

POST OUTLINE - Childcare Lawyer

Grade: 10

Date created: January 2026

About the Job:

A Childcare Lawyer within Legal Services Lincolnshire is expected to provide high quality, responsive and cost-effective legal services to our main client, Children's Services Directorate, Lincolnshire County Council.

The nature of the work is often fast paced and requires the ability to think on your feet. As you are usually the Applicant in the court proceedings you will need to demonstrate confidence in your ability as you will need to drive cases to resolution and comply with strict timetables.

The ideal Candidate will be a qualified Solicitor, Barrister or Legal Executive authorised to conduct litigation under the Legal Services Act 2007, who has a thorough understanding and working knowledge of public law childcare proceedings and be confident in undertaking advocacy.

The successful candidate will be required to be flexible, customer focused, a team player and able to apply skills innovatively and proactively. Good levels of IT ability and confidence are essential.

It is essential that:-

- You are a qualified Solicitor, Barrister or Legal Executive authorised to conduct litigation under the Legal Services Act 2007.
- You have a good understanding and working knowledge of the Children Act 1989, Children and Adoption Act 2002 and other associated legislation and statutory guidance within children's social care.
- You have experience in conducting Childcare Public Law proceedings pursuant to the Public Law Outline and are confident in undertaking advocacy and willing to develop further into this role.
- You must also be able to demonstrate good literacy, IT skills, good communication skills and legal drafting ability.

Previous experience of local government is desirable but not essential.

The successful candidate will be required to be flexible, customer focused, a team player and able to apply skills innovatively and proactively.

Specific Duties include:

- Handling a caseload of public law childcare matters, both pre-proceedings and within proceedings and to work in accordance with the Public Law Outline.

- Providing oral and written legal advice to the client department, including to Heads of Service and Assistant Director level, on all matters relating to the Authority's duties in relation to safeguarding children and regulated services.
- Drafting applications, statements and any practice direction documentation.
- Conducting advocacy within the Family Court before all levels of the judiciary, on both contested and non-contested hearings.
- Playing an active role in developing and delivering training to the client department and members of the Council.

Special Conditions:

- To be able to travel outside the office as required.
- Ability to work flexibly and, on occasions, beyond the normal contracted hours in order to meet the business needs of the service.
- To attend the office on the team's office day and such other days as may be required to meet business need. We operate a hybrid working arrangements system.