

Duration: 1 day

Maximum number of delegates: 20

Target Audience

The course is aimed at anyone working in Children & Family social care, Education, or Healthcare who may come into contact with families caught up in complex and upsetting legal proceedings.

Outline:

This is a one-day course for the benefit of professionals from a non-legal background who wish to gain an understanding of the law and legal proceedings relating to families and children.

It is frequently the case that professionals, particularly those working in education, healthcare and social services, come into close contact with families caught up in complex and upsetting legal proceedings. Be it a divorce, a dispute concerning children, or a relationship ruined by domestic violence, the impact upon the individual can be immense and professionals are invariably in the "front line" in dealing with the distress associated with this.

In order to assist those professionals, this course is designed to provide an explanation of the legal framework within which family disputes are commonly addressed. It explains how the court system works, the basic principles of the law, the different types of applications that come before the court, the role of judges, lawyers and witnesses, the timescales involved and how courts come to make the decisions that they make. The course also aims to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions associated with family law.

Learning outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course, participants will have gained a good working knowledge of the family law system and a proper understanding of the process within which their clients are involved. This will enable participants to provide their clients with a high standard of informed support and understanding.

The course consists of four sections:

- Divorce - proceedings, money and the common law marriage
- Children – residence and contact
- Personal protection – injunctions and occupation orders
- Child protection – local authorities, guardians and care proceedings

Divorce

- Who gets divorced?
- Why and how? Whose fault is it?
- Which court?
- Who gets the money?
- How long does it take?
- Common law marriage.
- What about the kids?

Children

- Where do they live?
- Contact
- How does the court decide?
- What's a CAFCASS officer?
- Who pays?

Personal protection

- Keeping safe and injunctions
- Who stays in the home?
- The police and domestic violence
- The criminal courts
- Prison and how to get there
- Violence and children

Child protection

- Children in need
- Getting help
- The local authority and investigations
- Care proceedings
- Neglect
- Violence and sexual abuse
- Care orders, adoption and everything in between
- Children and police interviews
- Feedback and discussion

About the trainer:

ANDREI SZERARD was a qualified barrister for 27 years, specialising in family law at 3 Dr Johnson's Buildings, Temple. He has practised in all areas of criminal and family law, conducting cases at the Old Bailey, the Court of Appeal and the High Court in London. He has extensive experience of, and interest in, child protection and is a highly popular and sought after trainer, combining his extensive legal experience and knowledge with an innovative and stimulating training style.