

Thompsons are specialists in the field of workplace injuries and disease, securing more compensation than any other law firm in the UK. We are pioneers in bringing the ground-breaking workplace injury and disease cases.

Our goal at Thompsons is to get you the maximum amount of compensation in the shortest time possible. This guide sets out some of the steps involved in claiming compensation if you are injured in an accident at work.

at will it cost?

If you or a member of your family is a union member, your first step should be to contact your local union rep to see whether you are entitled to help under a union legal assistance scheme. Ideally you should seek the advice of your union as soon after an accident as possible.

This is the best option for you, as your union and Thompsons do everything to ensure that your claim costs nothing. If you are not covered by a union's legal assistance scheme, then your first step should be to contact Thompsons on our low cost Compensation Line:

0808 100 8050

We offer "no win, no fee" facilities in England and Wales. Scotland can offer similar terms under the Compensure scheme approved by the Scottish Law Society.

So making a claim need not cost you anything.

Protecting the interests of injured people

Hundreds of thousands of people are injured at work every year. Tragically, hundreds of accidents are fatal.

Money never compensates properly for injuries. It can't make you better, but it can help make it easier for families and individuals to cope. Injuries also cause other losses and expenses such as lost wages.

Work-related injuries compensation

It is only possible to recover compensation for injuries at work if it can be shown that the employer (or someone for whom the employer was responsible) was at fault.

If someone has had an accident at work, or suffers from an industrial disease, and the employer was not to blame, compensation is not normally paid, although the injured person may still be entitled to Department for Work and Pensions benefits (see our Benefits Factsheet for more information).

Specialist legal advice should still be sought even if you are unsure if it will be possible to show blame. Over the years we have pursued thousands of successful claims where blame seemed to be very difficult to establish.

And even if you are partly to blame for the accident we may still be able to recover compensation for you. **The important thing is to seek legal advice as soon as possible** – this service is free to union members.

Act quickly

If you have suffered injury at work then act now. The quicker we start our work on your claim the better chance we have of getting evidence, and either negotiate a settlement or start court proceedings. The vast majority of claims are agreed before they get to court.

The legal time limits

All legal proceedings in personal injury claims should be started **within three years from the date of**

the accident. After this the case will usually be late.

There are exceptions to this three-year time limit. An increasing number of claims involve conditions such as asbestos-related disease, dermatitis, work-related upper limb disorders (repetitive strain injuries) and work related stress. In these cases, proceedings must be started **within three year of the date when the injured person knew or should have known, that the condition was caused through work.**

Often this "knowledge" will not arise until medical advice has been given. But it is far safer to submit claim as soon as there are symptoms or discomfort which may be the result of a disease contracted in the workplace.

If you are concerned about an accident which happened over three years ago or about a condition which was diagnosed over three years ago, seek specialist legal advice immediately.

Compensation

The amount of compensation varies according to each individual case. Contrary to what you may have heard, compensation for injuries is not great. The amount of money paid depends heavily on the seriousness of the injury, and financial losses.

Compensation is awarded for pain, suffering and inability to do things after your accident that you could before. It is made based on medical evidence, normally specialist reports, of the injuries suffered, how they affect you now and how they might affect you in the future.

Compensation is also paid to cover financial losses suffered as a result of the accident. You don't get back what you can't prove you have spent, so keep note of receipts and invoices for the cost of

travelling to hospital, for example. The aim is to put you back in a position, financially, as if the accident had never occurred.

Compensation will cover loss of earnings since the accident and for future loss of earnings. In more serious cases the compensation will extend to alterations to property or vehicles and on-going care costs including those provided by the family.

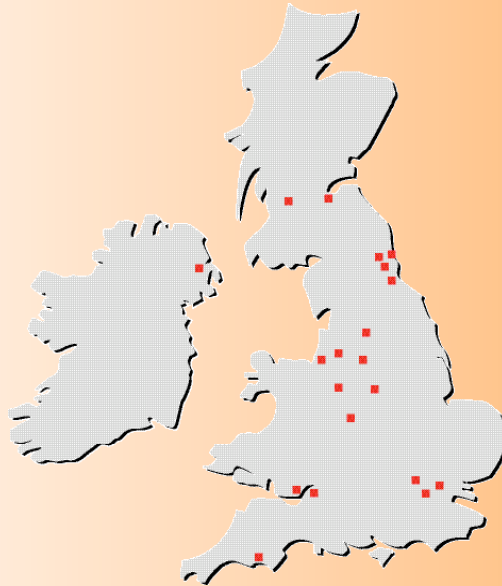
Trade unions were created to protect your best interests at work. Unions are very active and have great expertise on health and safety and other workplace issues.

They have extensive legal services using specialist lawyers such as Thompsons. These are free to you as a member.

You should join a union when you start work. If there is no union at your workplace, or you are unsure which union you can join, call the TUC on 020 7636 4030; in Scotland call the STUC on 0141 3378 100 or in Northern Ireland call the ICTU on 02890 247940 and they will advise you which union or unions may be best for you.

Thompsons is the largest specialised personal injury and employment rights law firm in the UK with an unrivalled network of offices and formidable resources.

We run over 70,000 cases a year and secure more compensation for injured people than any other law firm.



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CLAIMING COMPENSATION
For Injuries At Work



T H O M P S O N S
S O L I C I T O R S