

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT SOCIAL WORKER / EXPERT WITNESS

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Eddie O'Hara

Profession: Registered Independent Consultant Social Worker, Primary School Teacher, Trainer & Investigator.

Company: 'Eddie O'Hara Social Work Services Ltd'

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Registered Social Worker; My General Social Care Council registration number is 1007292.

Data Protection: I am registered as a 'Data Handler' in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Professional Indemnity / CRB Clearance: I have adequate professional indemnity & legal cover. My last enhanced CRB check was completed 6-1-11.

Other Directorships: Independent Professional Conduct Investigations Ltd.
www.ipcinvestigations.com

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE	
Professional Qualification(s) C.Q.S.W, P.Q.P.T, P.Q.C.P, A.A.S.W. & P.G.C.E	Professional Disciplines Independent Consultant Social Worker, Primary School Teacher & Trainer
Specialist Field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All types of child protection risk and family placement assessments (national and international). • Complex kinship care assessments. • Placement of children with special needs into non-birth families. • Complex case reviews / investigations. • Training on all types of social work issues. • Internal Management Reviews. • Professional conduct investigations. 	Higher/Specialist Degree/Diploma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honours degree in Social Policy and Administration and Certificate of Qualification in Social Work. (South West University 1989). • Post Qualification in Advanced Child Protection. (Warwick University 1994). • Post Qualification in Practice Teaching. (Birmingham University 1999). • Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Primary) including Qualified Teacher Status (University of Central England 2001). • Advanced Award in Social Work: Direct Practice (Birmingham University 2007).
Areas of Particular Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All types of domestic (and international) children and family placement / risk assessments (including adoption, fostering, disability, residence, kinship, guardianship, contact, etc). • Consultation and / or completion of complex case review and investigations into all aspects of family and non-family placement issues. • Standard (and bespoke) training provided in all areas of children and families social work practice. 	
Experience in Specialist Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been involved in various aspects of social work (Children & families) for 20 years. During this time I have spent; 10 years as a senior social worker on various children and families teams, including 2 within a specialist 'children with disabilities' team (2 years with Durham SSD, followed by 8 years with Birmingham SSD). 1989-99: 4 years as an active member of the emergency duty back-up team. 1993-97; 2 years as an active member of the Crisis Support Team. 1994-95; 3 years on North Birmingham adoption and fostering panel, advising on child protection and disability issues. 1999; 2 years as a senior social worker with both North and South Birmingham permanency teams. 1999-2001; Since 2000 I have worked as an independent social worker for Action For Children; Adoption (Formerly NCH). • 8 years as a social work practice teacher and mentor. • 5 years as an independent consultant for 'Parents for Children' (London) 	

- Since 2000 I have;
 1. Undertaken various commissions involving all types of court directed complex risk / family placement assessments (national and international; UK, Ireland, USA, Italy and South Africa), complex case reviews, training, international consultancy / development (Turkey and Romania).
 2. Provided a range of training in all areas of child protection / safeguarding in both social care and educational settings.
 3. Provided a number of Independent Reviews; Complex Review, Individual Management Review, Annual Review, Household Review, Safeguarding Systems Review, etc.

In addition to the above, I currently;

4. Provide professional safeguarding supervision to social workers in a number of inner city children's centre teams.
5. Carry out safeguarding / child protection development work with another local children's centre / nursery school, and a national social care / health agency which provides community support for families affected by alcohol abuse.
6. Chair annual fostering household reviews for an independent fostering agency.
7. Provide expert research / opinion to several firms of lawyers specialising in child care proceedings.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH, TEACHING AND TRAINING

<p style="text-align: center;">Details of Publications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have contributed to various enquiries / investigations involving children and family issues, such as the recent enquiry into CAFCASS by the Lord Chancellors Department. • Contributor to BASW publication on ISW; March 2006. • Article on 'Kinship Assessment' published by PSW April 06. • Article on how to deal with information presented to you 'in confidence' during an adoption assessment, published by PSW July 09. • Article on 'Child Protection verses Data Protection' published by PSW Sept 09. • Co-author of 'ISW- A Risky Business' (2006), 'ISW in Recessionary Times' (2010) both published by BASW Venture Press.
<p style="text-align: center;">Research / Professional Presentations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 'Assessment' at Regional Kinship Conference Birmingham November 2003. • On 'Expert Witnesses' at BASW National Conference Bristol April 2004. • Ongoing development of LAC / education training for teachers and school governors (Voluntary). • The Implication of the ACA 2002 on Permanence through Kinship (BAAF) January 2006. • 'Safeguarding in the Voluntary Sector' BBC Children in Need 2008
<p style="text-align: center;">Details of Teaching & Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified practice teacher / social work mentor and professional / management supervision. • Co-ordinator and trainer of 'prospective' adopters and foster carers. • Qualified primary teacher since 2001 • School governor 1999-2005; responsible for various educational issues, particularly those concerning special needs / 'looked after children'. • Occasional primary tutoring and lecturing / presentations given on social work issues to under / postgraduate students, peers and other professional disciplines. • Speaker at various regional / national conferences, re social work issues in relation to use of 'Kinship Care', 'Expert Witnesses', CAF, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I am an 'Associate Trainer' with British Association of Adoption & Fostering, Centre for Learning Behaviour Reading University, and Outcomes UK.• Since 2007 I have been part of a UNICEF project which is developing and implementing a national foster care training programme on behalf of the Turkish Government.• Since 2007 I have co-delivered training to 'Friends and Family' for Action for Children (formerly NCH).• Since Dec 2010 I have been Project Lead on a consultancy project in Romania developing alternative care for vulnerable adults and children.
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<p>Continuing Professional Development and Training (CPD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular courses attended as a part of continuing professional development. • Active member of PFC, BASW and BAAF professional seminars.
<p>MEMBERSHIPS ETC</p>	
<p>Committee / Panel Memberships / Project Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001-2007 Independent's Forum (I.F.) Executive & Regional (Chair) Committee Member (I.F. is a professional specific interest group set up by BASW) • 2001-2007 Disciplinary and Investigation Committee Member (BASW). • 2008-2010; Independent Panel Member of Solihull BC Stage 3 Complaints Panel. • 2006- to date; member of BAAF 'Opening Doors Disability Project' (placement of children with disabilities.) • 2009-Member of BASW Serious Case Review Project. • 2011- Independent Panel Member on Action for Children's Adoption & Fostering Panel.
<p>Professional Memberships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Association of Social Workers (BASW). • British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF). • National Association of Guardian Ad Litem and Reporting Officers (NAGALRO).
<p>Consultancies / Panel Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until August 06 I was an 'Independent Panel Chair' of a fostering agency. • I act as the designated 'Independent Complaints Officer' for a fostering agency in Cheshire. • I act as an 'Educational Consultant' for a fostering agency in Essex. • I act as a 'Fostering Consultant' for St Christopher's Fellowship. • I am an associate with Willis Palmer SW Agency.
<p>Other Areas of Special Interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family group conferences. • Life story work. • Complex Case Reviews. • Serious Case Review; Individual Management Review (IMR) Reports. • Specialist Child Care Investigations. • Professional Conduct Investigations. • Urgent / intensive assessments. • International family placements which involve different legal systems.

- Care Audits.

In recent years, I have worked throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland, California USA, Turkey, and have been consulted on cases / developmental work in New York State, Italy, South Africa and Romania; all of which have involved complex family / kinship / risk placements.

For more detail about work I undertake please refer to my website www.eddieohara.com.

RELEVANT FORENSIC EXPERIENCE

Number of Cases involved as a Professional Witness

0-10 10-30 over 100

Number of Cases instructed as an Expert Witness

0-10 10-30 over 100

Number of Reports prepared for Family Court Proceedings

0-10 10-30 over 100

Number of occasions on which given evidence in family cases

0-10 10-30 over 100

Other relevant forensic experience

I have been involved in court proceedings at all levels, up to and including various High Courts.

DETAILS OF CHARGING RATES	
<u>Case Work</u>	
Professional time (preparation, attendance at conferences, interviews and panel)	£TBC per hour
Court Full Day	£TBC (plus travel if outside West Midlands)
Court ½ Day	£TBC (plus travel if outside West Midlands)
Travelling	£TBC per hour TBC per mile (or car hire/ taxi etc)
<u>Fixed Contract Work</u>	£TBA per day depending upon the location.
<u>Training</u>	£TBC PD depending on the course, the preparation required and location.
<u>Cancellation Charges</u>	Apply as per proposal.

N.B. Please note the above fees and costs are subject to the prevailing standard rate VAT.

Saturday work is charged at X 1½ the midweek rate.*

Sunday work is charged at X 2 the midweek rate. *

Where jobs require overnight stays, these time costs will be factored / negotiated into any proposal provided.

***Unless previously negotiated**

Last amended Feb 2011

DETAILS OF CASE WORK REFEREES	
Name Address Tel: Fax: Professional Status	Peter Turner. Fostering People Too 46 Springwood Drive, Braintree, Essex, CM7 2YN 01376-329460 01376-335005 Director of Social Work
Name Address Tel; Fax; Professional Status	Sally Heaven-Richards Action For Children (Adoption) Previously NCH Process Alice Drive Chester Road North Sutton Coldfield B73 6RD 0121-355-1265 0121-355-1270 Project Manager
Name Address Tel: Professional Status	Anthony Williams Williams Ross Consultancy PO Box 179 Tweedale Telford, TF3 2WR 01905-276-375 Independent Chair of; Adoption Panel (Solihull), and IDP (Welsh Assembly Government)
Name Address Tel: Fax: Professional Status	Helen French Birmingham SSD Beechenhurst, Serpentine Road Sellyoak Birmingham. 0121-464-1101 0121-464-1101 Operations Manager (Adoption)
Name Address Tel: Professional Status	Meral Mehmet 8 Pasteur Gardens London, N18 1JF 0208-345-6200 Independent Fostering Panel Chair (NFCA), ISW and social work author.

DETAILS OF TRAINING REFEREES	
Name Address Tel: Fax: Professional Status	Linda Cointepas London Borough of Waltham Forest 6-8 Oliver Rd Leyton London, E10 5JY 0208 496 2763 0208 496 2766 HOS / Manager Protection Partnership & Plans
Name Address Tel; Fax; Professional Status	Nicky Probert British Association of Adoption & Fostering Dolphin House 54 Coventry Road Birmingham, B10 0RX 0121-753-2001 0121-753-7799 Regional Training Consultant
Name Address Tel: Fax; Professional Status	Chris Gittins The Centre for Learning Behaviour Ltd University of Warwick 00447778180953 00441189303147 UNICEF / Council of Europe (UK CFS Adviser)
Name Address Tel: Professional Status	Carole McGuire Outcomes UK Ltd Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B604LX 01527-556626 National NVQ & Training Manager

If required, testimonials can be supplied from other social work and related professionals.

Signed

Date