



## Association of **Lawyers for Children**

Promoting justice for children and young people

Application for membership

**Membership is open to individuals and organisations seeking to promote the interests of children and young people within the legal system.**

<b>Full membership:</b>	£85 per annum - for qualified lawyers working in child/family law.
<b>Associate membership:</b>	£40 per annum - for non-lawyers working with or for children.
<b>Student membership:</b>	£15 per annum – for those attending full time courses
<b>Practice/Chambers membership:</b>	£75 per person per annum for solicitors and barristers with 4 full members, £70 per person for 6 full members £65 per person for 8 or more full members.

I wish to apply for: .....membership.

Title, First Name(s) and Surname: .....

Organisation: .....

Postal address: .....

.....

.....Post code.....

Telephone no: .....Occupation: .....

E-mail .....

Children Panel member: Yes / No / Applying Type of Panel membership .....

Other relevant memberships: .....

**I agree to abide by the Constitution of the Association and to work for its aims, and enclose my first**

**year's subscription of £** ..... (Cheques payable to "The Association of Lawyers for Children").

Signed: .....Date: .....

**NB:** --Applicants for **Associate membership** must be proposed by an existing full member of the Association.

Applications for student membership must be counter-signed by a full time member of teaching staff.

Proposer's name: ..... Proposer's signature: .....

Please send this application form and payment to:

**ALC, P.O. Box 283, EAST MOLESEY, KT8 0WH**

**Telephone: 020 8224 7071**

**E-mail: admin@alc.org.uk**

**Web site: www.alc.org.uk**



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## History

The Association evolved from an idea put forward at the first annual conference organised by childcare solicitors, and was inaugurated at the third National Conference in Manchester in 1992. Membership includes not only those lawyers involved in work relating to children, Solicitors, Barristers and legal staff, who may all become full members, but also offers associate membership to others involved in working with, or for, children e.g. psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, paediatricians and Children's Guardians.

The Association works in England and Wales and welcomes all applications for membership from individuals in relevant work with, or for, children. In addition, applications from officers of appropriate organisations will be considered.

## Membership

Your membership and involvement is welcomed by the Association. It is only through the involvement and enthusiasm of our members that we can continue to achieve our aims, and it is only through your membership that your concerns, in relation to the representation of children within the legal system, can inform our aims.

## Purpose

The Association is: --

1. An organisation which promotes justice for children and young people within the legal system.
2. A membership group which: --
  - lobbies in favour of establishing properly funded legal mechanisms to enable all children and young people to have access to justice.
  - Lobbies against the diminution of such mechanisms.
3. A provider of high-quality legal training focusing on the needs of lawyers concerned with cases relating to the welfare of children.
4. A forum for the exchange of information and views in relation to the development of the law in relation to children and young people.
5. A reference point for members of the profession, Governmental organisations and pressure groups upon: --
  - Excellence in legal practice in the field of child law.
  - The best thinking of lawyers upon the development of law and practice in relation to cases involving children.
6. A source of comment for the media upon legal matters which concern children and young people.

## Successes

1. Organising annual conferences that bring together practitioners for discussion and debate.
2. Responding to consultation documents issued by Governmental bodies and non-Governmental organisations.
3. Developing a network of lawyers across the country to share knowledge and practice.
4. Building a high profile on policy and practice issues and influential representation for lawyers for children on Governmental and legal bodies.
5. Providing a source of relevant information and literature to members of the Association.
6. Lobbying against introduction of standard fees, and any reduction of standards of representation for children.
7. Lobbying in favour of the recognition of Law Society Children Panel solicitors as a defined group within the profession.
8. Establishing a formal organisational and staffing structure to enable the effective fulfilment of members' future aims.