



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

Tips on how to survive the witness box
Confidence in Court:
Practical skills in coping with cross
examination

Presented by
Shefali Shah

Kingsley Knight Training
www.kingsleyknight.co.uk

About us



Kingsley Knight
Legal Training & Consultancy

- Kingsley Knight Training provides specialist
- legal and social care training.



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

Why are you here



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy





Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



W . 1 W 'ght



Tip 1- First tip

is about silence



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



Tip 1-

Do not remain silent



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



when asked a question



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

- Pause
- Think and
- Answer even if it to say you do not know the answer.

Do you have to go to court?



W. A. W. Knight





Kingsley Knight

g & Consultancy



Tip – Demystify the court process



Resources



Kingsley Knight
Legal Training & Consultancy

- Know the court process and practice.
- One way to arm yourself with knowledge is to consider resources.

Court Skills Guide is coming



Kingsley Knight

CommunityCare
informChildren

Vital information for professionals working with children and young people

SEARCH: Search ...

Adoption & fostering Asylum Disability Family support Health Looked-after children Management Mental health Safeguarding

Looked-after children

- Care leavers
- Care planning
- Care proceedings
- Children in residential care
- Children living away from home
- Kinship care
- Looked-after disabled children
- Permanence planning
- Placement
- Special guardianship

Improve the quality of social work decisions with Community Care Inform

Community Care Inform is the online resource that enables professionals to make robust, evidence-based decisions.

How can it help you and your organisation?

It is a key tool to help you achieve consistent quality of practice across your workforce, ensuring your teams are making confident, legally compliant decisions. What's more, it can help you address some of your key challenges:

- **Reduce risk:** ensures your workforce can make decisions that are consistently evidence based and both intelligible and defensible.
- **Save time and money:** practical information based on extensive research with frontline practitioners that's easy to digest and available when and where social workers need it.

SIGN IN

CommunityCare live16
London BSC 27-28 September
FREE TO ATTEND
FOR REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY STAFF
Norfolk County Council

TESTIMONIALS

“These articles have supported me in enhancing my knowledge”

— Claire Collins, child sexual exploitation coordinator

www.kingsleyknight.co.uk



Kingsley Knight

Browser window showing the website <http://www.kingsleyknight.co.uk/>. The address bar shows the URL and the page title "Kingsley Knight | Legal Training". The search bar contains "kingsley knight law ltd shefali shah". The page features a navigation menu with links: HOME, TRAINING, CONSULTANCY, ABOUT US, TESTIMONIALS, CONTACT US, LATEST NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES.

Telephone: 01908 969 039
Email: info@kingsleyknight.co.uk

KEY CHANGES TO FAMILY JUSTICE (ENGLAND)
Shefali Shah

COMING SOON: OUR LATEST E-BOOK ON ENHANCING YOUR COURT SKILLS
Sign up now to be the first to receive it.

First name
Surname
Email *

KEY CHANGES TO FAMILY JUSTICE (ENGLAND)
This guide is an invaluable resource for all those involved in the family justice process.

TRAINING
We offer high quality legal/specialist training to social workers, foster carers and other professionals.

CONSULTANCY
We offer legal advice, assistance and support to social workers, foster carers and other professionals.

TESTIMONIALS
Take the fear out of the court work and stand one of our best selling courses.

OPPORTUNITIES
Find out more about Kingsley Knight and watch a video of Shefali Shah speaking at a conference.



←

→

http://www.kingsleyknight.co.uk/kingsley-knight-news/

Community Care Inform Child...

how to take a screenshot on p...

Kingsley Knight Latest New...

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google kingsley knight law ltd shefali shah

Search

Share

More >>

Norton

kingsley knight law ltd shefali shah

Safe Search


THIS PAGE IS SAFE

ACCESS VAULT

SHARE VIA FACEBOOK


shefali shah

Secret recording by parents or service users, should I be worried?




This question was raised at a recent training event I was delivering on Law for Social Workers. It resulted in an interesting discussion, which I considered would benefit other social care professionals. What is the problem? These days anyone with a smartphone can covertly record. The recording itself may not ...

Get ahead with the legal update on the Children and Social Work Bill



Children and Social Work Bill- Controversial or Beneficial? You decide what this new legislation means to you. The government's new proposed legislation is intended to overhaul social work. Read on to see what this will mean for frontline workers, vulnerable children and care leavers. There are mixed views as to ...

Surviving the Witness Box



Does the mere thought of attending court make you fearful or anxious? Come and get some tips on how to become an impressive witness. Does the thought of having to go to court feel like an exciting prospect or does it make you feel uncomfortable, nervous or perhaps frightened, Are your ...

Social Work Evidence Template Update

Local authority social workers preparing court statements, are you up

Title *

First name *

Surname *

Company name *

Email *

SUBMIT

TOPICS

ADOPTION ADVICE BOOK CHILDREN

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT FAMILY

COURT FAMILY LAW JARGON LEGAL

BRIEFING LOCAL AUTHORITY

RECORDINGS REGULATIONS SOCIAL

CARE SOCIAL WORKERS SPECIAL

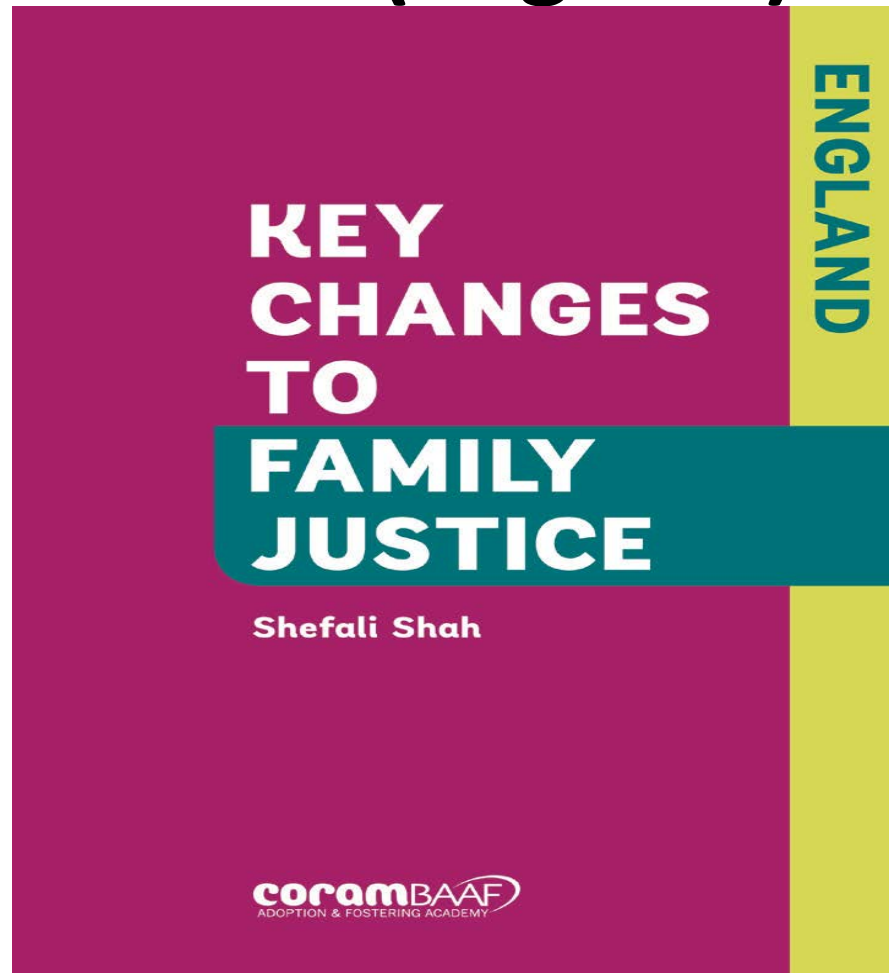
GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS THE CARE ACT

Key Changes to Family Justice (England)



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



Tip

How can you reduce the amount of time in the witness box



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



Tip – produce robust written evidence.



Kingsley Knight



Tip – produce robust written evidence.



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

- Avoid jargon
- Include relevant and significant information
- Avoid being narrative and be succinct.
- include analysis.

Tip - preparation



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

- File preparation

You need to be well planned

Is your file (paper or electronic) in good order and recordings up to date

- Personal presentation

Allow enough time to get there, get parked and go to the loo!

You need to present as neat, tidy and professional

Tip - In court



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

- How you walk
- How you sit
- How you speak
- How to answer your questions.

Role play



Kingsley Knight

Training & Consultancy



Promising to tell the truth



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

- Your duty as witness



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

Giving evidence



Kingsley Knight
Legal Training & Consultancy

- A, B, C, D and E (Final Hearing) 2015
“Social workers slammed for lying on oath”
- Oath/Affirmation- which one are you taking?

Welcome to the Family Court



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



Final tips



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

Social Workers you are experts

**Sir James Munby, President
of the Family Division**



- “One of the problems is that in recent years too many social workers have come to feel undervalued, disempowered and de-skilled.If the revised PLO is properly implemented one of its outcomes will, I hope, be to re-position social workers as trusted professionals playing the central role in care proceedings which too often of late has been overshadowed by our unnecessary use of and reliance upon other experts. “

The Impressive Witness



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy

Questions



Kingsley Knight

Legal Training & Consultancy



Goodbye



Kingsley Knight
Legal Training & Consultancy

A graphic with the words 'Thank You!' in a playful, bubbly font. The letters are multi-colored with patterns. The 'T' is orange and yellow. 'hank' is in green, purple, and orange. 'You!' is in green, red, and blue. There are several colorful flowers (pink, blue, purple) scattered around the text.

Enjoy the rest
of your day.