

Starting out as an expert witness in paediatrics (Level 3+)- London

Programme

Date and Location | 25th November 2025 – RCPCH 5-11 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8SH

Registration – 08:45-09:00	
09:00	Welcome and introduction
09:30	Setting up your office – Terms and Conditions, insurance, GDPR/ICO, advertising
10:15	Getting started in Clinical Negligence – report shape, recognising your limits, requesting records
11:00	Break
11:15	Different reports, different courts. Family courts, personal injury cases, Coroners courts and criminal cases explained
12:00	The sharp end! – Meetings with counsel, joint expert meetings, court, when the court disagrees
12:45	Lunch
13:30	Breakout groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report writing – pitfalls and practicalities 2. How many hours, pro bono requests – and other practical questions 3. Handling yourself in court 4. Safeguarding, and estimating balance of risk.
15:30	Break
15:45	Paediatricians in the Family Court – Her Honour Judge Matthews, Circuit Judge to the Family Court, Newcastle
16:30	Q&A
17:00	Close

Course aim

To help paediatricians develop a role as an expert witness and to discuss some of the practical issues associated with such work. The course will emphasise how this work can support determining the best outcomes for children and young people and enhance your clinical practice.

(Note – completing this course does not automatically indicate readiness to take on expert witness work)

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Understand the practicalities of starting in medicolegal work
- Describe the legal framework and processes expert witnesses need to work within
- Recognise areas of practice that pose particular challenges.
- Be able to join high level discussions with barristers or other experts, and defend/promote your opinions.

Course leads

Dr Rob Ross Russell: Consultant in paediatric respiratory medicine; director of Cambridge Paediatric Medicolegal Associates. Over 25 years of experience in medicolegal work, mostly Clinical Negligence.

Richard Brown: Dr Richard Brown is a general paediatric consultant in Cambridge, with interests in neurology; epilepsy; metabolic medicine and safeguarding. His research interests include gene therapy. He has written approximately 30 medicolegal expertise witness reports, predominantly on breach of duty in medical negligence cases, for about 3 years. He has written a very small number of child protection expert witness reports for the criminal and family courts, and supports steps to increase the number of paediatric experts working in that field (starting with himself). He is the co-convenor of the RCPCH Paediatric Medicolegal Group.

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances, sessions and presenters may be subject to change.