

The Alison Richards Memorial Seminar 2008



Alison Richards, Family Rights Group's wonderful and committed legal adviser died on 18th September 2005 aged 44 years old.

SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS: WHERE HAVE WE GOT TO? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

SPEAKERS:

His Honour Judge Donald Hamilton, Birmingham Family Courts
Irene Douse, Special Guardian

9th January 2008, London

Drinks 5.30 pm Presentation and discussion 6.30 pm

- VENUE:** The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3JS
- COST:** £45 (FREE for FRG Members), light refreshments will be provided
- RSVP:** To guarantee a place please RSVP before **14th December 2007**

Special Guardianship is a new legal order available to the court from 31st December 2005 to secure the long term placement of a child with someone other than their parents. Family Rights Group played a leading role in influencing the shape of the legislation. With funding from the Nuffield Foundation, Family Rights Group drew together the views of stakeholders, including families and professionals, to help inform the drafting of the Special Guardianship Regulations and Guidance and to develop information materials about special guardianship for family members.

HIS HONOUR JUDGE DONALD HAMILTON

Judge Donald Hamilton was called to the bar in 1969 and practiced as a barrister in Birmingham until he was appointed to the bench as a Circuit Judge in 1994. In 1996 he became the Designated Family Judge at the Birmingham Family Courts. In this role he deals with all areas of family work and he has been credited with an innovative and sensitive procedure for adoption work in the Birmingham County Court. In July 2008 Judge Hamilton will relinquish the post of Designated Family Judge and take a career break. To start with he plans a period of travel and study in Australia and New Zealand: after that he hopes to share his judge's perspective of care and adoption proceedings in the in-service training of social workers. He will return to the bench in April 2009.

IRENE DOUSE

A Special Guardianship Order was granted to Irene and her husband Charles in January 2007 to care for their two grand-daughters, now aged 5 and 3 years old. Irene Douse has been a Registered Nurse for 34 years, having trained in the Royal Air Force. Irene's last full-time post was as a Senior Sister in prison healthcare. Irene has been married to Charles for 33 years and they have 3 grown-up children now aged 26, 24 and 22 years old. Irene gave up her role as a Senior Sister to train as a family and friends foster carer in order to raise their two grand-daughters. She now works as a sessional nurse in order to maintain her professional registration.

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CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Solicitors and Legal Executives: Law Society Accreditation: 1 hours 30 minutes CPD points.

Barristers: Bar Council Accreditation: 1 hours 30 minutes CPD points.

Social Workers: Since 1 April 2005 all qualified social workers within the UK must be registered with the General Social Care Council (GSCC). Annual re-registration is necessary and for the year commencing 1 April 2008 evidence will have to be provided of 15 days (90 hours) CPD (continuing professional development) undertaken over the preceding three years. Therefore it is essential that a record is kept of any courses/conferences attended. This conference would contribute to social work CPD hours.

BOOKING FORM

Please photocopy this booking form and return to:
Family Rights Group, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London, E8 3DL

OR Fax: 020 7923 2683

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY. TO GUARANTEE A PLACE RETURN BEFORE 14TH DEC

Name

Organisation

Position.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone No.....

Billing address (for invoice).....

Are you a Family Rights Group member? YES NO

Method of payment (delete as appropriate) *cheque made payable to FRG Ltd / Please invoice*

Any special requirements (i.e. dietary / sight / hearing / access)? YES NO

If yes, please specify assistance required

If you are unable to attend this event, would you like to be sent information on similar events in the future?

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