



Your guide to amputation claims

An amputation can have a devastating impact on a person's life and on their loved ones, so it is vital to seek the right advice as soon as possible. Speaking to a solicitor with specialist knowledge will make a huge difference to the level of compensation you will be awarded and, ultimately, to your quality of life as you adjust to life after the injury.

“ Thank you very much for the way you dealt with my case and the successful outcome. I felt your handling of everything was very professional and yet also very caring. ”

Client testimonial

Understanding your case

A key part of building your case will involve seeking input from specialist medical practitioners as well as specialists in prosthetics, accommodation, rehabilitation and nursing care.

Experience tells us that early rehabilitation can have an extremely positive impact on the lives of amputees. We have a long track record of helping clients access the best medical experts, so you can be sure that we can help you find the most appropriate rehabilitation regime for you.

These are just some of the key areas we can help with:

- Interim payments – for medical treatment, counselling, physiotherapy or prosthetics
- Case management – helping you set up the right care and support network
- Accommodation – adaptations to your home or buying a new home
- Employment – rehabilitation and advice on the Disability Discrimination Act
- Equipment – medical aids including wheelchairs
- Transport – adaptations to your current transport or buying new transport
- State Benefits – securing the correct entitlements

Planning for the future

Our team can also advise you on Compensation Protection Trusts, a legal arrangement which protects your compensation award and enables you to continue to receive numerous means-tested social security benefits in addition to your award. Only compensation can be paid into the trust.

If you receive means-tested benefits, we recommend that a trust be set up before you receive your award so that your benefits are protected, although you have a year from the date of the settlement to establish a trust.

Limbless Association

RJW are proud supporters of the Limbless Association, an independent organisation that provides support for individuals without one or more limbs, their carers and prospective amputees.

You can contact them on 020 8788 1777 or visit their website at www.limbless-association.org

Some recent cases:

Case 1

Our client was a 37-year-old carpenter working on the construction site of the Arsenal Emirates stadium when he was hit by a six-ton dumper truck. Following the accident, his left leg had to be amputated at mid-thigh level. We consulted experts in the field of orthopaedics, care, prosthetics, accommodation and employment. Having established that the construction site had been badly laid out and traffic was not properly segregated, we secured a settlement of £1.375 million. In addition to the standard losses for this type of injury, we successfully claimed for future flying lessons, a powered limb, which was valued at £50,000 and the lost chance of undertaking lucrative property development opportunities.

Case 2

We also recently secured a settlement of £2.75 million for an amputee client – one of the highest sums ever secured for a single limbed amputee. Part of our client's settlement included a significant sum for a full length cosmetic prosthetic to allow him to return to wearing a kilt. We also claimed for the very significant psychiatric injury brought on by the effects of an amputation that left him needing daily care and ongoing therapy. He was a police sergeant at the time of the accident but was unlikely to work again.

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Prepared by Russell Jones & Walker Solicitors 2010.

This fact sheet is for general guidance only and should not be treated as a definitive guide or be regarded as legal advice. If you need more details or information about the matters referred to in this fact sheet please seek independent formal legal advice. This information was correct at time of going to press.

We pride ourselves on our fair fee structure – there is no charge for the initial consultation and we guarantee that you will receive 100% of any compensation awarded.

Find out more
If you would like to know more about RJW and pursuing an amputation claim, please contact us for a free, no-obligation meeting.

Our offices
Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Wakefield.



Telephone

0800 916 9016



Email

enquiries@rjw.co.uk



Online

www.rjw.co.uk



Russell Jones & Walker
Solicitors