



Your guide to inquests

RJW's solicitors have many years experience in dealing with inquests and our team is always up to date with the law in this rapidly developing area. In recent years the Human Rights Act has had a particularly significant impact on the way deaths, especially those in hospital or NHS care homes, are dealt with.

“Excellent service by RJW, well done!”
Client testimonial

Giving you the support and information you need

Recognising that this is a very difficult time for families, we make sure that you receive all the support and information you need as you prepare for the inquest. In some cases, the inquest will be the only occasion when you can have your questions surrounding the death answered. Our team is also able to use information obtained at the inquest to support any subsequent compensation claim.

The Coroners' Court is not a civil court and there are therefore limits on what can be achieved. In particular, the rules prevent the Coroner from blaming specific individuals for a death and witnesses are not required to answer questions that may incriminate them. Also, the only purpose of an inquest is to find out where, when and how a person died.

Whatever the circumstances of your case, we can ensure that the hearing is fair and that you are able to find out as much as the process allows.

Some recent cases:

Case 1

We recently attended an inquest on behalf of a Polish family whose baby had died a week after it was born. During the birth the midwives had failed to properly monitor the heart rate of the baby using hand held devices, resulting in the baby suffering from a lack of oxygen for approximately 25 minutes. At the inquest a verdict was given confirming that if the midwives had followed the prescribed guidelines, on the balance of probabilities, the baby would have lived. The Coroner also made recommendations to the hospital concerning training and awareness of guidelines and regarding translation services to non English speaking patients.

Case 2

We attended an inquest for a malaria victim at Birmingham Coroner's Court. This was a complex and difficult inquest that dealt with the failure to diagnose and treat the disease in a man who had recently returned from a holiday in Gambia.

“ Throughout the case I have been dealt with in a clear and courteous and very professional manner. Through this I have felt entirely confident in the advice that has been given. ”

Client testimonial

Russell Jones & Walker Solicitors is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA 54695) and the Ministry of Justice in respect of regulated claims management activities; its registration is recorded on the website www.claimsregulation.gov.uk.

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 inquests and how RJW can help, 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