**Louise Wilson**

**Bio and Abstract for Healthcare Conferences**

**Abstract**

In law, as in life, children are complicated, and especially so at the transition into adulthood.

Just as the law has wrestled with the best way to deal with the concept of deprivation of liberty, balancing protection and respect for autonomy, so it has been a struggle to get a clear legal framework to apply with the additional complications of being a child, and the question of the proper extent of parental authority.

Sadly, it is easier to explain that there is a problem, and why, than it is to offer any easy solutions. This is especially so, with the Liberty Protection Safeguards, which might have brought some relief, covering 16-17 year olds where the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards started at 18, now being delayed until April 2022.

This session will review the case law dealing with deprivation of liberty and children, especially the question of parental consent under and over 16, and where this leaves us, for now, until the Liberty Protection Safeguards arrive and what the future is likely to hold.

**Bio**

Louise Wilson is a Legal Director in the Health Advisory team at Hill Dickinson LLP.

Louise trained and qualified as a solicitor at RMNJ solicitors in Wirral, initially working as a crime and prison lawyer with a special interest in mentally disordered offenders. Louise has specialised in mental health and mental capacity law since 2009, initially acting for NHS and private healthcare providers when previously at Hill Dickinson until 2010. Louise then returned to RMNJ solicitors and as a partner in the firm jointly managed the mental health department, spending 7 years representing patients or their families within the court of protection and first-tier tribunal (mental health), including some of the most high-profile forensic mental health patients in the country.

Louise returned to Hill Dickinson in 2017 and continues to specialise in mental health and mental capacity work acting on behalf of health and social care providers and commissioners nationwide, including the NHS, local authorities and private sector. She has considerable experience of judicial review, human rights and healthcare commissioning as well as undertaking representation of NHS bodies at inquests. She regularly advises NHS England on matters of national policy.

Louise gained her qualification as a Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Courts Civil Proceedings) in 2018. She has been involved in a number of reported cases in the mental health field, court of protection and High Court, frequently appearing in cases involving cross-jurisdictional issues. Louise routinely deals with out of hours and emergency issues about medical treatment, including urgent court applications, and is a standing member of the ethics committee of a large paediatric trust.