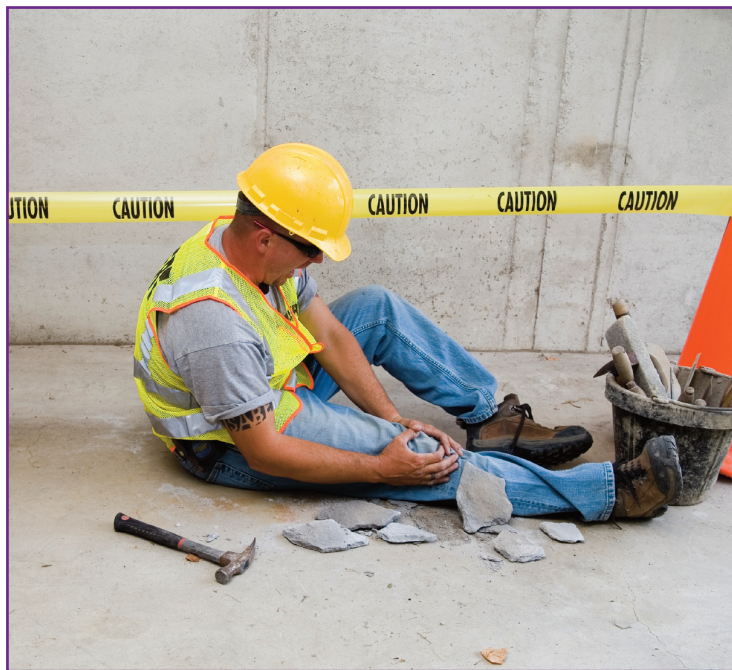


PERSONAL INJURY AND
CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE
DEPARTMENT



UNFORTUNATELY
ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN

GORDONS INJURY LAWYERS

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SPECIALISTS IN INJURY and CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS

Financial Redress And Practical Help After An Accident Or Medical Mistake

Unfortunately, accidents do happen. When they do, even relatively minor injuries can have unpleasant consequences on your life and on your family.

Not the least of these is financial. It is almost always the case that accidents result in financial loss and, more often than not, in real hardship.

If the accident was not your fault, why should you have to suffer financially, as well as physically and psychologically?

Acting exclusively on behalf of claimants, Gordons provides specialist legal advice and support in injury claims in all types of accidents.

Whilst our primary aim is to secure you compensation, we can also advise on private treatment, rehabilitation, therapeutic support and care management, where needed.



Whatever your needs, from the simple money claim to the more complex care package claims, we recognise that making a claim is, for most people, a stressful experience and we do all we can to ease the burden.

SPECIALISTS IN ALL TYPES OF ACCIDENTS

Accidents occur in many different walks of life, for example:

Road Traffic Accidents

If you've been involved in a road accident through no fault of your own, whether as a driver, passenger or as a pedestrian, you may well be entitled to compensation.

Accidents At Work

A great many people suffer injury in the workplace through no fault of their own. The Law imposes quite heavy burdens on employers to keep their employees safe and often fail to do so, resulting in injury and, often, lost wages or salary as well.

Tripping & Slipping Accidents

It is the legal responsibility of all local authorities to keep roads, paths and pavements safe and in good repair. Also, owners of privately owned buildings have a legal duty to keep their properties safe and in good repair.

Medical Negligence

Whilst most people who use the NHS and private medicine have no problems, it is unfortunately true that there are more and more people who find things going badly wrong. If you feel you have been the victim of a medical mistake by your hospital, GP or dentist, please do get in touch with us. We have many years' experience of dealing with clinical negligence claims and can steer you through the frequently complex claims procedure. No win no fee agreements are also available for this type of claim

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

If you have been injured in an unprovoked criminal assault, we can assist you in recovering compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA).

Claims involving children

When a child is injured, the whole family goes through great anguish. Children's claims need special handling and they must be represented by an adult, usually a parent. Special Court proceedings known as infant settlement proceedings are almost always necessary.

WHAT CAN I CLAIM FOR?

Compensation in injury claims is in two parts, general damages and special damages.

General damages are compensation for the injury itself, for pain, suffering and loss of amenity. Valuing general damages can be tricky, as no two injuries or two people are the same. We take great pains to explore previous decided cases in order to give you the best possible advice about levels of compensation achievable.

Special damages refer to quantifiable financial loss. Examples are:

- loss of earnings both past & future
- care costs (even where provided by a family member or friend)
- travelling expenses
- private therapy & treatment costs
- prescriptions
- pension loss
- car repair costs or policy excess
- car hire charges
- damaged clothing / personal items
- orthopaedic bed / chair / equipment
- loss of holiday / travel arrangements
- and many other too numerous to mention here.

The overall amount that can be claimed will usually not become obvious for a while, so it is important to keep notes and receipts wherever possible.

HOW TO FUND YOUR CLAIM

There is no legal aid available for injury claims, it was abolished by the government in 2000. It still remains for medical negligence claims subject to a quite stringent means and merit test.

The basic principle in the Law relating to injury claims is quite simply: the loser pays. This means your Solicitor's fees are paid in addition to your compensation, so there will be no legal bill to you at all. However, your claim still needs to be funded while it is ongoing and we give below the options available to you.

LEGAL EXPENSES INSURANCE

Most people have a contents & buildings household policy. In many cases, these policies have a legal expenses section which provide funding for your Solicitor's fees and agree to meet any costs which may be awarded against you in the unlikely event you lose. So you are fully covered either way!

In road accidents, almost all policyholders have a legal expenses policy, which offers all the cover you need.

A legal expenses insurance policy, subject to any policy restrictions, will mean a no win no fee agreement (see below) will not be appropriate. You will need to comply with the terms and conditions of your policy. We will explain all this to you at the outset.

CONDITIONAL FEE AGREEMENT (No Win No Fee)

This is the most popular method of funding injury claims where no Legal Expenses Insurance cover is available. Usually backed by a separate insurance policy (which we arrange for you), it means we do not charge you for our fees if the claim is unsuccessful. The cost of the insurance premium can be deferred, which means the premium does not have to be paid until the end of the claim when it will be paid by your opponent if you win. If you lose, the premium is written off.

We do not get paid at all if a claim is lost, so we are sharing the risk with you. This means that the fact that we offer you a no win no fee agreement is a sign of our confidence in your claim!

In exchange for taking this risk, we claim a success fee in those cases that succeed (the vast majority). This success fee is not a percentage of your compensation, it is a percentage of the costs incurred in pursuing the claim. You do not pay this success fee, the Defendant does. We will explain this to you at the outset.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION / TRADE UNION

If you are a member of a professional organisation or trade union, you may well have as a benefit of membership an entitlement to cover in respect of legal fees, not only your own but also full cover for your opponent's fees if you lose. This option operates in a similar way to LEI insurance described above.

CONTACT US

For further information, please contact the Head of our Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence team, Allen Wilson. With almost 20 years experience of all types of injury claims, he heads a professional and highly motivated team who are dedicated to achieving the best possible result for you.



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ABOUT GORDONS:

Based in Marlow and Maidenhead, Gordons was originally founded in 1991 and is one of the leading firms in the area. It now has in excess of 120 employees and offers a wide range of legal services to business clients and private individuals.

Gordons also deal with the following areas of work:

- banking & security lending
- corporate
- employment
- private client
- commercial litigation
- dental law
- licensing
- insolvency & receivership

For further details, please go to www.gordons-law.co.uk



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The Registered Office of Gordons Solicitors LLP is at Winter Hill House,
Marlow Reach, Station Approach, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1NT, UK

We use the word "partner" to refer to a member of Gordons Solicitors LLP.

A list of the members of Gordons Solicitors LLP is open to inspection at its registered office.

Gordons Injury Lawyers is a trading name of Gordons Solicitors LLP