

# James Tillyard KC

Call: 1978 | Silk: 2002

"James is approachable and always available for a chat about a case. He goes the extra mile and will assist on a pro bono basis when needed. He is very knowledgeable on the medical aspects of a case."

Chambers UK 2025



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James Tillyard KC is a leading family law silk with a long-established practice in complex and contentious cases involving children. He represents parents, children and local authorities in both public and private law proceedings, and appears regularly in the High Court and Court of Appeal.

Jim is known for his clear, measured advocacy and deep experience in cases involving complex medical evidence. He has acted in proceedings concerning non-accidental head injuries (NAHI), shaken baby syndrome, poisoning, rare bone diseases and child death. His understanding of technical expert evidence and his ability to distil complexity make him particularly sought after in such matters.

He has a strong track record in cases with international elements, including international adoption, Hague Convention proceedings, and cross-border relocation disputes. He is also recognised for his expertise in cases involving children and parents with disabilities, with a particular interest in learning difficulties, section 17 assessments, and the rights of disabled individuals within care proceedings.

As an appellate specialist, Jim frequently appears in the Court of Appeal, instructed to challenge or defend decisions in complex or novel areas of family law. He is trusted by those who instruct him for his clarity, care and unshakeable focus on achieving the best outcome for the child.

## Expertise

### Family & Childcare

Jim is a leading children law silk with particular expertise in complex medical evidence, including non-accidental injury and child death. He acts in serious public and private law cases involving parents, children and local authorities, and is regularly instructed in matters raising international, medical, or jurisdictional issues.

### Family Dispute Resolution

Jim is frequently instructed in cases with an international dimension, including Hague Convention proceedings, adoption, and relocation. He also has particular expertise in cases involving children or parents with disabilities. His clear, calm approach and strong appellate experience make him especially trusted in resolving complex or contested family law issues.

## Appointments

- Bencher of the Middle Temple (2014)
- Deputy High Court Judge (Section 9) (2004)
- King's Counsel (2002)
- Recorder (1998)

## Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association

## Publications

- The role of the medical expert in care proceedings

## Notable and reported cases

- Powys County Council v AB & Ors [2024] EWHC 3207
- L-S [2024] EWCA Civ
- The County Council of the City and County of Cardiff v Scully-Hicks [2016] EWFC 79
- T-S (Children) [2019] EWCA Civ 742
- R v Egan [1992] 4 All ER 470
- Wychavon DC v NRA [1993] 2 All ER 440
- NRA v Wright Eng Co Ltd [1994] 4 All ER 281
- R v D [1996] 2 WLR 1
- Environment Agency v Short [1998] EWHC Admin 743
- Marlow Child and Family Services Ltd v DPP [1999] 1 FLR 997
- Re S [2001] Fam Law 505
- Re E (A Child) [2001] All ER (D) 208 (Jul)
- Cole v Secretary of State [2003] EWHC 1789 (Admin)

- Re BR and C (Care: Duty of Disclosure: Appeals) [2002] EWCA Civ 1825
- Re L (Care: Assessment: Fair Trial) [2002] 2 FLR 730
- D v Secretary of State for Health [2002] EWCST 118
- Re J [2003] 1 FLR 114
- LM v Medway Council [2007] 1 FLR 1698
- A County Council v MF [2008] EWHC 3320 (Fam)
- Re K [2009] EWCA Civ 987
- Re MW [2010] 1 FLR 1093
- Bridgend CBC v GM [2013] 1 FLR 987
- Controlled Demolition Group v Lane & Ors [1991] UKEAT 418\_91\_2907
- City and County of Swansea v MB [2014] EWHC 2842 (Fam)
- Donovan v Gwent Toys Ltd [1990] 1 All ER 1018 (HL)
- Re C (Children) [2016] EWCA Civ 374
- Carmarthenshire CC v Y & Ors [2017] EWFC 36