



Legal Adoption & Fostering Forum Conference

The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 10 years on - where are we now?

Friday 23 June, 2017
Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee

Theme

The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act made some fundamental changes to the law in relation to adoption and permanence in Scotland. Our conference will provide those of us with an interest and involvement in this area of the law to review the legislation in terms of developments in case law, other legislation and practice. Our expert speakers will lead us through the complex aspects of adoption and permanence, sharing with us their experience and insight. We will gain a deeper and wider understanding of the process as a result of challenging our thinking and learning from each other. In the shifting sands of this fast-changing area of the law, a day dedicated to finding solid ground is essential for each of us.

Speakers will include:

Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull - appointed as the Sheriff Principal of Glasgow and Strathkelvin in 2016. Prior to this, he was a sheriff in the Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde, sitting predominantly at Greenock and Dumbarton Sheriff Courts having sat in different courts as a part-time sheriff from 2011 until 2014, when he became full-time. A graduate of the University of Strathclyde, he was admitted as a solicitor in 1988, working for A.C. White in Ayr and Levy & McRae in Glasgow before joining MacRoberts in 1993. He became a partner there in 1997, specialising in commercial and construction disputes and health and safety and environmental prosecutions, and served as the managing partner from 2011 to 2014.

Julian Aitken - MacKinnon Advocates - prior to calling at the bar, Julian was a solicitor in private practice for 18 years specialising in family and child law cases. He was an accredited specialist in child law from 2003 and was a Reporter to the Children's Panel; he is a graduate of Aberdeen University. Julian was junior counsel in the matter of EV (A Child) (No 2) (Scotland) [2017] UKSC 15 and has considerable experience of acting for birth families in cases involving the removal of children into care. He has a specialist interest in the impact of article 8 of the ECHR in compulsory care, adoption and permanence order proceedings. With many years of experience in cases concerning financial provision on divorce, cohabitant's claims, and applications to relocate abroad with children and, recently, forced marriage, Julian has a wide-ranging perspective on the law and its impact on children and families.

Linda Clark - has practiced as a solicitor for over 25 years and is a partner in the Perth based firm of AC Miller and Mackay Ltd. Her workload has an emphasis on representing clients in criminal trials including at jury level. She also undertakes a broad spectrum of civil work, particularly in relation to divorce, separation, child law and other family matters. She is frequently appointed by Perth Sheriff Court to prepare adoption and permanence. Linda is also a mother and will speak to the Conference about the adoption process from the other side of the fence, drawing on her own experience of adopting her son.

Gill Short - has been a Reporter to the Children's Panel for 30 years. She has practiced in area teams and in the Practice Team at SCRA Headquarters. She has been Practice Manager since 2004 and is responsible for developing best practice within the Organisation and offering training, advice and consultation to reporters. Gill will look at the interface between the Hearings and Court and discuss the Hearings' role during the permanence process.

East meets West - 2 solicitors who have up-to-date experience of the permanence process will discuss the practicalities of pursuing adoption by means of direct petition and by Permanence Order with Authority to Adopt. This will allow delegates to consider their own practice in terms of familiar and less familiar approaches.

Who should attend

This conference will be of interest to all professionals involved in child-care, fostering and adoption practice, including solicitors for local authorities and in private practice, advocates, social work professionals and managers, adoption and fostering panel members, curators *ad litem* and safeguarders, children's panel members, children's reporters, sheriffs and medical advisers.



**AFA SCOTLAND LEGAL ADOPTION & FOSTERING FORUM
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

*The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
10 years on - where are we now?*

Date: Friday 23 June, 2017
Time: 10.15am-4.30pm
Venue: Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee

DELEGATE INFORMATION

Name: _____
Position: _____
Organisation: _____
Address: _____
_____ Post Code: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Dietary/Disability Access Requirements: _____

PAYMENT METHOD

Billing Address/invoice: _____
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Purchase Order Number: _____
Please invoice: Remittance enclosed:
Cheque made payable to AFA Scotland

FEES

Member Rate: £190.00 + VAT Non-Member Rate: £230.00 + VAT
Individual Member Rate £170.00 + VAT

CANCELLATION POLICY

After receipt of written confirmation of place allocated	25% of fee
Cancellation between two and four weeks prior to the date	50% of fee
Cancellation between one week and two weeks prior to the date	75% of fee
Cancellation within one week of the date	100% of fee

Please return your completed form to:
Brenda Reilly, Business Support & Finance Manager
AFA Scotland, Conference House,
152 Morrison Street, The Exchange, Edinburgh EH3 8EB
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