

# Services to Union Members

## Personal Injury

### Head Injuries

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Head injuries can be life-changing. These types of catastrophic injuries vary in severity, and the effects include paralysis, severe physical disability, loss of co-ordination and epilepsy. They can also result in memory problems, concentration and behavioural changes.

The physical, emotional and psychological effects impact on whole families, not just the injured person who may have a life-long requirement for care. Some people may need specialist care in a residential setting, but others have to cope with the symptoms of serious head injury at home with carers.

Our specialist personal injury Lawyers combine a practical approach to securing financial compensation with a full appreciation of the repercussions of such a life-changing event. As well as advising you about the legal process, we can assist with rehabilitation, care packages and any necessary changes in accommodation.

#### When should I contact a Lawyer?

If you or a family member has suffered a head injury, it is vital to discuss the case with a specialist at an early stage. Early intervention from an expert Lawyer will help to minimise any delay in securing aid and support.

We know that pursuing legal action can seem daunting, so we will advise and support you every step of the way. We provide a confidential and sympathetic service and will help you to consider your options.

#### What can I expect from the legal process?

The legal process of seeking compensation is complex. In most claims a settlement is reached before the need to embark on court proceedings. In preparing a case, we will gather medical and case specific evidence - and keep you informed as the claim develops. We will explain the compensation process clearly, without legal jargon.

Cases can take a long time to resolve, so it may be possible to secure interim payments at an early stage in order to help you adapt your home and make other necessary changes. We will also advise you on how to apply for appropriate state benefits and guide you through the maze of legislation when dealing with the relevant Local Authority.

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## Specialist team

Walker Smith Way's specialist head injury Lawyers have extensive experience of dealing with these complex cases. Our other departments can help with post-settlement issues such as tax planning or Personal Injury Trusts; helping to protect any financial damages for our client's lifetime.

We will handle your case sensitively, focusing on your individual circumstances. Should you decide to proceed with legal action, we will be here for you from start to finish.

## Contact us

All our personal injuries services are free to Union Members. To make a claim, please contact your Trade Union Representative in the first instance. They will then put you in touch with us.

We are happy to travel and visit you or a family member at home or in hospital if you prefer. Our offices are adapted for wheelchair access.

Headway is the charity that supports people who have sustained a head injury plus their families and carers. For more information see [www.headway.org.uk](http://www.headway.org.uk), and also the Brain and Spine Foundation at [www.brainandspine.org.uk](http://www.brainandspine.org.uk).

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