

NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR
ALL NEUROLOGICAL
CONDITIONS



SPECIALIST LEGAL ADVICE

Alderstone Solicitors



BRIAN BARR
SOLICITORS



Coulthursts
The Brain Injury Lawyers

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**Slater
Gordon**
Lawyers

About The Brain Charity



There are more than 600 conditions affecting the brain, spine and nervous system. We're the only national charity providing practical help, emotional support and social activities for every single one.

The Brain Charity is a national charity based in Liverpool city centre. We help people with all forms of neurological condition to lead longer, healthier, happier lives.

For someone newly diagnosed with a neurological condition life can quickly become very lonely and frightening.



Each year, we provide practical help, emotional support, and social activities to thousands of people from all over the UK.

Expert legal advice you can trust

Unfortunately, people with neurological conditions are more likely to face life-limiting disabilities, often as a result of sudden injuries. You and your family may need professional legal advice, support navigating legal pathways or assistance advocating for yourself in legal situations.

People lose control of their lives and many face unemployment, poverty and social isolation.

At The Brain Charity, we help anyone affected by a neurological condition to pick up the pieces so they can rebuild their lives and achieve their potential.



The Brain Charity works with qualified and trusted legal partners to ensure our clients have access to the highest-quality service possible. The Brain Charity's Information and Advice Officers can explore the legal options open to you and introduce you to our panel of solicitors.



It is of vital importance we only offer our clients a service which is experienced, trustworthy and reliable.



We have chosen to work with the law firm or firms listed in this leaflet because we are confident they are well-respected and have the skills you need, as well as being understanding, friendly and above all excellent within their specialist areas.

There is no requirement for you to speak to or use any of our partner firms and you are free to use any solicitor of your choice.

Get in touch:

To speak to our team, email legal@thebraincharity.org.uk or call us on 0151 298 2999.

How our legal service can help you

All The Brain Charity's legal partners have the specialist expertise needed to support you with any difficult or complex problems you may face.



Serious injury

If you or a loved one has been seriously injured in a road traffic accident, criminal assault or accident at work, it is vital you seek out specialist legal support.

A trusted lawyer can help you make a claim for compensation and for any future rehabilitation costs. This can be a very complex area of the law and so it is important to seek out the right help and to get it in place as soon as possible.



Power of Attorney and Court of Protection issues

Some of the most common legal questions that can affect people with neurological conditions and their families are around Power of Attorney and Court of Protection. It can be distressing when a loved one is so unwell they are not able to manage their own financial affairs or make decisions for themselves. The Brain Charity's legal partners can guide you through this process, explaining how the system works and what needs to be done at each stage.



Other legal issues

The Brain Charity's partners may also be able to help you in a variety of other areas, including wills and probate, cosmetic negligence and family law.



Issues with care

Sometimes, despite the judgement, expertise and professionalism of medics, mistakes can happen. If you feel you could have experienced medical negligence, our panel may be able to help. Sometimes, despite the judgement, expertise and professionalism of medics, mistakes can happen. If you feel you could have experienced medical negligence, our panel may be able to help.

As well as specialist legal experience, you will need an expert legal team that supports you and your family's financial, emotional, and practical needs. Every injured person faces unique challenges, but we work to put a legal, clinical and care network around you and your family to help you face those challenges. Whenever possible, Alderstone Solicitors will quickly secure early interim payments to ensure that financial, education and rehabilitation needs are addressed. We are experts in recovering maximum compensation and putting everything in place to help you and your family to rebuild your future.

Quentin Underhill

Quentin is a Partner and head of our Serious and Catastrophic Injury Department. He has more than 30 years' experience in helping people who have suffered life-changing injury and clinical negligence. He works with empathy and builds trust with clients to help them make claims for brain injuries, spinal injuries, amputations, psychiatric injuries, chronic pain, and fatal accidents. Quentin focuses on speedy access to rehabilitation by obtaining early interim payments and using a collaborative approach to achieve the very best outcome for you and your family.



Chris Bolton

Chris is a Partner with more than two decades of specialist experience in serious injury compensation cases involving brain injury, spinal injury, chronic pain, and fatal accidents. Whenever possible, Chris' approach is rooted in recovery, rehabilitation, and empathy. He supports our clients and their families to go on and live the best life possible. He has helped hundreds of injured people secure appropriate medical, financial, and emotional assistance including loss of income, prescriptions costs, adaptable housing and vehicle costs and much more.



Claire Cully

Claire is an Associate Solicitor and a senior member of our Serious and Catastrophic Injury and Clinical Negligence departments. She is not only a dedicated and experienced legal expert, but she is also approachable and will work closely with you and your family to guide you through the challenges of the legal process. Claire aims to secure compensation to fund a quality support network of carers and other clinical professionals who you will help you make the most of life after a serious injury or medical negligence.



Mervin Smith

Mervin is an Associate Solicitor in our Serious and Catastrophic Injury, and Clinical Negligence Departments. He is an experienced Serious and Catastrophic Injury lawyer. He specialises in complex cases that require expert legal knowledge and empathy and compassion. He works with and supports severely injured people and their families through very difficult times. With sensitivity and professionalism, he focuses on gaining swift access to rehabilitation to ensure the best future possible for families affected by brain injury, spinal injury and medical negligence.



Brian Barr Solicitors



At Brian Barr Solicitors we understand that brain injuries, whether a traumatic brain injury or a subtle brain injury, affect people differently. Indeed, some can even develop a Functional Neurological Disorder (FND). We understand how life-changing these injuries can be for both you and your family.

Brian Barr is a leading, specialist firm of solicitors who deal uniquely with brain injury and chronic pain litigation. Although based in Manchester, we specialise in assisting claimants throughout England and Wales securing them the compensation they deserve. When it comes to brain injury and neurological disorders, including FND, Brian Barr are the experts.

We are a dedicated team who are passionate about helping our clients in a caring, understanding and professional manner. We are committed to building strong relationships with our clients and providing them with access to the leading experts whose understanding of your condition is second to none.

In both traumatic and subtle brain injury cases, whether caused by a road traffic accident, an assault, a fall or accident at work or home, or any other incident that was not your fault, it is crucial you are represented by an expert legal team who is experienced in acting in high value and complex medical issues. A team who understands your disorder and the impact it can have on your life and relationships.

With the prospects of a challenging and sometimes uncertain future, it is important to get the help and support from expert solicitors. Brian Barr Solicitors have successfully helped clients who have suffered a brain injury through no fault of their own. We helped them obtain six figure sums of compensation.

Moving Solicitor

If your current solicitors are not a specialist firm with expertise in complex brain injury claims, your claim could be misunderstood and undervalued. In any accident or insurance claim, transferring your claim from your current solicitor to Brian Barr Solicitors is easy and hassle-free. You are under no obligation to stay with your current solicitor and are entitled to switch your solicitors for whatever reason you wish.

The reason for changing personal injury lawyers will vary from person to person, but some of the key reasons clients move to Brian Barr include:

- **A need for understanding or expertise - this is common in complex personal injury cases, such as brain injury, chronic pain or neurological disorders, and can be extremely frustrating if your solicitor lacks experience in this specialist area**
- **Your expected settlement is unlikely to cover your long-term care costs and lifestyle changes**

Whether you are just starting your claim or are close to settlement, if you are unhappy with the progress being made in your claim, you are entitled to transfer your case over to Brian Barr. We regularly have cases transferred to us because of our specialist knowledge in various areas of personal injury law. We will handle everything for you, so please get in touch and let us help you get the ball rolling with obtaining the outcome you require to provide the best quality of life possible.

Coulthursts



Speaking to solicitors can feel daunting at the best of times, especially when you or a loved one are facing a potentially life-changing, traumatic and uncertain time following a traumatic brain injury. As specialist brain injury lawyers, our focus is to support individuals, families, and carers from the moment you need it most.

We are here to help you navigate your way through the complexities of this journey and achieve the very best recovery and life outcome for you and your loved ones. We are different in that we only deal with claims involving a brain injury, and were founded by brain injury solicitor Philip Coulthurst and medical practitioner Dr Richard Newland, both of whom had a passion for specifically supporting people recovering from traumatic brain injury.

In addition to offering our highly specialised and friendly legal services, in many personal injury claims we will be able to fund the rehabilitation and support that you need, through our **Rehabilitation and Support Service**.

How Are We Different?



SPECIALIST LEGAL

We deal exclusively with brain injury claims.



REHABILITATION & TREATMENT

In many instances, we are able to pay for and arrange early treatment and support.



FINANCIAL

We provide financial advice and support, ensuring maximum compensation is obtained.



EMOTIONAL & FAMILY SUPPORT

We build our service around what you and your family need.



NO RISK

We are committed to offering a no win, no fee service.

We're Here To Help

We are happy to speak to you whether or not you think you may have a legal compensation claim, or if you are just looking to find out more about us and how we might be able to help. We can visit you and your family at hospital, at your home, at our office in Manchester or at a meeting office close to you. Even if you have spoken with other lawyers, please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like a second opinion or further advice.



Kevin Walker
Brain Injury
Lawyer



Kirsty Mors
Brain Injury
Lawyer



Philip Coulthurst
Brain Injury Solicitor
and Managing Director



Caroline Bolton
Brain Injury
Solicitor



Karen Hayes
Brain Injury
Solicitor

Our specialist personal injury lawyers are here to make things easier for you and your family. Every year we help thousands of people claim for personal injury, and over the past two years we've helped our clients recover more than £1.5 billion in compensation. Compensation is only part of the story though, and our solicitors could also help you access the rehabilitation, medical care and support your child needs to make the best recovery possible. Not only do we offer legal services for serious injuries and medical negligence, we can also help with court of protection, public law and education issues. We have a dedicated support and rehabilitation team who will ensure that you and your family's needs are met from all the sources of support available to you.

Expert Hand, Human Touch

Deirdre Healy - Deirdre is known for her work in catastrophic injury cases and specialises in supporting those individuals and their families who have suffered serious brain injuries or spinal cord damage. Her focus is to secure funding to ensure her clients have access to prompt and appropriate rehabilitation. She is recognised as a leader in her field : *"Deirdre Healy stands out as being extremely knowledgeable and professional, always striving to seek the best for her clients"* (Legal 500 2023) and *"her expertise and experience in supporting clients affected by head injury sees her leading the field; her passion and commitment to her clients , their families and their cause is to be commended; her personable nature puts clients at ease during the litigation process."* (Chambers and Partners 2019).

T: 07703 476 410

E: deirdre.healy@irwinmitchell.com



Matthew Garson - Matthew handles a wide range of serious injury cases including child injuries, brain and spinal injuries as well as serious orthopaedic, amputation and fatal claims. He is APIL Brain Injury & APIL Fatal Accidents accredited. Matthew is also the lead partner for our Irwin Mitchell's Liverpool office.

T: 07760 765 288

E: matthew.garson@irwinmitchell.com



Damian Hodkinson - a Court of Protection team lawyer, Damian acts as a professional deputy for adults who have lost capacity to manage their financial affairs as well as minors. Most of his clients have received multi-million -pound settlements as a result of serious injury or medical negligence.

T: 07715 414 897



Saoirse de Bont - Saoirse is a solicitor in the Public Law & Human Rights team, specialising in Court of Protection and community care cases. she acts on behalf of vulnerable adults and their families in Court of Protection matters, particularly in relation to disputes regarding capacity and best interests, and regularly advises on issues around packages of care.

T: 0161 838 3183

E: saoirse.debont@irwinmitchell.com



Rachael Smurthwaite - Rachael is an experienced solicitor specialising in education law, advising on all areas relating to education law with a particular focus on securing the provision of suitable education and/ or services for children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs and/or disabilities.

T: 07841 346 068

E: rachael.smurthwaite@irwinmitchell.com



Berenice Bradley - Berenice is a registered nurse (RN) and has experience of caring for patients with a variety of needs and illnesses. As Irwin Mitchell's Support and Rehabilitation Coordinator within the North West, Berenice supports our client's rehabilitation needs and allows her to access the service provisions for and on behalf of our clients.

T: 07827 802 814

E: berenice.bradley@irwinmitchell.com



Slater and Gordon



Slater and Gordon is a leading national law firm specialising in all aspects of serious and specialised personal injury, and particularly cases where there have been injuries at or around the time of birth.

We offer a complete service for all life's legal needs, working from regional offices to offer a tailored, local service. We represent all those affected by serious, life changing brain injuries and birth injuries, and their families to Support them through a difficult time.

Whether you're enquiring on behalf of your child because you and your family have experienced a traumatic birth, or you have serious injury, we're here to help and will guide you through the legal process every step of the way.

John Doyle

John has recovered millions of pounds in compensation representing adults and children in all manner of clinical negligence claims including brain and spinal injury, birth injury (mother and child - 3rd / 4th degree tears, CP, Shoulder Dystocia), neurological injury / CES, delayed diagnosis of cancer, surgical error, and fatal accidents.



Helen Barry

Helen has acted on behalf of clients with severe brain and spinal injury for over 30 years achieving multi-million pound settlements particularly in cases involving injuries to children at or around the time of birth. Her special interests are in the fields of obstetrics and paediatrics. She understands the needs of the individual and their family particularly in their quest to obtain answers. She has a formidable reputation both locally to Merseyside and nationally.



Mike Knott

Michael is an experienced Court of Protection lawyer with decades of experience managing personal injury awards for clients who have experienced unimaginable life-changing events. Michael manages the affairs of clients across the UK, as well as clients in Australia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, France, Italy, Poland and India.



Helen Stanley

Helen is a qualified midwife working within a Manchester NHS Trust for 22 years and holds full NMC validation and is a member of the Royal College of Midwives and the Royal College of Nursing. She has worked in all areas of midwifery practice including antenatal, triage, delivery suite and the birth centre. She is able to use this knowledge to support the legal team when working on a maternity or neonatal negligence claim.



Ben Gent

Having specialised for over 20 years in cases involving maternity care and injuries related to childbirth, Ben is committed to understanding the day-to-day challenges faced by families and using the legal process to deliver fast, practical support.



By your side during a hospital stay

If you or someone you love has been rushed to hospital, life may feel very frightening.

The Brain Charity's information and advice officers support patients at Aintree University Hospital, and at four other hospitals across Merseyside.

The Brain Charity is there to help patients and families come to terms with the impact of a sudden diagnosis.

This may be a traumatic brain injury, stroke, brain haemorrhage, brain aneurysm, brain tumour or any other neurological condition.

Our staff can tell you in plain English what your diagnosis means and what living with your condition might look like. They can help you apply for emergency funding for travel and toiletries, welfare benefits and home adaptations.

The Brain Charity's officers also offer a listening ear. They can help you make calls to loved ones and organise other arrangements so you don't have to worry during your hospital stay.

They can also refer you to our other services, such as counselling, support groups, and social activities. Our staff also support patients in other hospitals across the UK, and their families, via phone, video call and email.



Frequently asked questions

How do I know if I have a case?

The Brain Charity's partner lawyers are friendly and approachable. They will take time to assess your case and give you the information you need to proceed, if appropriate.

What if I'm worried I can't afford a solicitor? If I don't win the case, will I get a large bill at the end?

There should be no charge for an initial consultation with a lawyer. Your solicitor will advise you if you have a claim or not, first, for free - it's then your choice whether to progress.

Most firms offer 'no win, no fee' where costs are dealt with at the end of the process. If the claim is successful the defendants will meet most, if not all of your legal costs. If the case is unsuccessful the solicitor will not charge for their time spent in dealing with the claim - hence no win, no fee.

Your solicitor should also be able to secure sizeable interim payments for medical treatment, rehabilitation and other needs such as accommodation, to take pressure of you and your family during the process.

What happens if I can't get to a law firm's office?

Once you or your family member is home from hospital, your solicitor will travel to see you. It's important for them and any therapy teams to see you at home, so they know how best to accommodate you.

Is it important to find a specialist solicitor? How do I find one?

Solicitors deal with a wide range of cases and types of law, so it is very important to find a firm that specialises in the type of case you have experienced.

The Brain Charity works with a panel of trusted legal partners to ensure our clients have access to the highest-quality service possible.

You can also search the Law Society's official database to find a solicitor, by going to www.solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk

My insurance company has given me the name of a law firm to use, do I have to use them?

You are under no obligation to use any particular firm. You can choose any law firm you would like to work with. However, it is always worth checking all insurance policies you have (e.g. car, home) as legal support is often included.

Do I have to find a solicitor quickly?

There can be some time limits to claims, so sooner is better. If a claim concerns a loved one who is currently in hospital, you can start this process on their behalf. The total timescale of a serious claim is usually around 3 to 5 years.

What is Legal Aid, and how do I know if I'm entitled?

Legal Aid is government funding which can help meet the costs of legal advice, family mediation and representation at court or tribunal.

Applicants are assessed to see whether their case is eligible for legal aid, the problem is serious and they cannot afford to pay legal costs. Not all firms offer Legal Aid, and access is limited.

For more information on The Brain Charity's legal service, head to
www.thebraincharity.org.uk/legal

Other ways we can help

Practical help:

Welfare benefits advice
Employment support
Advocacy

Emotional support:

Counselling
Phone befriending
Support groups

Social activities:

Coffee mornings
Workshops and classes
Volunteering



Lindsey: “The first time I spoke to The Brain Charity, it was life-changing. They took my questions and gave me practical, factual responses. Suddenly, I realised my life wasn’t over - it was just going to be different.”

Jane: “The Brain Charity helped me talk through different legal options. It was nice to have someone calm to talk to who could give me hope and good advice, and a complete relief to know the support was out there.”



Bethan: “The Brain Charity is a wonderful charity made up of a compassionate and dedicated team who have helped my family and I through a terrible trauma.”

Do you need this leaflet in:



The
Brain
Charity

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中文

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

Kurdî

Cymraeg

Français

Español

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Or another format or language?



Scan the QR code with your
phone now!



Alternatively, email:
communications@thebraincharity.org.uk

The Brain Charity has staff dedicated to helping people deal with legal issues resulting from neurological diagnoses or conditions.

To speak to our Info & Advice Officers email legal@thebraincharity.org.uk or call our free helpline on **0800 008 6417**.

We also have a centre located in Liverpool. Our centre is fully wheelchair accessible and parking is available for Blue Badge holders.



Opening times:
Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm

The Brain Charity is a registered charity (No: 1114999) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No: 5741930)

Responsible sourcing paper

