



SPECIALIST CHILDREN LAWYERS

HALL BROWN

Family Law

WHO WE ARE



Hall Brown is a boutique family law firm, offering best-in-class advice on a full range of family law services.

Hall Brown is an award-winning boutique family law firm based in Manchester, London and Sheffield. We specialise in divorce and civil partnership dissolutions, financial settlements, issues relating to children, unmarried couples and cohabitation issues, pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements, prioritisation of children's well-being, domestic abuse cases, and surrogacy and adoption

People are at the very heart of all we do. We are devoted to our clients, ensuring we provide honest, straight-talking advice, with understanding and empathy.

Our team are instrumental in providing this exceptional service and value for our clients. Therefore, every person at Hall Brown, from Partner to Personal Assistant has been handpicked in order to provide clients with the highest level of legal expertise and impeccable service.

We understand that exceptional service, support and guidance is vital for clients at what can often be the most stressful and traumatic period in their lives. For us, this means being accessible whenever our clients require us, regardless of the day of the week or the time of the day.

Our aim is always to deliver the best possible value at reasonable hourly rates and the swiftest, smoothest possible resolution to family law issues.

SURROGACY



Essential facts and vital support.

Hall Brown's Children Law team offers expert advice on the essential legal issues associated with starting or adding to a family via surrogacy, whether through a domestic or international surrogacy arrangement.

We know how challenging the process can be and understand that, just as no two families are the same, those embarking on the surrogacy process need support tailored to their unique circumstances at every stage – before conception, during a pregnancy and after their child has been born.

Surrogacy law is complex and the process is not always entirely straightforward, so it's important to obtain legal advice before you start out.

Surrogacy Explained.

Surrogacy is the practice by which a woman (the 'surrogate') becomes pregnant with a child on behalf of another family or individual (known legally as 'the intended parent(s)').

There are two types of surrogacy:

1. 'Traditional' – if one of the surrogate's own eggs and the sperm of the intended father is used; or
2. 'Host' – whereby the surrogate has no genetic link to the foetus due to the use of IVF to implant the egg and sperm of intended parents or donors.

In the UK, surrogacy is governed by two pieces of legislation – the Surrogacy Act 1985 and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 – although the Law Commission has recently proposed that further changes be made to the existing process.

Whilst surrogacy is perfectly legal in the UK, 'commercial surrogacy' – surrogacy for the purpose of commercial gain – is banned.

Guiding you through the process.

At Hall Brown, we can explain and guide you through the surrogacy process in a sensitive, clear and concise way.

If your surrogate lives abroad and you are therefore embarking on an international surrogacy arrangement and your child is going to be born abroad, various additional factors will need to be considered and addressed such as how parenthood is legally determined in that country, immigration issues and the applying for a Parental Order here in England and Wales.

Becoming a legal parent.

In order for intended parents to become the legal parents of a child born as the result of a surrogacy arrangement (here or abroad) they need to obtain from the court something which is known as a Parental Order. As matters stand in England and Wales, a Parental Order can only be obtained after the child has been born. If a "pre-birth order" is granted in a foreign court this will not be recognised in England and Wales. It is important to understand that a surrogacy agreement in any form is not legally binding here. There cannot be a transfer of legal parenthood from the surrogate to the intended parent/s without a Parental Order.

Surrogacy is an evolving area of law. For example, on 3 January 2019, parental orders became available to single parents as well as couples. The Law Commission published further provisional surrogacy law reform proposals in June 2019 (<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/document/surrogacy-consultation/>) and their final report is expected in 2022. Given these developments, it is vital you obtain up to date advice from a specialist solicitor if you are considering adding to your family via a surrogacy arrangement.

OUR PEOPLE

CHILDREN FAMILY LAW TEAM

Every member of the Hall Brown Children Law team has been carefully selected to ensure we provide clients with a truly fantastic service, a no-nonsense approach and the best possible outcome.

Our lawyers are all members of Resolution, an organisation committed to non-confrontational solutions to divorce, separation and other family law issues.

Meet The Co-Founders:



James Brown and Sam Hall co-founded Hall Brown in 2016. Since inception, they have led the company to achieve phenomenal growth and great success in five years alone.

Both James and Sam share a wealth of experience and knowledge to do with family law.

James has expertise in all aspects of family law but specialises in divorce involving complex financial issues. He is named as a leading expert in the independent directory Chambers and Partners and a leading individual in Legal 500.

Sam is a renowned lawyer, specialising in every aspect of family law. He has been singled out by the Spears' directory as being in the top 10 family lawyers and more recently in CityWealth's top 20 family lawyers. On both occasions, he was the only solicitor ranked outside of London.

Head of Children Law Team



KATIE WELTON-DILON

Katie has specialised in family law from the outset of her career. She has become known for her knowledge, passion and experience of dealing with cases involving children. Katie joined Hall Brown to head their specialist children law team.

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0161 804 9718

Children Law Team



EMMA DEWHURST
Associate Solicitor

Emma is part of the children team in Manchester and London, specialising in child arrangements disputes, domestic and international relocation, abduction, domestic violence, surrogacy, adoption and other atypical family scenarios.

emma.dewhurst@hallbrown.co.uk
0203 927 4509
07548 706227

Children Law Team



CATHERINE BELL
Consultant

Catherine advises on all aspects of family law, specialising in the financial complexities of divorce and acting for high net worth individuals and advising on the separation of non-married couples. She also has experience in disputes relating to children.

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020 3927 4507
07935 757464

FAMILY LAW SPECIALISTS

Hall Brown offer best-in-class advice on the following range of family law services

We always recommend that early advice is taken where possible to help understand potential options and outcomes so that we can help you plan for your desired outcome.

▶ **DIVORCE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP DISSOLUTION**

Assuming a couple has been married for a year then they are entitled to obtain a divorce. However, for some couples, divorce is not the only option.

▶ **UNMARRIED COUPLES AND COHABITATION ISSUES**

If a couple are not married but plans to move in together, it is important to consider what will happen in the event that the relationship breaks down.

▶ **SEPARATION AGREEMENTS**

Some separating couples are simply not ready for a divorce to bring their marriage to an end or for a dissolution of their civil partnership. Others wish to avoid having to accuse their ex-spouse or partner of either adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

▶ **PRE-NUPTIAL AND POST-NUPTIAL AGREEMENTS**

If drafted properly and all the necessary criteria are satisfied, pre-nups can be a very useful tool to protect wealth and to provide both parties with a degree of certainty for the future.

▶ **ENFORCEMENT OF FINANCIAL ORDERS**

For some people, sadly, agreeing (or getting the court to order) the division of their assets is not the end of the process but the beginning.

▶ **FINANCIAL SETTLEMENTS**

When a couple separates, the finances can often be the most worrying and confusing area for them.

▶ **DOMESTIC ABUSE AND INJUNCTIONS**

It is a sad fact that sometimes relationships and their breakdown can involve or result in domestic violence. Domestic violence is not just physical, it can be emotional and/or psychological.

▶ **THE PRIORITY OF CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING**

Hall Brown's Children Law team has extensive experience supporting families through a wide range of often complex public and private law matters, including those concerned with surrogacy, adoption and care proceedings.

▶ **RESOLVING ISSUES RELATING TO CHILDREN**

When a relationship breaks down, many couples are able to agree where their children will live and how their time should be divided. For some, however, this can be one of the most difficult and upsetting issues between them.

▶ **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN**

This can be a complicated area and usually centres on the specific facts of the case. The needs of any child are a paramount consideration for the court as part of financial proceedings within the divorce process.

▶ **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND COLLABORATIVE LAW**

Alternative Dispute Resolution offers a range of other options to reach an agreement. We are dedicated to helping clients resolve disputes as amicably as possible. We have a team of highly skilled lawyers, who are trained collaborative professionals, arbitrators and mediators.

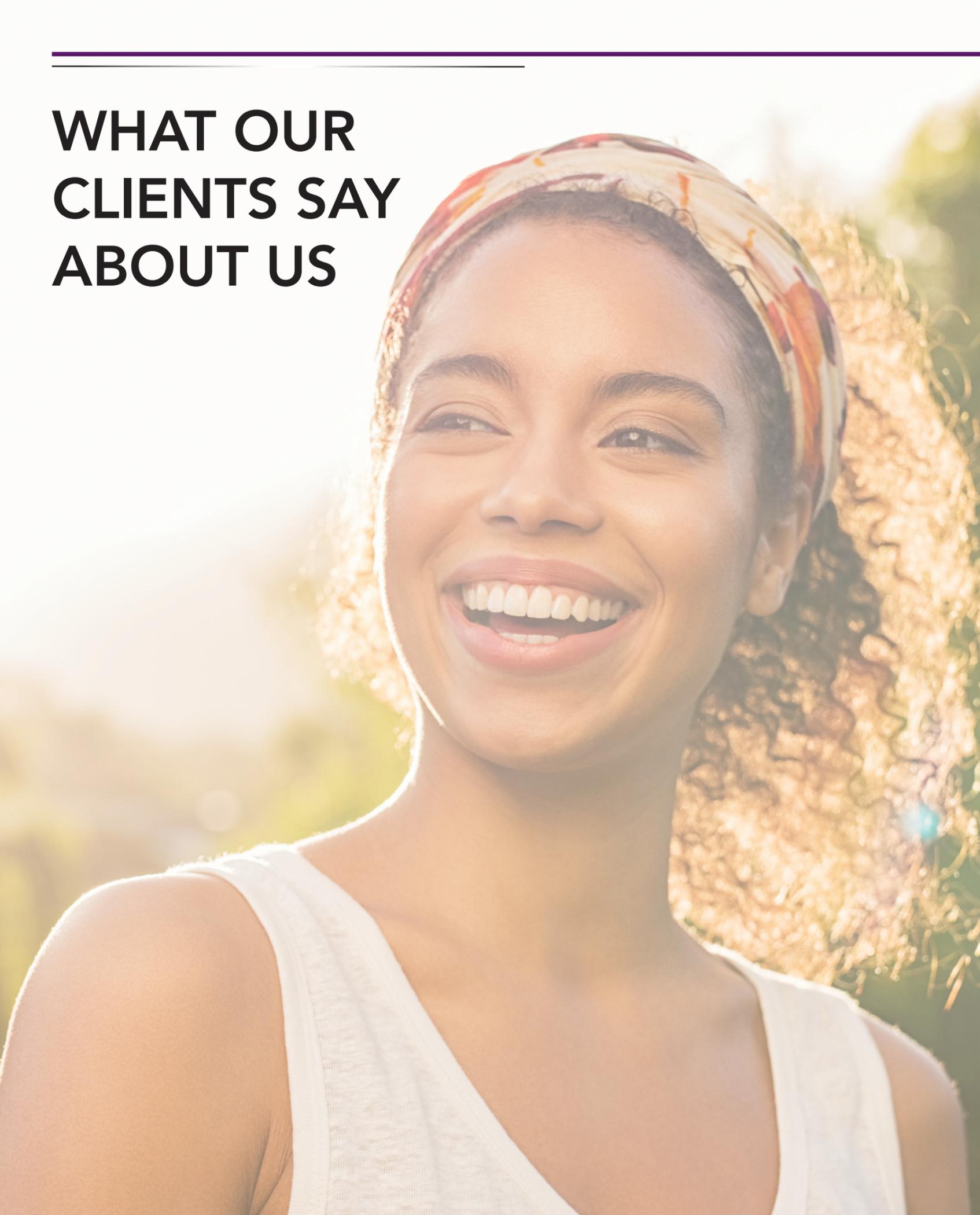
▶ **MEDIATION**

We are proud to offer mediation as a service to clients who are not advised by us, but who would benefit from expert help to make agreements about vital family issues.

▶ **INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CASES**

In a world where many chose to live and work overseas, the break-up of a couple with international assets or disputes over the arrangements for their children can add extra complexity. At Hall Brown, we can offer specialist advice from our team of lawyers highly experienced in international family law.

WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ABOUT US



“Thank you both for your support, kindness and dedication. You two are my rock and I’m so appreciative of that. I don’t know what I would have done without you. Thank you.”

Client Testimonial - Katie Welton-Dilon

“Her attention to detail, timely updates, managing of expectations and her general handling of my matter has been the greatest performance by a solicitor that I have ever had the privilege of witnessing firsthand”

Client Testimonial - Emma Dewhurst

“I have to say - besides your legal expertise, which is second to none, I would also like to add my sincere thanks for the kindness and support you’ve given me personally over recent years. You are a true star team”

Client Testimonial - Catherine Bell and Emma Dewhurst

“Simply the best in the North West. The most reliable and dynamic team of family lawyers...”

Legal 500 (2020/2021) - Hall Brown

AWARD-WINNING COMPANY

Hall Brown is an award-winning company, ranked in the top 20 family law firms in the UK

Committed to only the highest of standards and providing the very best service to clients has seen Hall Brown gain national acclaim. We have gained some prestigious titles since inception, including being named amongst The Times' 200 Best Law Firms in England and Wales, as well as being dubbed "simply the best in the North West" as a Tier One firm in the Legal 500 rankings.



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