

Arron Thomas

Year of Call: 2005



Arron has developed a strong reputation for representing the best interests of children within care proceedings.

Arron has been involved in some of the most significant cases arising from the Greater Manchester area over the past decade (please see significant cases).

Known as a thorough and charismatic advocate, Arron works tenaciously to secure the best outcome for his client and for the children. Arron has a particular interest in non-accidental injury cases and cases involving FII (Fabricated and Induced Illness). Arron closely follows the law relating to children and delivers seminars and lectures to instructing solicitors and other professionals working with children.

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Education

St Bede's College, Manchester
A level Politics and Government score within top 5 in England and Wales
University of Nottingham LLB Law (Hons) 2:1
Bar Vocational Course at Manchester
Lincoln's Inn Harwicke Scholarship Award
Lincoln's Inn Bernard Sunley Scholarship Award

Notable Cases

LCC v R and M – sixteen day finding of fact in a complex factitious illness case before King J on behalf of a father
SCC v H – before Parker J sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice on behalf of the child in a murder case in which the Local Authority were proposing to place the children with the murderer's parents

BMBC v S – ten finding of fact and five day final hearing before Her Honour Judge Penna on behalf of the Local Authority. Following the breakdown of an adoptive placement a child made disclosures of physical and psychological abuse against the adoptive mother (instructed by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council).
LCC v W and R – Early involvement in a case later reported as an authority dealing with head injury caused by low-level falls (instructed by Lynsey Rees at Douglas Clift, Lancaster). Reported as *Lancashire County Council v R and W [2013] EWHC 3064 (fam)*.

LCC v C – Her Honour Judge Singleton QC granted the parents' applications for declarations

under the Human Rights Act 1998 and used the case to issue guidance in respect of the proper use of powers of police protection Reported in Family Law Week as *A-W & C (Children) [2013] EWHC B41 (Fam)*. *SoTCC v T* - Led by Susan Grocott QC in the High Court, Family Division sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice in proceedings involving the catastrophic injury of a 6 week old child before Mrs Justice Pauffley (instructed by Rebecca Hughes at Dicksons Solicitors, Stoke on Trent). Reported in October [2014]. *RMBC v P* - acting on behalf of the mother of a vulnerable young person before Mrs Justice Russell sitting in the High Court, Family Division, at the Royal Courts of Justice. The question for the court was whether a court can invoke its inherent jurisdiction to accommodate a seventeen year old child where a care order was not in force. The court was also charged with the responsibility of considering the impact of DOLS and the decision in Cheshire West upon secure accommodation cases. *Re N-D* - led by Susan Grocott QC, I act on behalf of the local authority. Her Honour Judge Penna granted the Local Authority's application for care and placement orders after a nine-day hearing. The mother appealed. Reported as [2014] EWCA Civ 1226. *CCC v Q* reported as (Injuries to Infant with Bone Disorder) [2015] EWFC 59 - Jackson J gave guidance as to the correct approach in cases where there is a recognised bone disorder and allegations of Non-Accidental Injuries. Led by Julia Cheetham QC, the judge was persuaded to make no findings against the father. *Re C* [2016] - Manchester Civil Justice Centre: A case involving one of the most infamous criminal in Manchester's recent history. Successful outcome in highly unusual circumstances. *Re N* [2016-2017) - Manchester Civil Justice Centre: A case involving a mother in witness protection under the supervision of UKPPS. The client was sought after by dangerous criminals of national notoriety. This case dealt with issues of public interest immunity, and one adult in the case eventually blew his cover on national television. *Re M* [2018/19] - Manchester Civil Justice Centre and Royal Courts of Justice Before Mr Justice Hayden, I acted for the Children on a case involving sexual abuse of children and inter sibling sexual abuse against leading counsel from Manchester and London. *Re S* [2019]: Manchester Civil Justice - 16 day fact-finding hearing for the Children involving allegations of deliberate infliction of Non Accidental Head Injury with a possible 'unknown yet significant' medical cause.

November 2019: Manchester Civil Justice Centre- *Re S* - Before Mr Justice McDonald, I acted for the Children in a four week case involving allegations of factitious illness including the need to assist the judge with issues of professional malpractice on the part of those working with ASD symptoms in the education sector.