her children through contact, contact that had been interrupted and sporadic for years until John Paul's representation of the mother at court.

A solicitor who wrote to John Paul to thank him for his representation on behalf of a client seeking a private law order saying, "the client was very happy and said you were outstanding."

CASES

[A Local Authority v EL & Ors \[2022\] EWFC 163 \(23 November 2022\)](#)

[R \(no order for contact after findings of domestic abuse\) \[2020\] EWFC B57 \(03 December 2020\)](#)

[T \(A Child\) \[2019\] EWFC B26 \(06 May 2019\)](#)

[M \(Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order: No Order on Application\), Re \[2019\] EWHC 527 \(Fam\) \(18 February 2019\)](#)

[S \(wardship\), Re \[2016\] EWFC B1 \(06 January 2016\)](#)

[Redbridge v S \(article 15 transfer\) \[2015\] EWFC B122 \(17 July 2014\)](#)

[P \(A Child: Use of S.20 CA 1989\) \[2014\] EWFC 775 \(16 December 2014\)](#)

[M \(Children\), Re \[2014\] EWHC 667 \(Fam\) \(05 March 2014\)](#)

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

BCL University College, Cork, Ireland

MA Text and Performance Studies, RADA, London

Called to the Irish Bar at King's Inns, Dublin.

Family Law Bar Association

Middle Temple
