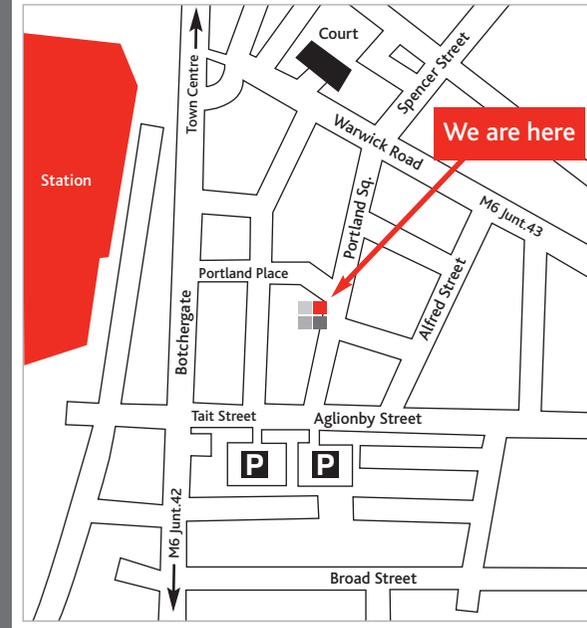


## OTHER LEGAL SERVICES

Our specialist team have an envied reputation for dealing with a comprehensive range of legal issues and serve clients in Cumbria and beyond.

Bendles is a long established general legal practice with experienced experts qualified to handle problems in a wide range of areas.

- Divorce/Separation
- Co-habitation
- Mediation
- Care Proceedings
- Children Matters
- Adoption
- Wills and Probate
- Powers of Attorney
- Litigation and Disputes
- Buying and selling your home
- Personal Injury
- Corporate Law
- Employment
- Debt Recovery
- Commercial Law
- Landlord and Tenant
- Agricultural Law



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## CARE PROCEEDINGS

Our team of childcare experts have extensive experience in dealing with care proceedings, representing both parents and children and working with all parties to achieve the best possible result for the child/children involved. We have two senior members of staff who have Children Panel Membership with over 40 years of experience in all aspects of child care work.

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## SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS

We have considerable experience in advising and representing family members, children and foster carers in these proceedings.

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## ADOPTION FROM CARE

In situations where a family have had involvement with Social Services or care proceedings, it may be the case that the children are not able to carry on living with their natural parents. The alternative can be adoption, resulting in the natural parents losing their parental responsibility for the child and the full rights and duties of a parent are then acquired by the adoptive family. These cases involve difficult and sensitive issues and require a specialist team, such as Bendles, who have the required experience and knowledge to deal with the complexities involved.

## STEP PARENT ADOPTION

For a child to be fully integrated into their new family, step parents may feel it necessary to adopt their step child as they may feel it is in the child's best interests. Step parent adoption may be the best solution for the child, but there are also other options which we can advise on, which give the step parent legal status and recognition of their involvement with their step child, whilst enabling the child's relationship with the non-resident birth parent to continue.

A photograph of two children running on a sandy beach. In the foreground, a young boy with blonde hair, wearing a dark grey zip-up sweater and blue jeans, is running towards the camera with a smile. In the background, a young girl in a pink and white striped sweater and a pink hat is running away from the camera. The background shows a calm sea and a hazy sky.

For expert advice on difficult childcare matters, contact Bendles' childcare team:

**ALISON BONE**  
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