



**Legal Adoption & Fostering Forum Conference**  
*Adoption, Permanence Orders and Kinship  
Care -  
finding the best options for our children*

Friday 22 June 2018  
Malmaison, Dundee 10.00am – 4.30pm

### **Theme**

There has never been a more interesting and challenging time to be involved in adoption and fostering nor has there been more need for informed discussion focussed on keeping the child at the centre of our policies and practice.

*Why do we still need adoption? Would something else do? What information should be presented to evidence the need for permanence away from home? Which is the best route to permanence to give the child the greatest chance of safety, security and certainty? What are the characteristics of kinship care orders and when will these be appropriate?* These are just some of the questions that we will seek to answer at this conference and will give delegates a chance to reflect on how the law is being interpreted and applied and to look at the options available to practitioners in planning for children and recognising the possible consequences of each course of action.

The day will be chaired by **Lynda J Brabender QC**, who specialises in family and child law and public law as it relates to children. We are extremely fortunate in the Speakers who will address the conference; each having gained a reputation for excellence in their own individual field of practice and their skill, experience and insight will provide delegates with a renewed understanding and enthusiasm in carrying out their work.

### **Speakers will include:**

#### **The Hon Lady Wise (Morag Wise) - Judge of the Supreme Courts**

Lady Wise is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and McGill University, Montreal. She qualified as a solicitor in 1989 and worked for Morton Fraser from 1989 to 1992, dealing in general civil litigation. She was called to the bar in 1993, working in civil litigation and specialising in family law. In 2005 she became a QC.

#### **John Simmonds OBE - Director of Policy, Research and Development, CoramBAAF**

John is a qualified social worker and has substantial experience in child protection, family placement and residential care settings. He is currently responsible for CoramBAAF's contribution to the development of policy and practice in social work, health, the law and research. He was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list 2015.

#### **Leigh Jolly - Social Work Manager, Corporate Parenting, Aberdeenshire Council**

Leigh has responsibility for Looked After Children and has worked in Children's Services for 20 years and has experience of working as a Children & Families Social Worker, Child Protection Manager and Children & Families Team Manager prior to taking up her current post in 2012. Leigh has recently led the multi-agency improvement work around reducing drift and delay in permanence planning for looked after children and just graduated from the Scottish Improvement Leader Course.

#### **Roger Mackenzie, Associate, Digby Brown, Solicitors, Edinburgh and Glasgow**

Roger joined Digby Brown Solicitors to establish a family law department in the summer of 2015. He regularly acts for clients outwith the UK, particularly in child relocation and contact cases and is also a trained collaborative lawyer.

### **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**

***Adoption, Permanence Orders and Kinship Care -  
finding the best option for our children***

Date: Friday 22 June 2018  
Time: Registration: 9.30am  
Conference: 10.00am – 4.30pm  
Venue: Malmaison, 44 Whitehall Crescent, Dundee DD1 4AY, Dundee

**DELEGATE INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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  
Tel: 0131 248 2403  
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