

working with police family liaison officers



You are only too aware of the devastation caused to victims and their families through serious crime, road crashes and other accidents. Like you, we aim to support them in the best way possible during what may be the most traumatic period of their lives.

How we can help

Our main aim is to obtain appropriate compensation for those people injured or bereaved as a result of someone else's negligence or criminal conduct. The purpose is to place the victim back in the position they would have been but for the incident, subject to the confines of the law. We aim to push the legal boundaries to ensure our clients do get the best compensation package to which they are entitled. However, our service extends to much more than this. We also make it a priority to:

- Get an admission of fault (and where possible, a written apology) at an early stage
- Obtain payments on account from insurers early on to pay for necessary medical treatment and rehabilitation, to fund other needs such as housing, care or equipment and to support the injured party and their family financially
- Make our clients aware of rehabilitation providers, bereavement or counselling services and other helpful agencies, and organise their involvement if need be
- Liaise with others on their behalf e.g the Coroner, Department of Work and Pensions, Health and Safety Executive and press, and provide representation for other proceedings where appropriate.
- Ensure help with funeral expenses is provided where there is a fatality.

Examples of Successes for Clients

Acquired Brain Injury

- £6.8m recovered for a young man hurt in a road accident. He suffered severe head injuries. On leaving hospital 10 months

post accident he was in a minimally conscious state. An extensive care package has restored him to a happy and purposeful life, despite his medical problems. Our expertise in head injury claims and Public Guardianship Office matters were invaluable.

- £237k recovered for a man who suffered brain injuries when he was mugged.
- £80k recovered for the family of a man in his 20s who was assaulted outside a nightclub and knocked unconscious. He was taken to hospital but there were errors and delays in his monitoring, diagnosis and treatment. Brain injuries were eventually identified but too late and he died less than 48 hours after the initial assault.

Secondary Victims

- £13k recovered for a father who suffered psychiatric injuries when he saw his seriously injured son in hospital who had been in a road accident.
- £66k recovered for a young boy who witnessed his father's death in an industrial machine.

Fatal claims

- £535k and £455k for two widows and their children whose husbands were killed in workplace accidents.
- £315k and £260k for two children who lost their only parent in road traffic collisions.
- Also £520k for a widow and her two children whose husband fell from a faulty window.

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Limb Amputation

- £2.1m recovered for a young man who lost a leg following a road crash. A difficult case as the client had no track record of earnings, but great ability in and commitment to a career in theatre lighting. The case demonstrated how effective early rehabilitation could be. The young man now has a career in the theatre and lives independently in Covent Garden.

Inquest

- Supporting at inquest the family of a 6 year old boy who died after falling into a river while on a nature trail outing.
- Supporting at inquest the family of a university student whose body was found on a rail line shortly after being allowed to take unescorted leave from a local mental health facility.

With a 70-strong Injury Services division, we are ideally placed to help injured people in the region and their families. We have a long standing reputation for taking on and winning claims that other lawyers reject and have been described by the Legal 500 independent directory as a “top-class firm with top-class practitioners”.

How you can help

In order for us to do our job most effectively, and minimise additional stress and anxiety for the injured or bereaved, we ask for your help by:

- Giving us as much information as you can, which may have a bearing on the claim, or directing us to who holds it
- Keeping us advised as to developments in any criminal proceedings
- Ensuring the family have access to proper legal advice. Around 70% of those with motor insurance and many household insurance policies now have ‘legal expenses’. Many lawyers acting under those policies will never see the family face to face, and often do not have the appropriate expertise or skills. The injured party does not have to use the ‘legal expenses’ lawyer; there are other forms of funding claims available, usually at no cost to them.

We welcome the opportunity to work closer with you in order to better assist those affected by serious crime and road incidents.

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