

mesothelioma & asbestos-related disease



Ashtons Legal is regarded as one of East Anglia's 'regional heavyweight' law firms. With offices in seven locations, including Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Felixstowe, Ashtons Legal is ideally situated to help the patients of Ipswich Hospital.

Our approach has earned us a number of accolades, including being ranked top in East Anglia for personal injury work by independent reviewers The Legal 500 and Chambers for over 10 years. Ashtons Legal has also been awarded Corporate Accreditation by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

What independent industry commentators say about Ashtons Legal

Chambers and Partners 2015 places Ashtons Legal as the only firm in **Band 1** for claimant personal injury work in 'Ipswich and surrounds' and 'Norwich and surrounds'. The firm is described as 'Held in high esteem across the region for its expertise on fatal and catastrophic injury cases' and noted for having "a real focus on the quality of their service."

Head of Team "Richard Foyster focuses on employers' and workplace liability cases. He is experienced in mesothelioma claims".

The Legal 500 2016 places Ashtons Legal in **Tier 1** for claimant personal injury work in East Anglia. Ashtons Legal is 'unequalled in client service' and 'it provides a better service than most larger firms and is a delight to work with'. Key figures include the 'extremely good negotiator' Richard Foyster and 'exceptional all-rounder' Michael Wangermann who 'charms his opponents into submission'. Hannah Clarke settled a £1m workplace accident case, and the 'tireless and resourceful' associate Tom Ranson who is 'amongst the best in his field'.

Examples of some of our recent and current mesothelioma and other asbestos-related disease cases

A substantial six figure settlement was obtained for the estate of a Cambridge professor who died in his 50s following an unexpected diagnosis of aggressive mesothelioma. It was proved that this was contracted while he was working in a Cambridge University Field Station breeding ladybirds for research purposes.

Mr M died of mesothelioma aged 70 following exposure to asbestos at RAF Sculthorpe whilst working alongside the USAF. A substantial interim payment was obtained within five months of diagnosis and a settlement of £200,000 was obtained for his widow and estate following a successful claim against the Ministry of Defence.

Mr H had been a carpenter for a local building firm and was pursuing an asbestos-related disease claim at the age of 84. He developed pleural thickening through exposure to asbestos whilst insulating garages in the 1970s. The claim was resisted on grounds of de minimis exposure but settled three weeks before trial on a full liability basis and for substantial damages. Defendant's witness statements contradicted the Claimant's in almost every respect.

Mr B died of mesothelioma in August 2012. He had worked on a Norfolk chicken farm, both looking after the chickens and on the food mill. The premises were riddled with asbestos. The case is still ongoing but is nearing settlement.

Mr L lived in Thetford until his recent death from mesothelioma. We were able to obtain crucial evidence from him and his former work colleagues before his death and are now pursuing the claim on behalf of his family.

'one of the best Personal Injury firms nationwide'.*

Mr G was a Cambridgeshire-based man who died from mesothelioma in October 2012. He is adamant that he was exposed to significant levels of exposure in his job as a heating engineer, but his employer's insurers have denied liability. Union solicitors were appointed initially, and they pulled out of the case, saying that there were insufficient prospects of success. Ashtons Legal was approached by his family and have taken on the case. Having unearthed new evidence, we have persuaded a specialist barrister that there are sufficient prospects of success to fund the case on a Conditional Fee Agreement, and Court Proceedings are due to be issued on behalf of the family shortly.

Mr O comes from Haverhill and is registered blind. He is suffering from asbestosis and pleural disease contracted whilst a heating installation engineer. The defendant solicitor is playing every trick in the book but we believe the claim to be worth in excess of £50,000.

Mrs G is a Felixstowe-based lady who has recently been diagnosed with mesothelioma. She wishes to have a local specialist solicitor and has benefitted from several face to face meetings, and from the fact her lawyer has needed to meet local witnesses.

What our clients say

"Our thanks to Richard Foyster for his caring and professional service to us both at such a traumatic time."

"Richard Foyster undertook methodical case preparation, with absolute attention to detail. He has a very friendly, considerate and compassionate style – an absolute gentleman."

"Thank you to Michael Wangermann for all his help during the last difficult year and a half. Everyone I dealt with at the firm went what I felt was above and beyond what I would have expected."

"Even though I had lost hope of being able to claim your excellent firm fought on for me and won!! You have helped myself and my family so much. Thank you all."

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The area of the firm's website dedicated to providing initial information for mesothelioma claimants will be found at: <https://www.ashtonslegal.co.uk/asbestos-related-disease/> / <http://www.ashtonslegal.co.uk/legal-services/injury-support-services/personal-injury/case-summaries/asbestosis-claim-and-other-lung-conditions/>

* as quoted in The Legal 500