

# Our Services

## Personal Injury

### Compensation Guide

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Thousands of people suffer personal injury every year, many in the workplace. Our expert team of personal injury Lawyers handle around 4,000 cases annually, and we treat every one of them individually.

If you have been injured, had an accident or been affected by disease at work, you could have a claim for compensation. We can advise whether you have a case and the likely prospects of success. We handle personal injury claims including:

#### Accidents

- Slips and trips
- Machinery or equipment accidents
- Manual handling injuries.

#### Disease claims

- Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (Vibration White Finger)
- Dermatitis
- Repetitive strain injury
- Industrial deafness/work related hearing loss
- Occupational asthma
- Mesothelioma
- Asbestos related diseases
- Catastrophic injuries
- Road traffic accidents
- Public liability claims (accidents in public places)
- Criminal injuries (for victims of violent crime)
- Clinical negligence
- Work related stress claims.

This guide is to help you understand what to expect from a compensation claim for personal injury. It will give you an idea of the process a claim will follow, what type of damages you can claim for and how long you can expect the case to take. If you have any further questions, please contact us - our advice relating to personal injury is free.

#### How do I know if I have a case?

Many people are injured, become ill or contract a disease through no fault of their own. In order for you to succeed with a claim, you must be able to prove that the other party involved is negligent or is in breach of a statutory duty. If it is work related for example, your employer has a duty of care to ensure you can do your job safely by providing safe materials and equipment and a safe place of work.

In the first instance, contact one of our personal injury experts to discuss whether you may have a case for compensation.

#### Who will handle my case?

Thanks to the size and experience of our personal injury team, your case will be handled by a specialist in that area, assuring you of expert advice and support. We provide a professional service tailored to your own needs and circumstances. As well as helping you achieve financial compensation, we can also help with advice and assistance in relation to rehabilitation and how to cope with changes in the future.

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### How much will it cost me to make a claim?

All our personal injuries services are offered on a no win no fee basis. You will not be responsible for paying our fees – they will be recovered from the person responsible for your injury or their insurers, and not from any compensation you may receive. Even if your claim is unsuccessful, you will not have to pay any fees to us.

### What is the process of making a claim?

The first step is to make an appointment to talk to us. All our advice is free. We will tell you if you have a case for compensation. If you do, a specialist Lawyer will compile the evidence to present a case to the defendant.

We will lodge a formal letter of claim to the opposition in accordance with the Personal Injury Protocol, which both sides must follow. We will liaise with them over the instruction of any expert witnesses, including medical experts to report on your injuries. Once we have reached that stage, we will advise you further.

Most claims are settled out of court.

### How much compensation will I receive?

This varies depending on the severity of your injury or accident, and the amount of financial losses involved.

The courts will award compensation by considering a number of factors:

**'General damages'** for the injury itself, i.e. the pain and suffering it has caused you. This can include compensation for any loss of amenity, disability, reduced enjoyment of life or inability to enjoy hobbies or pastimes after the accident.

**'Special damages'** is compensation paid for financial losses such as wages and expenses. We would strongly recommend you start a notebook and keep a list of expenses you incur as you go along. These can include travel costs, medical treatment, damaged clothing and time spent by friends and relatives in caring for you.

For further information please see our *Damages Information Sheet*.

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### When should I make a claim?

As soon as possible. Time limitations do apply – all legal proceedings for personal injury should be started within three years of the date of the incident. In exceptional circumstances it may be possible to make a claim after three years. For example, in the case of an industrial disease claim there may be a long period between exposure to the substance and the effects being noticed by the sufferer.

### How long will my claim take?

Each case is individual, therefore there is no set time limit. Cases can take a considerable amount of time to settle, and we will keep you up-to-date on progress. If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to ask.

### Why choose Walker Smith Way?

Our team of personal injury Lawyers are experienced and knowledgeable about this complex area of law. We have secured millions of pounds of compensation for our clients. You will be assigned to a specialist who will guide you through the legal process, explaining the steps without using complicated legal jargon. You will find us approachable and friendly.

### Contact us

Our personal injury Lawyers will handle your case sensitively. Should you decide to proceed with legal action, we will be here for you from start to finish.

*All our personal injuries services are offered on a no win no fee basis.*

### How to claim

We provide a free confidential initial consultation in relation to any case. If you think you may have a claim, contact one of our specialists on Chester 01244 357400 or Wrexham 01978 340400.