

EXPERTISE
WITH
EMPATHY



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Understanding what support you need and how you adjust to your injuries can be overwhelming, so we are there to support you every step of the way.



BL CLAIMS SOLICITORS is one of the leading firms in the UK for handling compensation claims. We have a long and successful track record of helping people win fair compensation following accidents, and minor or serious injuries that were not their fault – whether they occurred in the UK or overseas.

Our teams combine highly experienced solicitors, as well as qualified healthcare professionals so we understand the legal and medical issues involved in successfully bringing a complex claim.

HOW WE CAN HELP

BL Claims Solicitors specialise in winning personal injury and clinical negligence claims – whether in the UK or overseas.

We promise to make the process as straightforward as possible, handling your case with the highest level of expertise and

care. Understanding what support you need and how you adjust to your injuries can be overwhelming, so we are there to support you every step of the way. All you need to do is tell us what happened, provide any evidence you have and let our expert teams do the rest.

The cases we handle range from relatively minor accidents through to complex and life-changing injuries. What is important is that we believe that there is a strong case and that we can get a result.

GETTING YOU THE SUPPORT YOU NEED

We appreciate that you have already suffered as a result of your injury, so we understand the need to make your compensation claim hassle-free and to secure the support you need as quickly as possible. We pride ourselves on giving

honest and straight forward advice, guiding our clients through the process of making a claim in clear, jargon-free language - even in the most complex of cases.

Following a life changing injury you may need financial support immediately to help cover the costs of loss of earnings and medical expenses, or to find someone to help arrange your rehabilitation and care - that's where we can help.

SPECIALIST EXPERTISE

Within our 40 strong team we have the expertise and experience to handle claims in a number of very specialist areas. Some of these are listed below.

ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESSES ABROAD

– claims arising from package holidays and cruises, skiing and snowboarding injuries, road traffic accidents

BRAIN AND SPINAL INJURIES

– complex claims where significant compensation is needed to cover large medical bills, professional care, loss of earnings, appropriate accommodation and suffering of the victim

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE - claims arising out of poor medical treatment (private or NHS), such as catastrophic birth injuries, spinal cord damage, failed operations, misdiagnosis or a failure to diagnose

INJURIES IN THE WORKPLACE

– accidents due to negligence or, defective equipment, as well as industrial diseases such as RSI, asbestosis and hearing loss

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS – claims for cyclists, pedestrians as well as cars and motorcyclists.

SEXUAL ABUSE – an extremely specialist area which includes historic abuse claims

You can find more about these and other areas of our work on our website at www.blclaims.co.uk

TRAVEL TEAM SETTLES MULTI-MILLION POUND CASE FOR HOLIDAYMAKER LEFT PARALYSED IN SKI ACCIDENT

For most people going on holiday is a time to unwind and relax, but unfortunately that is not always the case and when things go wrong it's important to get the right advice to ensure you receive adequate compensation.

Our specialist travel team recovered several million pounds for a client who suffered life changing injuries having been caught up in an avalanche in France.

His claim was successfully won by our lawyers in the English courts against the insurer of the ski guide, and the ski school who were all based in France where the ski excursion was booked.

During his excursion our client was led down a south east facing slope by the instructor who should have been aware of the high risk of avalanche and that the slope had been exposed to the sun making it unsafe to ski.

Unfortunately for our client they were caught up in a series of avalanches which resulted in them being airlifted from the slope to a nearby hospital for a life-saving operation. As a result of their injuries they are now paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair.

Liability was denied throughout the case by the ski school and their insurer, but our dedicated team of travel lawyers were able to challenge them in the courts to secure a successful outcome. The compensation awarded to our client has meant that they can now receive the specialist care and support they deserve and he was also compensated for his loss of earnings.

We have a wealth of experience in pursuing successful ski accident and other catastrophic claims around the world, either bringing the claim in England or in a foreign jurisdiction.

DETERMINATION AND SUPPORT HELP JEMIMA GET BACK IN THE SADDLE

Jemima Green's life was turned upside down when she was involved in a devastating car crash that left her with severe spinal injuries.

Jemima, a competitive equestrian eventer whose life revolved around horse riding, was a rear seat passenger in a car which was hit head on by a driver travelling in the opposite direction in May last year. The accident resulted in a devastating fatality, while Jemima and her two fellow passengers suffered major injuries.

Jemima spent seven weeks in intensive care and underwent three gruelling operations including treatment for a significant fracture of her lower spine, which left her dependent on the use of a wheelchair.

Despite the trauma of losing a friend and the severity of her injuries, Jemima showed incredible will, determination and spirit. Now, thanks to her positive attitude to life and the support of those around her, the 27-year-old has been able to ride again for the first time since her accident. She has even taken her first tentative steps, thanks to a revolutionary aid which enables her to stand upright and move forward with the support of mechanical legs.

Jemima was supported by specialists from BL Claims Solicitors, who represented her in a personal injury claim and were involved in many aspects of her rehabilitation.

Through the firm's specialist spinal injury lawyers, Jemima was put in touch with Hobbs Neurological Rehabilitation, which has enabled her to use robotic technology made by Ekso Bionics. Using the equipment supports Jemima's regular regime of physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, Pilates and gym sessions.

BL Claims Solicitors has also secured an interim payment for Jemima which has enabled her to make some alterations to her home for wheelchair access, and to invest in a specially-adapted car which she is now able to drive.

Jemima, of Beaminster, Dorset, says: "At the beginning it was difficult to come to terms with my injuries but BL Claims Solicitors have been very supportive in finding the right people for me – for the case and for my rehabilitation.

"They don't just look at me as a case, but see me as a person. Sometimes since the accident I have felt I am being judged and questioned about essential equipment to help get back to some sort of normality.

"They have understood that horse riding was my career before the accident and why it remains so important to me. They have even been there to watch me as I have started to ride again.

"In the beginning you start to question what there is still left for you to be able to do, but I have been helped through it by the people around me.

"BL Claims have been there to support me throughout, even if it's evenings or weekends, and they are very quick to get back to us.

"The compensation helped pay for landscaping and adaptations to help me get out of the house, which has made a world of difference."

Through Hobbs Rehabilitation, Jemima was introduced to Ekso Bionics, a pioneer in wearable robotics.

The company has produced the first robotic exoskeleton to be granted clearance for rehabilitation purposes in people with spinal cord injuries or stroke, and Jemima is among the first to trial it. She is able to use her hands and upper body to manipulate the suit, which responds by moving its mechanical legs – enabling her to walk.

Jemima's commitment to letting nothing hold her back doesn't end there. Since her accident she has been heavily involved with the Back Up Trust, an organisation which provides support for people who has suffered a spinal cord injury and she has taken part in several sporting events for charity.



CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE LAWYERS SUPPORT BEREAVED FAMILY IN DELAYED DIAGNOSIS CASE

Delayed diagnosis can have a significant impact on the progression of an illness and affect a patient's recovery time and long-term prognosis.

Our clinical negligence experts have assisted patients in misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis compensation claims for a wide range of health conditions including representing and securing a successful outcome for a patient with a delayed diagnosis of a parotid gland tumour.

Our client was suffering from intermittent vertigo and tinnitus when she first sought hospital treatment, no action was taken at the time and she was reviewed again approximately four years later with headache and facial pain which was causing her significant problems. She was told if these problems continued she would need a CT scan. These problems did persist but unfortunately she was not reassessed at that time and continued to have right sided facial problems for the next few years. She attended her GP at least once or twice a year and was felt to have infections and symptoms related to ear infections.

After suffering for almost a decade she was referred to hospital where her continual problems were assessed. She was treated with grommet surgery and given a hearing aid but unfortunately this did little to ease the facial pain.

Two years later she was given an ultrasound but the results came back clear. It was felt a tooth infection may be causing her right sided facial and neck pain and she was advised to put cotton wool in her ears before showering.

Another year passed as her symptoms worsened she was passed between various hospital departments where she was prescribed painkillers for shooting pains in her jaw. At this point she was advised to come back in six months but insisted on a MRI scan as the pain was becoming unbearable.

She was booked for such a scan a few weeks later and diagnosed with a with a large right parotid gland tumour. She had a biopsy and then was referred to London for major surgery – at this point it was discovered that the tumour had spread up into her brain.

Following the surgery our client started chemotherapy treatment and continued to suffer the health consequences of a large tumour.

Expert evidence from our clinical negligence team confirmed that the tumour should have been diagnosed some years before it was. Not only did the delayed diagnosis result in the extension of the parotid tumour to the brain but it also sadly caused the premature death of our client almost two years after the correct diagnosis.

This was an extremely distressing time for the family of the patient who wanted answers to what went wrong so that this could help prevent anyone else going through such a traumatic experience. Our team helped the family get the answers they deserved and to accept a six figure settlement to bring the claim to an end without the need to issue court proceedings. They have found it very hard to cope with the fact that their mother had been in so much pain and should have been diagnosed much sooner than she was. The compensation secured helped to provide financially for her dependants.

Sadly this is not an isolated case but our clinical negligence experts are highly regarded, experienced lawyers, some of whom are also qualified nurses, midwives and doctors. They have the perfect expertise and compassion to assist you if you feel you have a claim for compensation due to suffering from negligent treatment.

REASSURANCE

Bringing a claim can be a stressful time and so we work hard to provide reassurance at every step of the way. Our years of experience mean that we understand the wider picture, the implications of an injury and the support required until the conclusion of your claim.

You can also be reassured that we are members of the key industry bodies and panels in our field – from the **Law Society's Clinical Negligence** panel through to those of leading support organisations such as **Headway**, the **Spinal injuries Association** and **Action for Victims of Medical Accidents**.

FUNDING

Most of our work is funded by Conditional Fee Agreements (no win no fee) so if we take on your case, you do not need to be concerned about costs. Our clinical negligence team also has a Legal Aid franchise. Contact us for a free discussion about your case and we can talk you through the various options available.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact us on **0344 620 6600** or email **info@blclaims.co.uk**, you can also find further information on our website **www.blclaims.co.uk**

CARDIFF

 029 2068 6000

 029 2068 6380

LONDON

 020 7405 2000

 0844 620 3402

OXFORD

 01865 248607

 0844 620 3403

PORTSMOUTH

 023 9222 1122

 0844 620 3404

READING

 0118 955 3000

 0118 939 3210

SOUTHAMPTON

 023 8090 8090

 0844 620 3401

 info@blakemorgan.co.uk

www.blakemorgan.co.uk

