



LEGAL ADVICE AFTER SEPSIS



Legal Advice after Sepsis

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition. In the UK alone, 245,000 people are affected by the condition with at least 48,000 people losing their lives to sepsis-related illnesses every year.

Globally, sepsis claims 11 million lives a year. Yet, for many patients, with early diagnosis, sepsis is easily treatable. The UK Sepsis Trust (UKST) exists to fight this life-threatening condition, stop preventable deaths, and support those affected by sepsis.

Many individuals and families struggle to cope with the consequences of sepsis, which may be physical, psychological, practical, financial, and legal.

It is important to seek expert advice from professionals who can help you navigate the complexities of life after sepsis, especially when it comes to legal matters.

It is often really helpful to be able to access legal advice, easily and quickly. UKST recognises that talking to a lawyer can initially seem daunting so the charity works with a panel of trusted legal partners who can advise you on the legal options open to you. Experience has shown that this can often be the first step on the road to moving forward and rebuilding your life after sepsis.

Common Questions

Why do I need legal advice?

Taking legal advice will help you identify whether or not you have a viable claim. Whilst a claim cannot restore your health or bring back a loved one, it might help you overcome some of the issues you now face and give you different options for the future.

What can a claim achieve?

A successful claim will result in an award of financial compensation. This includes things like loss of earnings, private medical treatment, care and assistance and accommodation needs, as well as aids and equipment, such as prosthetics.

The claim is there to support you and your family for the future, so you do not have to worry about financial pressures caused by the injury. It can further identify and make provision for treatment and rehabilitation that will enable you to get on with your life as best as you can.

What will it cost me to speak to a lawyer?

It will not cost you anything to have an initial appointment with a lawyer to find out if you have a viable claim. If the claim proceeds, it is likely to be funded under a conditional fee agreement (known as “no win, no fee”), which means you do not need to fund your claim as it progresses and if the claim fails, you pay nothing. This means that there is no risk.

How do I know if I have a case?

The lawyer will discuss the facts of your individual case and advise you, whether a claim is likely to have reasonable prospects of success.

Is it wrong to claim against the NHS?

Whilst the NHS has limited funds, people harmed by negligence are entitled to be compensated. The NHS earmarks a sum of money each year to meet claims that arise because of negligence, so money is not taken away from patient care. Bringing a claim raises awareness of an issue. It can be a driver for change in the NHS so mistakes can be learnt from, to prevent them from happening again. The more people who speak up about issues with their treatment, the greater the issue will be highlighted, and the greater the pressure there will be for change.

What is the time limit for bringing a claim?

A claim must generally be brought within 3 years of the negligence taking place. There are some exceptions, and your lawyer will be able to advise you. As there is a lot of preparation involved to prepare a case, it is best to seek legal advice as soon as possible.

How do I know if there was negligence?

Your lawyer will be able to advise you whether, in their opinion, there could have been negligence. If a claim proceeds, independent medical experts will be consulted to confirm whether there is a claim that can be pursued.

Will my claim succeed?

Again, your lawyer will advise you on the prospects of your claim succeeding. You have to prove that not only was your care negligent, but also that the negligence caused harm. This can be complex, and your solicitor will need to seek reports from independent medical experts.

Will I need to go to court?

Very few claims go to trial. Many are settled without the need to issue court proceedings. Even if court proceedings are necessary, most cases settle by negotiation out of court.

Legal Panel

The UK Sepsis Trust works with a panel of trusted legal partners who represent clients nationwide. You can contact any of them directly for a no obligation, initial discussion about your case.

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WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

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Got some questions or need help? Please get in touch using the contact details below.

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