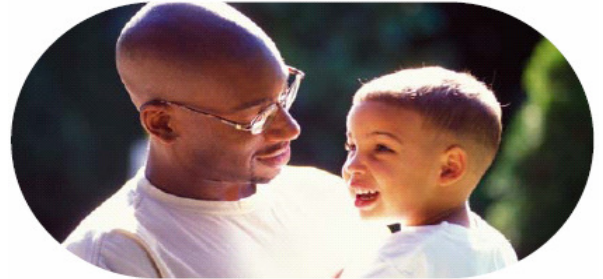


Child Welfare Issues & Adoption

Child welfare and adoption matters require the help of specialist lawyers who have experience in dealing with such difficult and sensitive cases. Stephensons has an excellent reputation in this field. Our team includes the North West's leading childcare lawyers. At all times a child's welfare is our priority. We combine our legal knowledge, skills and experience - which are second to none - with a sensitive and caring approach.



We can help with

Care proceedings

Care proceedings are begun by social services when they consider a child to be at risk. We can help parents and other relatives, or even the child themselves, challenge care orders. We also act on behalf of local authorities seeking to protect vulnerable children.

Child welfare disputes

We can fight for contact rights on behalf of parents or other family members and will deal with Social Services where appropriate. However, we are firm believers in finding amicable resolutions where possible, to minimise the upset felt by children.

Parental responsibility, residence and contact

Parental rights and responsibilities concern the duties and influence a parent has in the upbringing of their child. These can be complex, especially if the child's father and mother were unmarried at the time the child was born. We can help establish what their rights are, help fight for ongoing contact with the child and apply for parental responsibility and if necessary residence.

Adoption

We provide advice and assistance in structuring all kinds of adoption arrangements. These may be private adoptions or those initiated by local authorities or other agencies. We handle all cases sensitively and take a long-term view of the welfare of the adopted children. We are the legal adviser for After Adoption, the largest national provider of adoption support services.

Michael Devlin Partner

Member of Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme. Listed in the Chambers Directory to the Profession as a 'leader in the field'.



Amanda Rimmer Partner

Member of Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme. Member of Family Law Accreditation Scheme (Advanced).



Andrew Mountain Partner

Specialises in children law. A member of Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme.



Donna Roberts Associate

Deals with all aspects of children law. A member of Child Concern and Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme.



Key facts about us

- We have one of the largest family teams in the North West, comprising more than 35 dedicated specialists across all our offices.
- We are recognised as specialists in the field of adoption and childcare and are consistently ranked as leaders in independent legal surveys.
- We have decades of experience of working for parents, children's guardians, foster carers and local authorities. This gives us a unique insight into tackling adoption and childcare issues from all angles.
- We are one of the few firms with the strength in depth to handle every type of case. Besides the services featured, we can help with child abduction, domestic violence and child protection issues.
- We take a rounded view, drawing on the expertise of a whole range of experienced and knowledgeable professionals to pursue your case and provide a complete support network.

Nick Hodson Associate

Deals with all aspects of children law. A member of Child Concern and Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme.



Joanne Hurcombe Associate

Deals with all aspects of children law. A member of Child Concern and Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme.



Affiliations

We are active and leading members of key associations to enhance our ability to help you:

- Solicitors Regulation Authority Children Panel Accreditation Scheme
- Child Concern
- Reunite Panel
- Family Forum Committee

Contact us

Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information on any aspect of our work. Our friendly team is always on hand to help and advise you. We can be contacted directly on:

01942 777777

www.stephensons.co.uk

About Stephenson's

Stephenson's provides legal advice for all aspects of your personal or business life. By understanding your circumstances and keeping the red-tape to ourselves, we focus on efficiently delivering what you need, when you need it. Operating from a number of regional locations, we rank among the top 100 UK law firms and are one of the fastest growing practices in the north west. With over 400 staff, you can trust our specialists to take care of things on your behalf, always putting your best interests first. So, for legal advice and action the way you want it, just turn to Stephenson's.