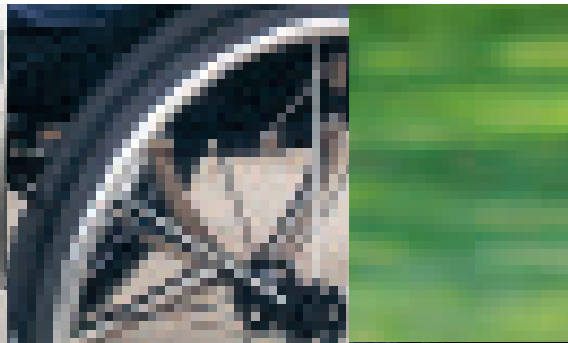


Choosing a Solicitor for your Spinal Cord Injury Claim



THE KNOWLEDGE WITHIN[®]

Spinal Cord Injury Compensation Claims

Spinal cord injury compensation claims are legally complex and require a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience.

Not all firms and not all solicitors have this expertise. This guide is to help you choose the right solicitor to handle your compensation claim.

How Do I Choose?

There are only about 300 claims made each year in the UK. So finding a firm of solicitors with genuine experience in spinal cord injury claims can be difficult.

Many firms are prepared to 'have a go' but this can result in inexperienced solicitors appointing the wrong 'experts', allowing vital evidence to be destroyed or seriously underestimating the value of a claim. These mistakes leave patients under-compensated.

Jon Rees, Partner at Brethertons explains, "We settled one case for over 44 times the amount the claimant's first solicitor had advised her to accept.

It was our experience that allowed us to understand the true worth of the case.

My advice is to choose a solicitor with the right experience and knowledge, and one that you trust and will be comfortable working with on a personal level, over the coming months and years."

'I thought the legal process might be confusing, but it was a doddle because I knew I could trust the team at Brethertons.

They kept in touch regularly with updates and there was never an instance when I disagreed with what they advised me to do, because everything made perfect sense. I was in hospital for a long time, but now I live in adapted accommodation adjoining my parents' house.'

Nic Kane (C6, incomplete tetraplegic ASIA B),
injured in a motorbike accident

Ify Nwokoro (C4, ASIA A), was injured in a road accident. Brethertons helped him secure one of the largest compensation packages ever awarded in the UK.

Ify says, "After the accident, I didn't know how to go on. Brethertons came in and helped me continue my life. They helped me with the emotional and financial side of things, and gave me reassurance everything would turn out well."



Watch Ify's video and hear more about his story at www.brethertons.co.uk/spinal.html



The team's understanding of all levels of spinal injuries helped Christina Storey feel her individual situation was taken seriously and she received the correct recognition and rehabilitation for her needs.

Christina Storey (T12 incomplete paraplegia ASIA D) living life to the full after her injury.

It's YOUR Choice

It's a sad fact that an individual's decision about which solicitor to instruct is not always their own. People can find themselves coerced into instructing someone with whom they might not be comfortable.

We are sensitive and empathetic to the importance of you living your life rather than living the claim. We call it unobtrusive professionalism and our clients recognise and value that approach.

Four Important Questions

It can be difficult to compare solicitors when selecting the right one for you. We suggest you ask them all these four questions:

1. Do I have a case?
2. What level of compensation will I receive?
3. How long is it all going to take?
4. What is it going to cost me?

Then ask yourself whether the solicitor instills confidence and makes you feel comfortable that your case is in good hands.

Additional Questions

Look for a solicitor that only handles spinal cord injury claims and has a solid track record. Ask them:

- How many spinal injury cases they have dealt with?
- What the outcomes of those cases were?
- How quickly those cases were resolved?
- Which experts and spinal cord injury professionals they are in contact with that could help with your case?
- How your case and rehabilitation would be paid for?

If you are having problems with your solicitor, changing is fairly straightforward and may be easier than you think. **Contact us on 01788 557617**

'Jon Rees made this huge thing such a laid back and easy experience, which was perfect as I could concentrate on getting fit and well with full trust that everything was being taken care of.'

Nic Kane (C6, incomplete tetraplegic ASIA B), Winner of the SIA, Inspirational Achievement Award for Young People.



Nic Kane accepting his Spinal Injury Association Award from Lucy Alexander

Our Corporate Social Responsibility

Over the last 10 years Brethertons has forged close relationships with charitable organisations and other groups helping people with spinal cord injury.

We have helped with fundraising for equipment such as exoskeletons. We have provided equipment and support for patient groups and we have sponsored and supported awards and a range of charitable fundraising activities raising several hundred thousand pounds to help the spinal cord injured community in particular..

In that time we have helped to establish a unique off site rehabilitation programme at the National Spinal Injuries Centre, and our team and colleagues have amongst other things sky dived, run

marathons, and hosted fish and chips suppers and quiz evenings to help raise money for spinal cord injuries charities and good causes. We have set up arrangements with not for profit organisations who offer help with for example benefits assistance and representation. We have also established via colleagues in and outside of our practice access (often free) to a range of wider services that people affected by spinal cord injury have valued beyond the usual array of legal services solicitors might typically offer. For example we can offer access to counselling, financial advice and assistance and case management support. We are particularly proud of our association with effective peer advice,

assistance and support. Our association with Paul Rhodes in his tireless work helping newly injured patients and their families in the Midlands area has now been in place for a decade . Initially funding Paul's work via our relationship with the Spinal Injuries Association, it is a privilege to support Paul via the charitable organisation he and his colleague Lee Cairns (another very experienced peer support worker) have set up called Peer Advice Services UK (PAS UK). PAS UK aim to provide free peer support services to anyone who might need those services in the immediate aftermath of spinal cord injuries and beyond.

Contact us

We work on a 'no win no fee' basis. Contact us for a free consultation.

The Brethertons Spinal Injuries Team are here to help. We deal with a select number of claims each year and so the whole team will get to know you personally.

Jon Rees, Partner and Head of Brethertons Spinal Injuries Team, has worked in personal injury litigation since 1996 and has a background in representing

claimants in high value serious injury claims and group actions.

Jon is a Fellow of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and he is one of the few solicitors in the country whose practice area is exclusively focused on assisting people with spinal cord injuries.

Jon has recovered some of the highest awards of compensation made to individuals in the UK, with his team typically achieving compensation awards of seven figures and above.

**Jon Rees, Partner and
Head of Spinal Injuries Team**

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[@JonReesTweets](https://twitter.com/JonReesTweets)



“

Jonathan Rees regularly advises on high-value spinal cord injury claims. He is well versed in cases arising from RTAs and workplace accidents. Sources say: “He is very intuitive and shows great empathy to his clients’ needs and wellbeing.”

”

Chambers and Partners

Industry Feedback

'Brethertons are an exceptional firm that take great pride in delivering a first class service on behalf of its Clients. The team impressively led by Jon Rees, are outstanding. This is in terms of their technical expertise, commitment and drive to succeeding on behalf of their Clients who rely on them whole heartedly following life changing events.'

'It is a pleasure to work with them and assist their team in any way we can for a much deserving and friendly group of exceptional lawyers. In a competitive market they are an impressive stand out team for the most difficult and challenging catastrophic injury work.'

'Spinal cord injury claims are a hallmark of Brethertons LLP ' practice. Jonathan Rees leads the team and possesses 'the highly technical skills to deal with cases often with complex and difficult medical issues' and has 'a confident manner that instils confidence in his clients and legal team.'

Client Feedback

'I have always felt that my physical and mental wellbeing were the main priority and I would happily recommend Jon Rees and his team.'

'They are a good team that look after all aspects of their customer's needs.'

'Brethertons moved mountains for me; I couldn't sing their praises highly enough.'



We're Here To Help, Whatever Your Situation

If the circumstances of your injury mean you can claim compensation, our specialist Spinal Cord Injuries compensation claims team can work with you to get this underway.

Even if you do not have a compensation claim, we can still help with:

Personal	Benefits	Employment	Property
Power of attorney	PI Trusts (keeping your entitlement to means-tested state benefits where you have received an insurance payment as a result of spinal cord injury)	Return to work advice	Property ownership
Will writing and estate planning		Discontinuance of employment advice	Sale and purchase of property or land
Relationship breakdown, including divorce and child custody		Self-employment	
	Access to state benefits	Becoming an employer of personal assistants or carers	

Beyond the range of legal services and support you should expect to find in solicitors firms experience in helping spinal cord injured clients and their families we can also help with providing or introducing you to counselling, peer support services, benefits advice and assistance, case managers, financial planning assistance, and accommodation experts. We have connection with organisations that can assist with for example public law advice (including judicial review of local authority decisions).

Visit our website for further information and to see videos of our clients talking about what life is like after a spinal cord injury.

www.brethertons.co.uk/spinal.html

Checklist For Choosing A Specialist Solicitor

- Seek recommendations from people you trust but remember that choosing a solicitor is your choice, not anyone else's
- Meet with more than one solicitor to find out whether you feel comfortable with them and how they can help you. This initial meeting should be free of charge
- Extend your search beyond local solicitors. Spinal injury claims are extremely specialised cases and good solicitors will have a national reach
- Don't assume that bigger firms and dedicated practices are better than smaller niche ones

Above all, take the time to make the right choice for you. Claiming compensation after a spinal cord injury is likely to take at least two years or more to conclude so don't be afraid to interview solicitors to get the right professional to support you and your family.

Visit our website: www.brethertons.co.uk/spinal.html

 www.youtube.com/user/brethertonsllp

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Tel: 01295 270999

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Tel: 01869 252161

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Tel: 01788 579579

www.brethertons.co.uk