

# helping families of injured children



The effects of a serious accident are always traumatic but cases involving children are, perhaps, the most tragic. The Medical Law Team at Ashtons Legal specialises in dealing with such cases and we do so because we are passionate about helping the children and families we represent.

In the rare cases where the injuries have occurred due to clinical negligence, families need support and guidance through the process of finding out what went wrong, holding those responsible to account and obtaining an apology. Although rarely the motivating factor, if negligence can be proven then compensation is payable. This is carefully calculated to pay for the needs of the injured or disabled child to ensure he or she achieves the very best possible quality of life.

We also represent families at inquests and help to investigate the circumstances leading up to the death of their new born baby. Many of these parents suffer severe psychological problems. We aim to help the family receive counselling and therapy so that they may recover more swiftly.

All of these cases are complex legally, medically and emotionally and require empathy, expertise and skill by the legal team to ensure a positive outcome so that the families can rebuild their lives.

Members of the Ashtons Legal Medical Law Team have recently settled four multimillion pound cases involving children with cerebral palsy and also represented families of babies who died at childbirth.

We are keen to work with medical and health professionals and lawyers representing the NHS Trust to ensure that claims are resolved as swiftly as possible for the sake of all concerned. Our support for families often extends long after a claim is

settled. For many of our injury clients, such as those born with cerebral palsy, mental capacity is a long-term issue. We have a dedicated Court of Protection team who specialise in professional deputyships and managing the day-to-day affairs of those who are unable to do so for themselves. By working closely with case managers and a range of other professionals the team supports families, empowers clients, helps them to make appropriate decisions, and removes an administrative burden which they would rather not have at what is already a difficult time.

#### A CLIENT SAYS

*"Words can't express just how grateful I am. Despite the money, just to know that any child who meets any of the health professionals we have, and presents with symptoms similar to our daughter's, will be treated in a totally different way is priceless. You have achieved such a great, great deal, not only for my family, but for others unknown to us. You should be very proud of yourself and your team".* Parent of girl who suffered delayed diagnosis of biliary atresia.

#### LEGAL 500

Tom Cook is *'highly intelligent, sensible and organised'*; Trefine Maynard is *'dedicated to her clients'*; and Sandra Patton is *'unfailingly polite and patient'*; 'there is no better firm'.

[www.ashtonslegal.co.uk](http://www.ashtonslegal.co.uk)

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**Tom Cook** Partner  
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Tom has acted in profound brain injury, paralysis, wholesale intestine loss, traumatic amputation, spinal injury and many other cases over 26 years. Supported by the firm's specialist Court of Protection and Client Funds Management Team, Tom acts as a Deputy and is a Trustee for around 50 clients. He is a member of the British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers (BABICM) and the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).



**Julie Crossley** Associate  
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Julie joined the firm in 1991 and throughout this time has worked in the Personal injury and Clinical Negligence team. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. She runs a varied caseload of clinical negligence cases including orthopaedic and fatal cases. She has a special interest in amputee cases. Julie is an accredited APIL Litigator.



**Sandra Patton** Head of Medical injury  
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Sandra, another long standing team member, has specialised in claimant clinical negligence law since 1991 and has special interest and expertise in birth injury cases. Sandra has campaigned to publicise the plight of NHS patients referred to private hospitals under the Government's initiative to cut waiting lists who suffered injury during surgery. She is a member of the Law Society's Clinical Negligence Panel, the AvMA panel and is an APIL Senior Litigator.



**Amanda Cavanagh** Paralegal  
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Amanda is a paralegal within the Medical Injury team and supports Tom Cook with all aspects of his cases. She is part Ilex qualified and has been working in law since 1996 and with Ashtons Legal since 1998. She came from a forces background having served for nine years with the Royal Air Force.



**Ben Ward** Solicitor  
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Ben joined the team in 2010. He is currently acting for a wide range of clients, many of whom have suffered orthopaedic injuries. Ben also works alongside partners on catastrophic brain and spinal injury claims. Ben has a particular interest in claims arising as a result of surgical procedures being contracted out to private hospitals under Government initiatives to cut NHS waiting lists.



**Chris Williams** Paralegal  
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Chris is a paralegal in the team and supports Sandra Patton and Sharon Allison with all aspects of their cases. Chris has worked for the firm since 1984 and joined the Clinical Negligence team in 2005.



**Sharon Allison** Associate  
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Sharon is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives (FILEX). She handles a wide range of clinical negligence work with specific expertise in fatal injuries, in particular death of new-borns and claims against mental health units. She has a specialism and expertise in representing the bereaved at inquests, especially in relation to failures in psychiatric care. She is an APIL accredited litigator.



**Karen Turner** Paralegal  
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Karen has been a paralegal within the Medical Injury team since 2009, and supports Trefine Maynard and Julie Crossley with their cases.

She has worked for the firm since 1994 and has held various roles within the Medical Injury department, including her role as Client Liaison Officer where she was the first point of contact for all new potential clients.