

LA358-15 Child Law

26/27

Department

School of Law

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Lara Walker

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Child law raises highly controversial issues of social policy. Even the most basic issue – identifying who is the legal parent of a child – is fraught with difficulty, given the competing arguments in favour of biological and social parents. Such a decision will permanently affect the child's identity and definition of the family.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Child law raises highly controversial issues of social policy. Even the most basic issue - identifying who is the legal parent of a child - is fraught with difficulty, given the competing arguments in favour of biological and social parents. Such a decision will permanently affect the child's identity and definition of the family.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

This module examines important questions about the responsibilities of parents towards their children. What is the limit of parental autonomy when deciding what is best for their children? Do parents have 'rights'? What happens when parents disagree about what is best for their children? When should the state get involved in parental decision-making? What about the child? Should they be viewed as autonomous rights holders or protected as vulnerable dependents? The separation of the parents gives rise to new topics of dispute: with whom should the children live, should they continue to have contact with the other parent, and does the non-residential parent retain any say in the children's upbringing? Such disputes are resolved by the courts according to judicial perceptions of what is in the best interests of the child (itself a contested and mutable concept). Should it always be presumed that continued involvement with both parents is in the best interests of the child? What about the child's own views?

The final section of the course examines the circumstances in which the state may intervene in family life to protect children from harm. This raises profound questions about the relationships between the child, the parent, and the state and the justification for state intervention.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand how the law defines and regulates parenthood and how the law deals with disputes between separating parents.
- Evaluate the role of the law in regulating relationships between parent, child and the state
- Identify the relevant sources of key principles and research a particular area of child law using paper and electronic resources and specialist legal materials.
- Apply English law to hypothetical situations involving child law issues
- Analyse past, current and future law and policy developments in terms of theoretical issues and in terms of their impact on individuals & families
- Work independently to gain understanding of material and issues in child law without explanatory lectures
- Understand and use legal concepts, social work terms, policy principles and theoretical ideas in speaking and writing about law and family practice
- Work collaboratively to complete a defined task within a limited time

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Research element

The essay component of the assessment requires students to carry out some independent research.

Subject specific skills

Reading and analysing case law

Understanding relevant legislation

Transferable skills

Reading and analysing articles

Critical analysis

Problem solving

Negotiation

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	7 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	125 hours (83%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A3

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
3000 word essay (500 words set aside for Research Process Documentation and Reflection).	80%		No

Weighting **Study time** **Eligible for self-certification**

Students will be given a choice of essay topics early in the term.

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Multiple Choice Quiz

20%

No

The quiz will take place in person during the lecture in week 10. It will cover material taught up to week 7.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback via Tabula

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- ULAA-M130 Undergraduate Law
 - Year 2 of M130 Law
 - Year 2 of M130 Law
 - Year 3 of M130 Law
 - Year 3 of M130 Law
- ULAA-M131 Undergraduate Law (4 Year)
 - Year 2 of M131 Law (4 year)
 - Year 3 of M131 Law (4 year)
 - Year 4 of M131 Law (4 year)
- ULAA-M132 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
 - Year 2 of M132 Law (Year Abroad)
 - Year 4 of M132 Law (Year Abroad)
- ULAA-M135 Undergraduate Law and Sociology
 - Year 3 of M135 Law and Sociology
 - Year 4 of M135 Law and Sociology
- ULAA-MR00 Undergraduate Law with French

- Year 2 of MR00 Law with French
- Year 4 of MR00 Law with French
- ULAA-MR01 Undergraduate Law with German
 - Year 2 of MR01 Law with German
 - Year 4 of MR01 Law with German
- ULAA-M136 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year)
 - Year 2 of M136 Law with Humanities (3 year)
 - Year 3 of M136 Law with Humanities (3 year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law