

COMPENSATION FOR PERSONAL INJURIES

How do I know if I have a personal injury claim?

You must have suffered an injury to your person or property AND your injury must have been the result of someone else's negligence or fault. It is not always necessary to have a physical injury - you may be able to base your claim on any other types of loss as well.

What damages can I claim as a result of my personal injury?

The most common forms of compensation include payment for:

- Pain & Suffering
- Medical Bills
- Property Damage
- Lost Wages
- Emotional Trauma
- Physical Disability
- Mental Disability

Why do I need a solicitor to represent me?

Your solicitor aims to obtain the maximum damages for you, consistent with the nature of your injuries and losses.

What is the time limit for me to make a claim for injuries?

There are a number of different rules. In most cases you have three years from your injury to raise court proceedings for compensation after which time you will receive no compensation. The time limits for injuries children are longer than those for adults.

But the time limit is sometimes shorter, for example in criminal injuries compensation cases (see Factsheet - Criminal Injuries Compensation). Time limits depend on the circumstances of each case – so you should get legal advice as soon as you can after the accident or incident which caused your injury.

Do you handle cases for children?

Yes, our solicitors often act for children. The time limits for claims are different for children, so it is important to contact a solicitor to investigate a child's claim, even if the accident occurred some years ago.

What are the issues that typically arise in making a personal injury claim?

Liability – who is at fault and to what degree

Damages – the value of the injuries or losses that were caused by the accident

Insurance Coverage – is the individual responsible for causing the damage insured?

How much compensation will I receive?

This depends on the circumstances of the incident, and on the nature, extent and duration of injuries, economic losses (including lost wages), disfigurement, whether you were partly to blame, and on a host of other considerations. While our professionals can evaluate the probable value of your case, no precise method exists for predicting how much an injured individual will recover in each case.

Will my case go to court?

Most claims are settled without a court appearance. However, our solicitors prepare all cases in the same way, on the basis that if a reasonable and fair settlement cannot be reached, we are prepared to take the matter to court in necessary.

What can I do if I was injured in a road accident by an uninsured driver?

All motorists are required to have insurance, but there are still drivers on the road who do not have insurance. If you are the victim of a negligent uninsured or untraced motorist, you may be able to claim compensation from the Motor Insurance Bureau. We can advise you about making such a claim.