

# WESTGATE CHAMBERS

## Michael Valks

Barrister



*"I instructed Mr Valks as a direct access barrister to represent my case in the family courts. I was particularly impressed with how quickly he got to grips with my case and remained emphatic throughout the whole process. He provided real, honest and pragmatic advice. During the representation, he was able to very skilfully persuade the judge on such matters. The strategy he used to articulate points was timely and flawless. I am sure because of this we succeeded in our outcomes. I have instructed Mr Valks again for my final court hearing and I look forward to working with him again to help me in such matters."*

Michael is a family law specialist with over 17 years' experience at the Bar. He is known for his friendly and approachable manner and for his careful preparation of cases and powerful advocacy.

Michael is a leading practitioner in his field with considerable knowledge and experience in all aspects of Care Proceedings and Private Law.

### Care Proceedings

Michael is regularly instructed on behalf of parents, grandparents and Guardians in complex care cases involving allegations of non-accidental injury, sexual abuse, fabricated illness, chronic neglect, substance misuse, DOLS applications and non-disclosure applications in the County and High Courts.

### Private Law/Child Arrangements

Michael is regularly instructed in cases concerning Child Arrangements (disputes as to where the child/ren should live/time to be spent with the other parent/grandparent), Specific Issue Orders, Prohibited Steps Orders, cases involving allegations of domestic abuse of all types, including controlling and coercive behaviour, as well as removal from the jurisdiction and parental alienation.

### Direct Access

Michael is able to accept Direct access instructions.

Year of Call: 1994

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#### Core Practice Areas:

Family, Care Proceedings, Private Law

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CHAMBERS**

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### Achievements, appointments and memberships

- Member of Family Law Bar Association
- Law (LLB Hons) (2.1) Buckingham University
- Bar School (London)

### Family barrister Michael Valks' most notable cases include:

**Re F (minors)** Care Proceedings: contact, Human Rights and s34(4) CA 22.6.00.

Times Law Reports and **Re R** [2001] 2 FLR 1 358 CA.

**Re G** Michael was instructed to advise the Guardian in the leading House of Lords authority which provided clarity in respect of the complex issues surrounding applications under s.38(6) of the Children Act 1989 in relation to the correct approach to be taken when considering applications for residential assessments of parents with their children.