

# PRISONERS' ADVICE SERVICE

THE INDEPENDENT LEGAL CHARITY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND  
REPRESENTATION TO PRISONERS

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Reserve your seats now for PAS' Annual Lecture on 28th November. This year's lecture will be given by renowned prison philanthropist Lady Edwina Grosvenor. To reserve your place e-mail [list@prisonersadvice.org.uk](mailto:list@prisonersadvice.org.uk). Further details of Lady Edwina's talk will be issued in due course. PAS will also be launching our brand new set of four Family Law Guides at the lecture (see below). The event will take place at the London offices of [Herbert Smith Freehills](#), to whom PAS is most grateful.

## News

In a recent Case Study, PAS was contacted by Prisoner A, who was paralysed from the chest down and who was not receiving adequate care and consideration. Unfortunately, PAS hears very often of older prisoners, or those with disabilities, whose requirements are not being met, leaving them in potentially horrific conditions.

In this case, Prisoner A was being injured by repeated falls, and was suffering from pressure sores due to his inability to clean himself or access sanitary facilities. We immediately sent letters to both the prison and local authority reminding them of their duties of care, and requesting that they fulfil their obligations. However, instead of acting as we asked, Prisoner A was transferred to another prison where he was kept in even more horrific conditions. His new cell was even more inaccessible than the first, with no access to a toilet or sanitary facilities, leading to him having to defecate on the floor. We therefore sent a pre-action letter threatening further action and initiated a Judicial Review of the failure to provide reasonable adjustments for the prisoner. As a result, Prisoner A

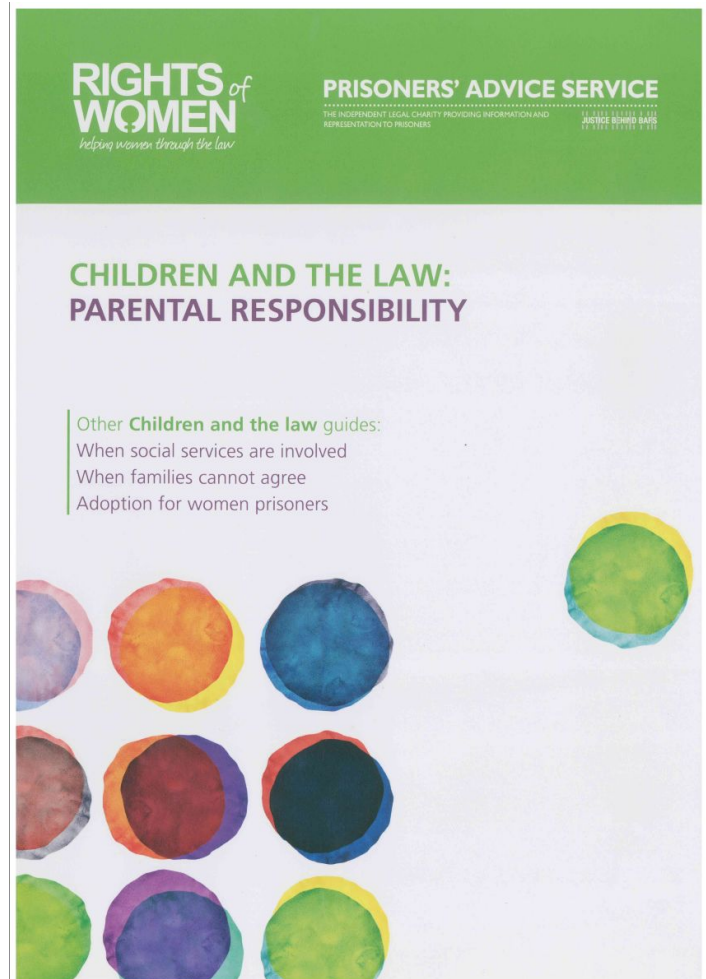
was moved to a much more suitable cell, and another solicitor's firm was brought on board to initiate a claim for damages.



It's now easier than ever to make a donation in support of the work that we do. Simply visit our [Facebook](#) page and click on our new donate button!



Laine Ritchie – New



## Children and the Law; PAS' New Family Law Guides

At our Annual Lecture this year, PAS will launch four new Family Law guides that we have written and published in association with charity Rights of Woman. The four titles – aimed at the two thirds of female prisoners who are mothers – deal with various aspects of the law that have bearing on parenting from inside prison. The titles are:

## **Community Care Caseworker**

**PAS has recently appointed a new part-time Community Care Caseworker to replace Anna Fairbank, who retired in June. Laine Ritchie will work alongside Laura Orger to liaise with and, if necessary, issue Judicial Review claims against, prison/probation services and local authorities when they fail to meet their legal obligations to vulnerable adult prisoners. They will continue to deliver legal Outreach Clinics at various prisons. Laine obtained a BA in French studies and a Graduate Diploma in Law before qualifying as a Solicitor at Russell-Cooke in 2012. Laine has previously worked as a criminal and human rights paralegal and as a valued PAS volunteer. We are delighted to welcome Laine to the charity.**

- When Families Cannot Agree**
- Parental Responsibility**
- Adoption for Women Prisoners**
- When Social Services are Involved**

**Copies of the Guides have been sent out to the librarians at the 12 women's prisons in England and Wales and are available to download from our [website](#). The project has been made possible through funding from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust and The Wates Foundation.**

**Finally this month, we bid farewell to Rebecca Perlman, who has stood down as a PAS trustee. A solicitor at global law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, and a great friend of PAS, Rebecca became a trustee in July 2015. Rebecca manages and oversees HSF's pro bono practice for the UK, US and EMEA, developing initiatives and projects that support access to justice, international development, impact investment and human rights. PAS Director, Lubia Begum-Rob, said of Rebecca's departure, "PAS was thrilled to have her as a trustee, and is most grateful for her vibrant and dedicated commitment to the charity. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours."**



PAS' telephone Advice Line is run by caseworkers four days a week. Our telephone number is globally cleared within all prisons throughout England and Wales. **Please note: In order to assist a prisoner, we need to be contacted by them directly before we can discuss matters with family members.**

**NUMBER: 020 7253 3323**

## **OPENING TIMES**

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
10:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:30;  
Tuesday Evening 16.30-19.00**

Prisoners' Advice Service is a registered charity (No: 1054495) and is a company limited by guarantee (No: 3180659).

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