

## Brethertons BIG FAQs Series

Basic Information Gathering and Frequently Asked Questions on....

### Family Law and Spinal Cord Injuries Claims

*Solicitors specialise. If you are pursuing a compensation claim after a spinal cord injury, your claim should be dealt with by a solicitor with a wealth of expertise and experience in spinal cord injuries litigation. Sometimes though, you may well need the services of other legal professionals because of your injury and in tandem with your claim, or entirely separate of it.*

#### *Who might need Family Law services after a spinal cord injury?*

Anyone who might be thinking of, or needing advice on, any issues relating to a relationship breakdown, separation, protecting someone's financial interests ahead of marriage, or issues relating to children may need to Family Law services. This is likely to be separate and unrelated to your spinal cord injury, but occasionally a life changing injury can exacerbate issues that family law specialists may be able to help you navigate.

#### *What is Family Law?*

Family lawyers act on matters such as divorce and separation, child contact and adoption, Local Authority care orders, and financial settlements.

When acting for a client seeking a divorce, lawyers are engaged in taking initial details, gathering evidence including financial evidence, preparing the necessary documentation, negotiating settlements and contact or residency for children, referring to mediation and advocating for the client in hearings. The work may also include instructing Counsel and attending on Counsel at Court.

Family Law also covers pre-nuptial agreements before marriage to protect someone's financial interests, or advice on the grounds of divorce or civil partnership dissolution. Some family lawyers specialise in adoption, paternity, reproductive rights, emancipation, and other matters not necessarily associated with divorce.

#### *Why may Family Law services be necessary?*

You may well have needed advice on separation and divorce before you were injured. If, as sometimes happens, you are going through a divorce at the same time you receive compensation you might want to discuss how best to proceed. Equally if you are not married when you receive compensation after a life changing injury it can help to understand some of the financial implications of remaining single or marrying and the impact your decision may have on your estate.

#### *Where can I get help with Family Law?*

Where you may need help with Family Law, we are able to put you in touch with our colleagues. They will be more than happy to assist you with queries you may have on Family Law issues.

*When might I need Family Law services?*

The short answer is whenever you feel you need to discuss anything related to the above. Of course, that may be separate of any compensation claim you may have.

*How may Family Law relate to my spinal cord compensation case?*

In many circumstances any Family Law advice will be unrelated to your compensation claim. Where required within spinal cord injuries litigation, an experienced and expert solicitor will engage with you on what your needs are. For example, clients concerned about relationship breakdown in future; or exploring civil partnership or marriage may wish to explore those concerns prior to settlement or shortly thereafter and often as part of a wider consideration around estate planning.



If you would like any more information or have any questions, please contact Jon Rees.

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