

# Personal Injury Claims



**GRAYSONS**  
SOLICITORS  
SHEFFIELD ■ CHESTERFIELD

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# About Graysons

If you have been injured in an accident 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 direct result of accidents.

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 accident claims.

We have teams specialising in claims for road accidents, accidents at work and accidents in public places, 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 accident with assistance from our own accident investigators. We will arrange the obtaining of medical evidence in relation to the injury suffered, and consider with you the expenses and losses incurred as a result of your accident in order to recover the proper amount of compensation to which you are entitled.

We offer free initial advice and we will pursue your claim on a **'No win - No fee'** basis. We can also offer home and hospital visits when appropriate.

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

# Accidents in Public Places

If you have suffered an accident in a public place, for example, a trip or fall on a pavement or an accident in a shop or elsewhere, you may be entitled to compensation.

Graysons successfully recover compensation each year for a large number of clients injured in this type of accident. We have the specialist experience and resources required to effectively pursue these claims.

We will arrange to inspect the location of the accident in order to properly investigate the cause and assess liability. Our investigators will obtain the relevant evidence which may be crucial to the success of your claim.





## Road Accidents

If you were injured in an accident on the road which was not your fault compensation can be claimed.

Graysons have successfully recovered substantial compensation following this type of accident for a large number of clients. We offer a specialist service whether you were the driver, a passenger, a cyclist or a pedestrian. Claims can also be pursued on behalf of children injured in an accident.

We have the resources to investigate the circumstances of the accident, preparing photographs, plans and interviewing witnesses where necessary.

Some insurers may contact you to make an early offer to settle your claim. Always talk to us first before agreeing to any offer of settlement. We can advise you on how much compensation you are entitled to receive.

We can also assist with 'hit and run' incidents or with claims against uninsured drivers by making the necessary application to the Motor Insurers' Bureau.

# Accidents at Work

If you have been injured because of an accident in the course of your work, you may be entitled to compensation from your employers or another party.

Graysons offers a specialist service for work related accident claims.

We will correspond with employers and their liability insurers on your behalf. Where necessary, we will arrange to inspect the workplace or relevant machinery to secure photographic and other evidence, or interview witnesses to support a claim.

If your employers and their insurers make an offer to settle your claim we will advise regarding acceptance or rejection. We will endeavour to negotiate settlement of a claim without recourse to court proceedings if possible.

We know that pursuing action against an employer can be worrying and daunting. Clients can rely on Graysons to guide and support them through the claims process, including court action and trial if they become necessary.

**These are the questions we are asked most frequently about Personal Injury 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 fees to pay, irrespective of whether your claim is successful or not. You will keep 100% of the compensation that you win.

## How do Graysons get paid?

If we don't win your claim for you, we don't get paid. If we win we claim our fees and expenses from the other party. 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's insurers.



## How do I know if my claim is worth pursuing?

The first step is to contact us and let us have details of your accident and injuries for assessment. If we feel that you have a claim we will make appropriate investigations and gather the evidence needed to proceed. Where appropriate we may:

- Photograph your injuries
- Inspect and photograph the accident site
- Interview witnesses

We will evaluate the likelihood of success based on the nature of the 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 and advise as to how long the claim may take.



## If I suffer an accident, what steps should I take?

Always seek medical attention if you are injured.

If possible photograph the site and cause of the accident using a mobile phone (sites can change or be cleaned up quickly and the cause of the accident removed).

Ask for contact details of any witnesses.

Report the accident to the establishment you are in if it is a public place.

If you are at work report the incident to your manager and ensure that it is recorded in the firm's accident book.

If the accident is on the road, report it to the police, including details of the third party.

Contact us for advice as soon as possible.

# 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 you have to start proceedings within 3 years of finding out about the injury.

If you were assaulted you have 6 years from the assault to start court proceedings. If you are applying for criminal injuries compensation the period is 2 years.

If you are claiming for an incident on holiday, at sea or in an aircraft there may be special time limits. Please contact us for advice on these types of claims.

If you were injured abroad the time limits may be different depending on who you are claiming against and whether or not they are based in the UK, for example, a travel company or tour operator.

If the claim concerns a child who has been injured, time limits do not normally start until they are 18 years old. Please contact us for further advice.

# I've been involved in a road accident but the other party has no insurance, can I still make a claim?

Yes. All motor insurers have to pay into a fund controlled by the Motor Insurers' Bureau. The fund is used to compensate victims of negligent uninsured and untraced motorists.

If you have been involved in an accident where the other party has no insurance, or a hit and run type incident, contact us and we will help you to make a claim through the Motor Insurers' Bureau.



# 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 for accidents causing injury to employees. If you make a claim for a work accident your employer's insurers would pay your compensation.

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

If you have any concerns about claiming for an accident at work you can contact us in confidence to discuss the circumstances.

# How long will it take to settle my claim?

It is in everyone's interests to process your claim without delay and many straightforward, lower value claims can be settled within a matter of months.

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 denies liability then this can prolong the claim until we prove that they are responsible. Witnesses to an accident can be helpful in this respect as they can add to the strength of your claim.

Identifying the correct defendant can also be an issue in some claims - for instance, if you have a trip or fall on a public footpath due to utility work being carried out on it. In a case like this we would have to ascertain who is responsible for maintaining a safe environment for pedestrians. Is it the local council, the utility company or the sub-contractors who are carrying out the work?

The nature of the injury suffered will often dictate the length of time your claim takes to settle. If you suffer a minor injury which heals completely within a few weeks your claim should progress quickly. Injuries which require ongoing treatment can take longer to settle. In these cases we have to assess what the long term implications of the injury are. We have to look at the medical evidence to ascertain whether you are likely to recover fully or if you will have ongoing problems.

This will also affect the value of your claim. In some cases it may not be in your best interests to settle a claim early, as it can take time to fully understand the level of ongoing injury and the impact it will have on your life. In certain circumstances an interim payment may be available.

# How much is my claim worth?

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

- The nature 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
- Handicap
- 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**

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