

**MESOTHELIOMA UK CHARITABLE TRUST
PROVIDES SPECIALIST, IMPARTIAL, UP TO DATE
SUPPORT AND INFORMATION**

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Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust

Email: mesothelioma.uk@uhl-tr.nhs.uk • **Freephone:** 0800 169 2409

Website: www.mesothelioma.uk.com

c/o University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust,
Glenfield Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QP

Registered Charity No. 1126083

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SOLICITOR

This information has been prepared for Mesothelioma UK by MNAT (Mesothelioma Nurse Action Team) to assist members of NLCFN (National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses) in advising Mesothelioma patients and their families

This booklet was produced following a survey of lung cancer nurse specialists' practice with regard to providing patients with information about pursuing claims for compensation.

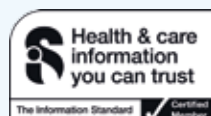
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Download information from www.mesothelioma.uk.com

To request a copy freephone 0800 169 2409 or email mesothelioma.uk@uhl-tr.nhs.uk



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Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer



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Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

Anyone wishing to pursue a claim for Mesothelioma (or any other asbestos related disease) should seek advice from a specialist firm of solicitors. Choosing the right firm may be the most important factor in determining whether or not a claim is successful and, if it is, the speed in which it is settled and the amount of compensation obtained. An appropriate firm of solicitors will be one which:-

- Has the right experience and expertise
- Will deliver the right level of service, sensitively given the physical and emotional burden of being diagnosed with mesothelioma and
- Deal with the claim at no cost

Not all solicitors have the specialist knowledge or expertise. Avoid using Claims Management Companies and instead instruct a specialist firm.

Your Lung Cancer Nurse Specialist may be able to provide you with examples of solicitors who have expertise in dealing with this type of claim. In both instances the firms are independent and will give impartial and confidential advice.

They will provide initial advice and pursue claims at no cost. You are free to choose another solicitor. You may wish to speak to a number of different firms of solicitors before making a decision.

Not all Lung Cancer Nurse Specialists have contact details for solicitors but if provided, the solicitors' details given are from firms known to have knowledge and experience of mesothelioma claims. There is no guarantee they will be successful but they have a reputation for their expertise in this area and have all provided the Mesothelioma Nurse Action Team (M-NAT) with information about the cases they have been involved with.

Alternatively you might be given contact details for an Asbestos Victims Support Group who provide information about solicitors known to have knowledge and experience of mesothelioma claims.

Trade union members (and individuals who were members of a trade union at the time they were exposed to asbestos, but who are no longer members of a union) may be entitled to union legal services, which may also be free to them.

Trade union legal support may also be available for claims made by the families of trade union members.

You should contact a solicitor as soon as possible after diagnosis as time limits to your claim may apply. You are free to choose any firm of solicitors to represent you. When you are making that choice ask the solicitor about their experience in dealing with asbestos cases.

Important questions to ask are;

1. How many Mesothelioma cases has the solicitor dealt with?
2. Has the solicitor taken any cases like yours to settlement and if so, how many?
3. How long does it usually take the solicitor to conclude Mesothelioma cases?
4. Does the solicitor have specific knowledge of the employers involved in your claim?
5. Will the solicitor arrange to visit you at your home at a time convenient to you to discuss the claim?
6. Will all medical details of your case be gained from your medical records or will it be necessary for you to have a medical examination?

7. How will you be kept informed of your claim's progress and how often will you be updated?
8. Will the solicitor deal with the claim at no cost to you?
9. Will you receive 100% of the sum of compensation agreed or awarded?

For more advice on how to choose a solicitor you can contact:-

Asbestos Support Groups

Details of your local asbestos support group can be obtained from your Mesothelioma/Lung Cancer Nurse Specialist or by contacting the National Asbestos Victims Support Group Forum

Telephone: 0161 636 7555

Email: www.asbestosforum.org.uk

Solicitors Regulation Authority

The professional body representing solicitors in England and Wales.

Telephone: 0870 606 2555

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

Independent organisation providing accreditation to lawyers specializing in the area of personal injury law.

Telephone: 0115 958 0585