‘Child abuse’ examines this extremely emotive and hotly debated area of family law. The law is able to remove a child from a situation where abuse is suspected, but this is a power that must be exercised with great caution. What constitutes child abuse? There must be some consideration of cultural differences in the definition. The law has to consider a number of issues: what should be done when there is a suspicion of abuse but no proof? How bad must the abuse be before it justifies removal of a child? Judges have to deal with these questions every day.

Family Law: A Very Short Introduction

Family Law: A Very Short Introduction provides insight not only into what family law is, but why it is the way it is. How have laws had to respond to social changes in family life? The last few decades have seen rising divorce rates and an increase in the use of surrogate mothers. How do family courts deal with the chaos of modern family life? Family law has recently been challenged to keep up-to-date with the social and scientific changes which affect it. What is a family? What makes someone a parent? What rights should children have? What will families look like in the years ahead? What new dilemmas will the courts face?