

Industrial Disease Compensation

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SOLICITORS
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About Graysons

If you have been injured or suffered an industrial disease as a result of your employment and wish to claim compensation, Graysons can offer experience, a successful track record and a friendly helping hand during a difficult time.

We specialise in securing compensation for injuries and expenses incurred as a result of your injury. Our teams comprise members of the Law Society's specialist Personal Injury Panel, solicitors recognised as experts in their field, and we have considerable experience in successfully pursuing all types of personal injury claims.

We have teams who specialise in industrial diseases including vibration white finger, industrial deafness and chest disease, so you can be sure that you will receive expert advice from someone with detailed knowledge of your type of claim.

We will carefully assess the circumstances of your injury and advise on the strength of the claim and likely level of compensation.

Every individual for whom we act is offered free initial advice and we can pursue your claim on a no fee basis in appropriate cases. We can also offer home and hospital visits when appropriate.

Contact us for a free initial consultation and we will be happy to discuss your case and advise you on the strength of your claim.

Vibration White Finger

This condition can affect anyone who has had frequent exposure to high levels of vibration; it can be a permanent condition for which there is no effective treatment. The most common symptoms include tingling and numbness in the hands and fingers, particularly in cold weather.

The most common cause is through contact with vibrating tools such as:

- Hammers and jigger picks
- Vibrating pokers
- Vibratory compactors
- Concrete breakers
- Sanders and angle grinders
- Hammer drills and jigsaws
- Scrabblers

Graysons acts for individuals who have worked in all types of industries. We also act on behalf of the NUM (Derbyshire area) and handle over 10,000 claims on behalf of miners.

We have already recovered over £50 million in compensation for miners, one of the highest amounts by any law firm in England.

Industrial Deafness

Individuals who suffer damage to their hearing as a result of exposure to noise at work may be able to claim compensation. Employers have a legal duty to protect the hearing of their employees from excessive levels of noise by providing adequate ear protection in noisy environments.

Exposure to high levels of noise can cause deafness and/or tinnitus, which is the condition of experiencing noises in the ears or head with no external source.

Workers most at risk of these conditions include:

- ❑ Heavy industry such as metal work, stone cutting, drilling and quarrying
- ❑ Industries which use noisy machinery such as textiles, printing, wood cutting, transportation and agriculture
- ❑ Production line workers
- ❑ Machine tool operatives
- ❑ Armed forces

Graysons' specialist team handles claims for industrial deafness and tinnitus for all types of workers. During the last 10 years we have handled thousands of claims and recovered millions of pounds in compensation.

If you work or have previously worked in a noisy environment and believe that your hearing has deteriorated as a result, you may be entitled to compensation.



Chest Disease

Exposure to dust and fumes at work can cause one or more of several types of chest diseases. Employers have a legal duty of care to ensure the health and safety of their staff and to provide adequate protection in potentially hazardous environments.

There are many types of respiratory disease including:

- Emphysema
- Pneumoconiosis
- Silicosis
- Chronic Bronchitis
- Asthma
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease/Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease (known as COPD/COAD)



Occupations most at risk of respiratory diseases include:

- Construction
- Mining
- Textiles, leather and rubber
- Plastics and synthetics manufacture
- Spray painters
- Welders
- Bakers and flour confectioners

If you have suffered any of the above conditions because of your work environment, it may be possible to claim compensation from your employers.

These are the questions we are asked most frequently about Industrial Disease claims.

How much will it cost me to pursue a claim?

In short - nothing. If we pursue a claim on your behalf you will have no legal fees to pay, irrespective of whether your claim is successful or not.

How do you get paid?

If we don't win your claim for you, we don't get paid. If we do win we claim our fees and expenses from the other side. It is therefore in our interests that we win your claim for you.

We have a very high success rate in pursuing Personal Injury claims, and you can be confident that your claim will be handled in a professional manner by experienced specialists.

Will I have to go to court?

The vast majority of cases do not go to court. Most claims are settled out of court by negotiation with the other party.

What do I have to do to claim?

The first step is to contact us and we will discuss your circumstances and assess them on your behalf. If we feel that you have a claim we will take a number of steps to investigate and gather the evidence to proceed.

We will evaluate the likelihood of success based on the level and nature of injury, who is at fault and other factors which affect the overall strength of your claim. We will also discuss with you the likely value of your claim.





How can I prove who I worked for?

You may have worked for more than one employer and cannot remember all the dates of your employment. We can obtain details of all your employers from 1960 in a schedule from the Inland Revenue.

How long do I have to make a claim?

If you are considering making a claim it is important to contact us as soon as possible. There are time limits for starting a personal injury claim, depending on the type of injury involved.

If your injury was caused by someone's negligence you must start court proceedings within 3 years of when you were injured. If you were not aware of the injury initially (for example, if you are suffering from a disease caused by exposure to asbestos and did not become ill for years after) you have to start proceedings within 3 years of finding out about the injury.

You should obtain legal advice as soon as you believe you may be suffering from an industrial disease caused by your employment. We will advise you on how the time limits affect your particular case.

If I make a claim against my employer, can they dismiss me?

Employers are required by law to take out insurance to cover their liability against injuries to employees. If you make a claim, your employers insurance would pay your compensation.

It is not justifiable for your employer to dismiss you for making a claim. Laws exist to protect workers from recrimination or unfair dismissal.

If you have any concerns about claiming you can contact us in confidence to discuss the circumstances.





How long will it take to settle my claim?

Various factors affect how long it will take to settle a claim.

An important factor is whether or not an admission is obtained from the party at fault early in the process. If the person or company you are claiming from deny liability then this can prolong the claim until we prove that they are responsible. Witnesses can be helpful in this respect as they can add to the strength of your claim.

Identifying the defendant can also be an issue in some claims. For example, your employer may no longer be trading or may have been taken over. We will make enquiries to identify the firm and check there is an insurer on cover for the period you worked there.

How much is my claim worth?

The value of your claim will depend on a number of factors including:

- The nature and level of the injury
- Whether you recover fully from the injury or if it has a long term effect on your health and wellbeing
- The amount of any losses you incur as a result of the injury

You can claim compensation for the following things if they are a result of your injury:

- Pain and suffering
- Loss of earnings
- Loss of amenity
- Medical and nursing care costs
- Special equipment needed to carry out daily activities and any costs involved in adapting your home
- Other expenses incurred as a result of your injury, for example, travel expenses incurred while receiving medical treatment.

Pick up our other informative brochures

- Personal Injury Claims
- Industrial Disease Compensation
- Wills, Estates and Trusts
- Elderly Client Services
- Conveyancing
- Medical Negligence Claims
- Child Care
- Separation and Divorce

Contacting us is easy If you would like more information on any of the areas we cover we have a range of brochures available to help you.

Phone us or return one of our pre-paid cards to receive more information.

Or go online to download our full range of brochures and information sheets.

Or phone or email us to request an appointment.

Telephone **0114 272 9184**

or **www.graysons.co.uk**

Sheffield

4-12 Paradise Square,
Sheffield S1 1TB
telephone 0114 272 9184
facsimile 0114 276 8664

Chesterfield

100 Saltergate,
Chesterfield S40 1LG
telephone 01246 229 393
facsimile 01246 229 494

www.graysons.co.uk