



THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS

STANDING UP FOR YOU
www.thompsons.law.co.uk

An introduction to
claiming compensation:

Amputations



Our pledge to you

Thompsons Solicitors has been standing up for the injured and mistreated since Harry Thompson founded the firm in 1921. We have fought for millions of people, won countless landmark cases and secured key legal reforms.

We have more experience of winning personal injury and employment claims than any other firm – and we use that experience solely for the injured and mistreated.

Thompsons will stand up for you by:

Staying true to our principles – regardless of how difficult our job is made by government, employers or the insurance industry

Remaining committed to the trade union movement, working closely with them and with professional associations for the benefit of working people everywhere

Thompsons pledge that we will:

Work solely for the injured or mistreated

Refuse to represent insurance companies and employers

Invest our specialist expertise in each and every case

Fight for the maximum compensation in the shortest possible time

Be open and transparent about fees and costs

standing up for you

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“

My new leg has transformed my life and is something I would never have been able to afford without the compensation I received.

”

Ian Slowther
Amputation client

Introduction

Losing a limb does not mean losing your independence. At Thompsons, we have helped thousands of adults and children to adapt and enhance their lifestyles following an amputation.

Our wealth of experience and links with affinity groups such as the Limbless Association means we understand the physical, emotional and psychological impact that losing a limb can have on individuals and their families.

Adapting your surroundings to allow you to function as normally as possible can be expensive. You may need a prosthetic limb, a wheelchair or other walking aid or even a specially adapted house or car. We use our experience to ensure that our clients get the right amount of compensation in every claim, resulting in several record settlements over the years.

Why Thompsons?

In cases involving serious injuries, such as amputations, it is important that you have an experienced solicitor dealing with your claim.

Our serious injury team brings together the most specialist and experienced lawyers with medical and disability experts to fight for justice for the most seriously injured victims of accidents and clinical negligence.

Our primary objective is always to secure the maximum compensation for our clients in the shortest possible time, and we have earned a reputation for winning cases where there appeared to be little prospect of success.

Matthew's story

“I had suffered severe cramping in my right foot whenever I exercised from about the age of 18 and, by the time I reached my twenties, the symptoms were getting worse. A number of hospital appointments led to a diagnosis of small vessel disease.

I met with a radiologist, who discovered a narrowing of the artery behind my knee. After being examined, my treatment options weren't explained, I was only advised that surgery wasn't an option as the success rate was very low.

During a holiday to Thailand, my artery collapsed and I was forced to return home urgently. Scans revealed that exercising had caused entrapment of the artery in my lower right leg and, over the years, this had led to a weakening and narrowing of the artery until it eventually collapsed. In the space of four weeks, I underwent six operations, initially to move an artery from my thigh to my lower leg. However, a number of complications developed, including compartment syndrome. I lost my lower right leg.

After the amputation, my father called Thompsons Solicitors. Initially, all I wanted was an admission of guilt from Warrington NHS Trust because I felt that they hadn't taken my condition seriously.

Thompsons Solicitors really did fight my corner; they were very patient with me as I tried to rebuild my life after the amputation. The experts Thompsons brought on board helped me manage my condition, and the personal service I received made me feel valued. They've supported me at every stage of my journey since my amputation.”



“

Thompsons Solicitors really did fight my corner; they were very patient with me as I tried to rebuild my life after the amputation.”

Matthew Roche
Amputation client

Making an amputation compensation claim

Getting the best evidence possible

In order to make a successful claim, we will need to prove that someone else was to blame for your injuries.

And the stronger the evidence, the stronger the claim.

If you were injured at work, your employer at the time was responsible for providing a safe place of work and appropriate equipment. If you were injured in a road accident, the type of evidence that you may already have, or we can help collect for you, might be that another driver was driving without proper care and attention.

It may also be helpful if you have any photographs relevant to the accident or your injuries.

Even if the evidence collected shows you were partly to blame for your accident you may still have a valid claim if we can prove someone else was also at fault.

Timing can be vital

In the UK, there is a standard time limit of three years from the date of an accident in which a claim for compensation can be made. It is always best to seek legal advice as soon as possible so that a solicitor can thoroughly prepare your claim and, where appropriate, apply for interim payments, this can help with essential things like the cost of care, urgent housing adaptations, aids and equipment such as a custom-made prosthetic limb. It can also help to ease the financial strain during your treatment if you are unable to work. Some exceptions to the time limit do exist, and special rules apply for children or adults who lack legal capacity, but it is always best to take legal advice as soon as possible.

Rehabilitation and care

After you are discharged from hospital, you will need a plan for your continuous care.

Our close working links with dedicated support co-ordinators, orthopaedic consultants, amputation-rehabilitation experts, prosthetic consultants, orthotic consultants, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and care experts mean that you can trust us to access the specialist information and rehabilitation support that you need.

For very serious injuries, we work with four further types of specialists:

- **Case managers** – to plan and co-ordinate any rehabilitation, care and support the patient may need.
- **Support workers** – to support the patient in their home and in the community.
- **Job coaches** – to help the patient look at ways of returning to their current employment, or to provide training to allow them to work in new areas.
- **Disability architects** – to help you to adapt your home to your condition or move to a more suitable property.

These individuals will help you to come to terms with your injury and provide you with the help and support needed to move on with your life.

How much compensation might be awarded?

Compensation is awarded for pain, suffering and the inability to do things you could do before your accident. It can also cover the effects that an accident has had on your physical mobility and mental health.

We will obtain expert medical reports on your injuries, if necessary, and we will claim for all your losses and expenses, including loss of earnings now and in the future, and the ongoing costs of your care and assistance.

This also includes the costs of having others help you with the everyday things that you used to do - such as DIY, gardening and car maintenance. We will also claim all travelling expenses incurred because of the accident, including those of close relatives visiting you in hospital and the costs of buying and running a suitable vehicle in the future.

What about State Benefit claims?

You may be entitled to state benefits. While these claims are made separately to your claim for compensation, Thompsons can provide advice, or you can contact your local Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) office.



Next steps

We hope this booklet has provided you with the information and guidance you need.

If you would like to talk to us to discuss your situation in more detail, you can contact us, without obligation, for free compensation claim advice.

Phone us: **0800 0 224 224**

Visit us: **www.thompsons.law.co.uk**

Useful contacts

Department for Work and Pensions benefit enquiry line

Freephone 0800 88 22 00

Textphone 0800 24 33 55

Limbless Association

Helpline 0800 644 0185

www.limbless-association.org

The UK Limb Loss Information Centre

www.limblossinformationcentre.com

Independent Living Funds

0845 601 8815

funds@ilf.org.uk

www.dwp.gov.uk/ilf

Disabled Living Foundation

Helpline: 0845 130 9177 (10am-4pm Monday to Friday)

info@dlf.org.uk

www.dlf.org.uk

Care Quality Commission

03000 616161

www.cqc.org.uk

NHS Direct

0845 4647

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

ICAS (Independent Complaints Advocacy Service)

www.carersfederation.co.uk/icas

0800 0 224 224

For more information visit:

www.thompsons.law.co.uk

 @thompsons injury

The information contained in this booklet is not a substitute for legal advice. You should talk to a lawyer or adviser before making a decision about what to do. Thompsons Solicitors is a trading name of Thompsons Solicitors LLP and is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

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