

rwk
goodman

Mesothelioma and you



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Introduction

At RWK Goodman, our specialist team focuses solely on mesothelioma and asbestos-related disease claims. We have a deep and thorough understanding of the issues involved and genuine expertise.

We only act on behalf of individuals who have been diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease or their families.

We are proud of our excellent reputation in even the hardest of claims, with clients often coming to us for a second opinion when other law firms have advised their case is unlikely to succeed. We often secure compensation in these claims.

At RWK Goodman, our Asbestos and Mesothelioma team have a proven track record of securing the maximum

compensation for our clients as quickly as possible, as well as helping our clients access bespoke medical treatment.

We have unique expertise in claims that are "out of time". Please do still speak to us even if you knew about your asbestos-related illness more than three years ago.

We offer assistance with government benefit applications, including lump sum payments and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit ("IIDB"). We also assist with applications to the Government's Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme ("DMPS"), also known as the "Fund of Last Resort", if there are no civil routes to pursuing your claim.

We are also proud of our ranking as experts in legal directories like The Legal 500 and the

Chambers & Partners UK Legal Guide where we have been named as a leading national asbestos claims team and described as "incredibly tenacious," "phenomenally diligent" and "impressive".

Please see our website to read more about the work we do and see more testimonials from our former clients:
rwkgoodman.com/asbestos



Helen Childs,
Partner and Head
of the Asbestos &
Mesothelioma team



Frequently Asked Questions

What is mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is an aggressive cancer that affects the lining of the lungs (pleural mesothelioma) or stomach (peritoneal mesothelioma). More rarely, it can affect the heart or testicles.

Most cases of mesothelioma are diagnosed in people aged 75 and over and men are more commonly affected. However, mesothelioma can affect anyone and sadly we are now also seeing women and younger people being diagnosed with the disease, even though they have never worked with asbestos. Around 2,500 people are diagnosed with the condition every year in the UK. Almost all of these diagnoses are preventable because mesothelioma is almost always caused by exposure to asbestos.

Whilst there is no cure for mesothelioma, treatment (including chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy) can control symptoms and help maintain a good quality of life for as long as possible.

Generally speaking, any exposure to asbestos dust around 10 years or more before a mesothelioma diagnosis can be considered causative.

Who is at risk of developing mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is most common in those who previously worked with asbestos in heavy industries, construction, shipping or engineering.

At RWK Goodman, our dedicated team of lawyers have brought many successful claims for former carpenters, plumbers, electricians and mechanics who worked in the trades when asbestos was deemed the material of choice due to its insulating properties. We have also brought claims on behalf of their loved ones who were indirectly exposed to asbestos dust after they brought it home on their work clothes. Some of our clients' asbestos exposure came from living near asbestos factories and playing as children in areas where asbestos waste was dumped.

Sadly, we are seeing an increase in claims from former school teachers, school pupils, doctors, shop workers and nurses exposed to asbestos dust through the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials in the fabric of buildings in which they worked. It has also come to light that talc has been contaminated with asbestos meaning some people may have been exposed from the use of cosmetics such as body powder and make up products.

Anyone can be impacted by asbestos. If you are diagnosed with mesothelioma but don't know how you came into contact with asbestos, please contact us so we can advise you.

How can we help you?

We will investigate how you were exposed to asbestos. We will start by taking a detailed account of your work history and life generally. We know what questions to ask to pin down where your asbestos exposure may have occurred.

Once we have determined where you were most likely exposed to asbestos, we will advise you about the best approach to take in your claim.

Initial visit – what should I expect?

We will arrange to visit you in person – whether that be at home, in hospital, in a hospice, or at another place you choose – at a time to suit you to take a witness statement from you covering everything you can remember about your previous employments. Do not worry – we do not expect you to remember each and every employer or the specific dates you worked for them. We understand some things have happened many years ago. It is not a test and we just want to talk to you about what you can remember.

We will also explore the possibility of you having been exposed to asbestos outside your work, for example during your childhood, whilst at school or through your parents' or spouse/partner's work. This will help us to consider all the possible ways in which you may have been exposed to asbestos.

What if I am not sure how I was exposed to asbestos?

In order to make a successful claim, we require evidence of asbestos exposure but we don't expect our clients to gather this evidence without our help and guidance. We have detailed industry knowledge and can help you to piece everything together.

There is often very helpful information contained in your medical records and in your employment history from HMRC. We may even have acted for someone else who worked for the same employer and/or in the same industry and/or at the same site. A "witness appeal" can also result in helpful evidence being gathered as others who worked with you, or at the same premises may remember things you don't. In addition, we may be able to obtain relevant records or documents from the company, archives or libraries.

We will do our best to gather relevant evidence and then explore all the options with you and advise you about the best way forward.



How might I have been exposed to asbestos?

Many of our clients know straight away upon receiving their diagnosis of mesothelioma how and where they came into contact with asbestos. However, as mesothelioma can develop after low levels of exposure, it can impact people who have not worked with asbestos and do not know how they were exposed.

We can consider with you how you may have been exposed to asbestos, and advise you whether you may be able to pursue a claim. The diagram below shows some of the ways in which our clients have come into contact with asbestos:



Can I make a claim if my employer no longer exists?

Yes, absolutely. It is often the case that our clients' employers went out of business years ago. We pride ourselves on tracing the insurers of these companies and bringing successful claims against them. We have often found insurers after other law firms have failed to do so.

If insurers cannot be traced, we will advise you about the best course of action. In mesothelioma claims, we can consider whether you might be eligible to claim through the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme ("DMPS"). This scheme exists to compensate clients whose past employers have gone out of business and where no insurers can be traced, making a civil claim impossible. We can complete and submit the application on your behalf.

I was self-employed – can I still make a claim?

Yes, we can discuss your self-employment with you to see if you can make a claim. We find that many of our self-employed clients sub-contracted their services to companies who exercised a lot of control over them so that they were effectively treated as their employee.

It is definitely worthwhile contacting us even if you believe you worked under your own direction and control during your self-employment. It is so often the case that we can establish an employer-employee relationship that amounts to a duty of care being owed. Alternatively, it may be possible to bring a claim against the occupiers of the premises you worked in at the time.

I no longer live in the UK – can I still claim?

Yes; if you were exposed to asbestos dust in England or Wales, or whilst employed by a company based there. We have represented many ex-pats.



Can I bring a mesothelioma claim if I previously settled a claim for another asbestos-related disease?

Yes, you may be able to. It will depend on what basis your previous compensation settlement was made; it will have been settled on either a "provisional" basis or a "full and final" basis.

If you opted to settle your claim on a "provisional" basis then you can make a further claim if your condition has since deteriorated or you are diagnosed with another asbestos-related condition. This should be quite straightforward.

If you opted to settle your claim on a "full and final" basis then things will be more difficult. However, it may still be possible to claim. We pursued a successful claim under these circumstances in the landmark case of *Lloyd v Humpheys & Glasgow Limited* after two other firms and a specialist barrister had advised against it. It will depend on the specific circumstances but we will consider them fully and advise you.

If you have made a claim before, please do still seek our advice. We may be able to help.



Is there a time limit for me to claim?

You may have heard of something called “limitation” in personal injury claims. The limitation period, or the time limit within which a claim should be brought, is generally three years. This is usually three years from the date that you were diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease.

Even if it has been longer than three years since you were diagnosed, please do still reach out to us. We have unique expertise in successfully bringing claims that are deemed “out of time” and so may still be able to help you.

Will I be able to claim private treatment costs?

Yes. If treatments not available through the NHS are recommended to you by your treating oncologist then we can seek payments to cover the cost of the treatments through your claim. However, liability must first be resolved before the defendant will pay. If you do not need treatment whilst your claim is ongoing we will seek what is known as an Indemnity Agreement from the defendant so they will also pay any private treatment costs in the future should such treatment be recommended, even after your claim has concluded.

Will the coroner be involved?

Where a person is believed to have died from an asbestos-related disease, the doctor who signs the death certificate must inform the coroner. The coroner will open an inquest and a post-mortem examination may be necessary, although not always particularly if you had a biopsy which confirmed you had mesothelioma when you first became ill. Ultimately, the coroner will confirm the cause of death.

We can advise you about the coronial process, assist you during the process and ensure it runs as smoothly as possible.

How long will my claim take?

Every case is different and how long it will take will depend on the strength of the evidence at the outset, how easy it is to trace a company or insurers to pursue the claim against and will also depend on their responses to the claim. However, our aim is to pursue mesothelioma claims without delay.

We often conclude cases in as little as 6–9 months, obtaining interim payments of compensation even sooner.

A Conditional Fee Agreement means we recover your legal fees from the defendant if your claim is successful. You do not have to pay anything to make a claim.

How will my claim be funded?

We fund all claims under a Conditional Fee Agreement (“CFA”). This is known colloquially as a “No Win, No Fee” agreement. Under a CFA, we recover your legal fees from the defendant/s if your claim is successful. If your claim is not successful, our fees are written off. This means you do not have to pay anything to make a claim.

Where a claim is unsuccessful, we recover any expenses we may have incurred for medical reports, court fees and so on under an insurance policy. If your claim is successful, the defendant/s will pay these expenses and the premium on the insurance policy. If your claim is unsuccessful, the insurance policy is self-insuring and so the premium is not payable either.

How much compensation will I recover?

The amount you can claim for mesothelioma varies widely and depends on a range of factors specific to your individual circumstances. Usually the compensation for mesothelioma is in excess of £100,000.

It is worth noting that you can also secure funding for bespoke private medical treatment as part of your claim.

Will there be any deductions for legal fees from my compensation award?

No; you will receive 100% of any compensation. We do not deduct anything towards legal fees in UK civil claims.

I am not happy with my current solicitors – can I transfer my claim to you?

If you’re unhappy with the service you’re getting from your current solicitors or have had your claim turned down by another firm then please get in touch with us. We may be able to take over your claim.

We have brought many successful claims for clients who have previously been advised by other firms that their claims are likely to fail and they are unable to investigate their claim further. We strive to achieve the very best results for our clients and pride ourselves on these successes.

The handover process is a straightforward one. We will write to your current solicitors, review their file of papers and assess your claim with a fresh pair of eyes, making sure that no stone is left unturned. We will then advise you whether we can take over your claim.



Cases

Contained in the following few pages are summaries of a selection of cases we have worked on for our clients. Every case is different and it is always an honour to be instructed and support our clients on the journey to hopefully achieving a sense of justice, recovering compensation and ensuring private treatment costs will be paid should such treatment be recommended to them.



Successful claim against Electricity Board for woman exposed to asbestos dust as a child through her father's work

Mrs W was diagnosed with mesothelioma. She had been an office worker and couldn't recall any asbestos exposure during her working life.

Mrs W's father had worked as a boilerman for the Electricity Board when she lived with him in the family home. He would come home in asbestos-contaminated overalls. Mrs W, who was a child at the time, would rush to meet her father and hug him. She recalled that his work overalls and hair were covered in flecks of dust.

Mrs W also helped her mum with the household chores, which included washing her father's work clothes. She would shake them out before hand-washing them, and she recalled seeing dust coming away from the clothes. Mrs W would sweep up the dust from the kitchen floor.

The Court generally accepts that, where familial exposure occurs after 31 October 1965, there is

a foreseeable risk of harm. In this case, the Electricity Board was found to be negligent.

Mrs W's claim settled for a substantial six-figure sum to include funding for private medical treatment. Mrs W said:

“I am very happy with the positive outcome. I have been kept up-to-date. I cannot thank RWK Goodman enough.”

Family of former school caretaker who died from mesothelioma recovers compensation

We were instructed by the family of Mr G who sadly died from mesothelioma. Mr G had been employed as a school caretaker for Somerset County Council (“the Council”) from 1989 to 1999 but his family did not know how he had come into contact with asbestos.

We ran a witness appeal on Facebook to trace Mr G’s former work colleagues. In response, we heard from a former workmate who had worked alongside Mr G carrying out caretaking duties at the school just as Mr G had done. He described how they disturbed asbestos-containing materials around the school in the form of ceiling tiles, flooring, Artex on ceilings and walls, guttering and roofing.

Meanwhile, the disclosure of the school’s original Asbestos Register, asbestos surveys and reports confirmed the presence of asbestos throughout the school site.

The Council denied liability and so we issued the claim in the High Court. On the same day, the Defendant made a settlement offer. Court proceedings were served on the Council shortly after and the claim then settled just a few days later for a five-figure sum without the need for any court hearings.

The Council’s solicitors had argued that the award for Pain, Suffering and Loss of Amenity should fall below the Court’s guideline for such awards in mesothelioma claims on the basis that Mr G suffered mesothelioma symptoms for “only” two months. We successfully argued that the award should fall within the bracket, albeit at the lower end.



Compensation recovered for the family of a former electrical contractor who died from mesothelioma following asbestos exposure at Sellafield Nuclear Power Station



We were instructed after JM's death to investigate a claim following his diagnosis with mesothelioma.

JM's family had had discussions with him over the years and had an idea as to where he likely came into contact with asbestos dust, including through his work as an electrical contractor at Sellafield Nuclear Power Station, Marchon Chemical Works and Vickers Armstrong Shipyard with various contracting companies between the 1960s and 1980s.

More specific exposure evidence was required from someone who worked alongside the Deceased at any of the above sites and who could therefore describe exactly how JM disturbed asbestos dust through the course

of his work. Witness appeals were placed in two newspapers with a circulation in the geographical areas of the above sites.

A former contractor at Sellafield Nuclear Power Station came forward in response to the later of the two witness appeals. He knew JM and worked with him in the same role with one particular contracting company, N G Bailey & Co, at Sellafield Nuclear Power Station between the late 1970s and mid-1980s.

Meanwhile, we were in contact with the current owners of Sellafield Nuclear Power Station to seek disclosure of records relating to JM from his time working on site. The owners were eventually able to disclose details confirming when JM worked on the site, by whom he was

employed and some of the buildings in which he worked. N G Bailey & Co was confirmed as one of his employers between the late 1970s and early 1990s, which corroborated JM's HMRC employment history and the witness evidence of his former colleague.

The insurers on risk for N G Bailey & Co originally denied liability and so we sought further exposure evidence from other potential witnesses who were traced through JM's former colleague.

The insurers admitted liability shortly before Court proceedings were due to be issued. The claim settled in a six-figure sum.





“I am extremely grateful for the huge amount of time spent on my case. The team always kept me well informed with their honest and trustworthy support and feedback. Thank you for everything you have done for my husband and me.”

Compensation recovered for former school cleaner who developed mesothelioma

Margaret was employed as a dormitory cleaner at a school in Wantage. Sadly, decades later, Margaret became poorly and was given the tragic news that she had developed mesothelioma.

Following her diagnosis, Margaret approached our specialist asbestos disease team. We visited her at home and it became clear that Margaret may have been exposed to asbestos dust whilst working at the school. Margaret described heating pipes in the school dormitories that were lagged with asbestos and how she had to sweep up chunks of lagging that fell off as she cleaned them.

We tracked down a former colleague who had worked at the school, including one witness who recalled the maintenance man telling her not to touch the pipes as they were covered in asbestos.

The school denied liability without any asbestos surveys or maintenance records being disclosed.

Our team carried out extensive research and investigations into the school premises. This included site visits, reviewing disclosure and planning applications from the local authority and even tracking down and reviewing architects files to ascertain if asbestos was used to lag the pipes in the area where Margaret alleged.

Margaret accepted a settlement offer from the Defendant and has been able to use the compensation to keep herself comfortable and make lasting memories with her family.

Widow of a former plasterer who died from mesothelioma recovers compensation, including for her increased nursing home fees

DW was employed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council between 1981/82 and 2000/01 as a plasterer working on refurbishment of local authority houses. During this time, DW came into contact with asbestos-containing materials.

We were only instructed after DW's death and so, unfortunately, did not have an account from him about the circumstances in which he was exposed to asbestos dust. DW's widow had dementia and resided in a care home and so was unable to assist.

The claim was brought by DW's Executors – two of his friends who kindly cared for DW and his wife when he became ill. They were able to give us the names of some of DW's former colleagues. We tracked them down and they spoke to us about how DW's work saw him encounter asbestos dust.

Once liability had been resolved, our focus turned to what could be recovered for DW's widow and his Estate. The claim had some unusual aspects, one being that DW's widow resided in a nursing home operated by the Defendant Council. She had lived there for many years before DW began to suffer from mesothelioma symptoms. However, prior to the onset of his wife's dementia, she and DW lived together in their marital home where DW remained up to his death.

When DW was alive, the local Council did not take into account the capital value of the marital home in their assessment of the nursing home fees payable by DW's wife. However, the marital home was owned by the couple as joint tenants and therefore passed to Mrs W automatically when DW died. Further, the couple's savings transferred to Mrs W. Accordingly, Mrs W immediately became liable for the full cost of her nursing home fees (almost £750 p/w), as her savings were over the maximum capital threshold.

The Executors of DW's Estate and Mrs W's attorneys put the marital home up for sale after DW's death. We realised that, once the sale was complete, Mrs W's capital would increase further meaning that she would be over the capital threshold for a longer period of time and so would have to continue paying full nursing home fees for longer. Mrs W's capital would increase further upon receipt of the damages from the claim, as – whilst a local authority cannot take into account personal injury damages in assessing adult care costs – that exemption does not apply to fatal cases.

We contended that Mrs W had a reasonable expectation of financial advantage from the continuance of the life of DW. His life had been cut short by mesothelioma due to the Council's negligence meaning Mrs W became liable for fees she would not otherwise have had to pay had DW lived until his 'natural' date of death. The claim settled in a six-figure sum and reflected recovery for this unusual head of loss even though the Defendant sought to contest it.



Claim settled for labourer exposed to asbestos whilst working for William Press

Stewart was employed as a labourer at William Press for two years in the 1970s when he was exposed to asbestos. Sadly, decades later, Stewart became poorly and was given the tragic news that he had developed mesothelioma.

At first, Stewart could not think where he may have been exposed to asbestos. He recalled some jobs he had done when he was younger where he had removed roofing, which he believed may have contained asbestos. Stewart approached us for advice on a claim and we visited Stewart at his home to talk through the memories he had of his working life.

During these discussions, it became clear to us that Stewart had likely been involved in the removal of asbestos lagging from pipes when he worked at William Press who had a contract

with the Atomic Energy Research Establishment in Harwell. Stewart was employed as a labourer and undertook pipework maintenance there. The building he worked in had steam pipes that ran all over, and these came out of a central boiler house. All these steam pipes were lagged and it was Stewart's role to remove the lagging from the pipework to undertake maintenance on the pipes.

A Letter of Claim was sent to William Press and liability was admitted shortly after.

Stewart's main priority was to settle the claim during his lifetime and for his wife, Jan, to have security in the future. Jan suffered with osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis and relied on Stewart for day-to-day care and services.

We advised Stewart that his claim would be worth more if it was brought as a dependency claim by Jan in the future. However, we understood his need and want for his case to

be settled during his lifetime so that he could enjoy the remainder of his life with his family.

We made it clear to the Defendant that Stewart wanted to settle the claim quickly, but with provision in place to allow Jan to bring a dependency claim for her future care needs. Ultimately, the Defendant was agreeable and both parties attended a Joint Settlement Meeting ("JSM"), which resulted in settlement.

The settlement was large enough to ensure that Jan's future care needs would be met, but also to fund Stewart's care for the remainder of his life.

The claim settled within the space of just seven months from initial instruction to settlement. This meant that Stewart, Jan and their family could focus on making lasting memories together.

The settlement was large enough to ensure that Jan's future care needs would be met, but also to fund Stewart's care for the remainder of his life.





Recovery of private medical treatment costs for man diagnosed with mesothelioma

When Mr G was diagnosed with mesothelioma, he was devastated. His dad sadly passed away from an asbestos related disease years earlier and so he had always been anxious about facing the same fate. However, it had been so long since he had been exposed to asbestos that he thought he had been lucky enough to avoid any illness.

Mr G told our specialist asbestos disease team that he was exposed to asbestos whilst working as a general builder between the 1960s and 1980s. He worked predominantly with Asbestolux during this time.

After our initial investigations, we narrowed down most of Mr G's asbestos exposure to two employers. Thankfully for Mr G, both employers admitted liability fairly early in the case and we were able to secure an interim payment of £50,000 for him. He was able to use this to purchase a new vehicle that was easier for him to get in and out of so he could

continue to have his independence, which was something that was very important to him.

Mr G started chemotherapy treatment under the NHS, but he did not tolerate it well. He was very unwell, and he felt unable to look after his wife, who had her own illnesses and disabilities, whilst he was undergoing the treatment. His consultant agreed that he was not responding well to the chemotherapy treatment, and so it was stopped.

Mr G's condition stayed stable for some time. However, when a routine scan showed a slight progression of his illness, he spoke to his medical team about other treatment options.

Mr G spoke to us about securing funding through the claim for him to undergo private medical treatment. It was important to Mr G to be able to choose when and where he had any treatment, so he could be around for his wife as much as possible. This was something we discussed with the Defendants and further interim payments were made to allow Mr G to undergo private immunotherapy treatment.

Having treatment privately gave Mr G more freedom and choice about the scheduling of the treatment itself and pre-treatment tests. It meant he spent less time waiting in hospital waiting rooms for his appointment and could instead spend that time with his wife. Having access to his consultant as a private patient also gave him more security and comfort.

Mr G would likely have been able to access immunotherapy through the NHS, but this did not prevent him from being able to seek private medical treatment costs from the Defendants in his claim.

We are willing to put forward your case for your right to access treatment privately, even if comparable treatment can be accessed for free on the NHS.

Successful compensation claim for Romanian who settled in the UK and was exposed to asbestos through work as a builder

Mr C was just 46 years old when he was diagnosed with mesothelioma. He was born in Romania and travelled to the UK 10 years before his diagnosis to start work for a building firm run by his best friend from his home town.

Mr C's work brought him into contact with asbestos-containing materials, including corrugated asbestos roof sheets, which he and his colleagues smashed up with a hammer and broke into smaller pieces for disposal. They were never warned of the dangers or given any protective equipment. The boss instructed them not to put asbestos debris in the skip but instead to smash it up, put it into bags and take it away with them. A friend of the boss worked in security at a bathroom company and would let them dump the asbestos in their skip. Obviously this posed a risk to the bathroom company employees as well as to the skip company, who were unaware the skip contained asbestos.

When Mr C first came to the UK, he did not have a National Insurance number and, as he was unsure whether he would stay permanently, he did not apply for one straight away. He was self-employed for the first two years, but then became a PAYE employee of the company. His best friend always exercised total control over his work, telling him when and where he could work, deciding how the work would be carried out, and approving holiday requests – they even

lived in the same house. Our specialist lawyers argued that Mr C was, therefore, effectively an employee of the company from the start.

We searched an insurance database and this confirmed that Royal Sun Alliance were the Employers Liability insurers on risk for the company at the relevant time. However, as Mr C's best friend/the company owner denied that he had any employees at the time, the insurers refused to confirm their interest. Court proceedings were issued and a timetable was put in place for the exchange of evidence leading up to a trial.

“The Defendant made a settlement offer and we persuaded them to increase their offer and include payment of any future private medical treatment costs.”



We obtained medical evidence and put together a Schedule of Loss setting out the maximum value of Mr C's claim. His condition was sadly deteriorating by this point and he was told that there were no treatment options available to him on the NHS. His primary concern was to access bespoke private medical treatment.

The Defendant made a settlement offer and we persuaded them to increase their offer and include payment of any future private medical treatment costs. We had advised Mr C that the real issue was whether or not the insurers would indemnify the company that would otherwise not have the means to pay a higher level of compensation. For this reason, a protective application to the government's Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (the "Fund of Last Resort") had already been made.

Although it was likely that the settlement figure would be higher if the insurers were persuaded to indemnify the Defendant company, Mr C instructed us to accept the Defendant's offer. He was worried that, if we fought on, we would have to wait to get judgment at trial and then have to take enforcement or declaration proceedings to ensure the insurers were held liable. Mr C knew it would be too late for him to benefit from private medical treatment by then.

Sadly, within three months of his claim settling, Mr C's condition progressed and he died. However, he benefitted from private radiotherapy treatment (funded by the Defendant), which relieved the severe spinal pain he experienced towards the end of his life.

Charity Involvement

Our commitment to our Charity Partners and "Giving Something Back".

We are proud to support the fantastic charities that support our clients. We have excellent relationships with a number of charities including HASAG, SWASAG and Mesothelioma UK. We love doing anything and everything we can to help support and fundraise for these charities who are so fundamental in helping our clients.



We attend HASAG and SWASAG coffee mornings in a number of different locations across the South from Truro to Essex, and everywhere in between!

These meetings provide an excellent chance for our clients to meet others who find themselves in the same boat. They are friendly groups that are so supportive and welcoming. The coffee mornings are also attended by HASAG/SWASAG representatives, our clients, Mesothelioma UK nurses and lawyers.

If you would like to attend one of these coffee mornings, or would like information about a support group local to you then do let us know and we'd be more than happy to provide you with further information. It is always so heartwarming to see our clients form such lovely friendships with others and receive peer support.

Over the years, we have participated in a number of fundraising activities to include abseiling, fire walking, sponsored runs, sponsored walks, singing competitions and lots more! We genuinely enjoy getting involved in anything we can to help raise funds for the charities we support. It is so important to us to give back to our communities as these valuable charities provide much-needed help, support, advice and guidance to our clients. They really are amazing and we feel so privileged to work so closely with them.

In addition to fundraising, we also attend a number of events each year to support our charities at study days aimed at nurses and clinicians and events aimed at patients and carers. These are very insightful days that are really important for the sharing of knowledge

and data in the mesothelioma world. We have also provided bursaries for scores of medical professionals to attend too. Again, we can provide you with relevant event information if you are interested – please just ask!

Action Mesothelioma Day takes place on the first Friday in July every year and is an important date in our diaries. Members of our team attend regional Action Mesothelioma Day events to show our support and commitment to the mesothelioma cause, raising awareness and also to remember those we have lost to mesothelioma and support those living with the disease.

We are keen to raise awareness of the crucial work the charities we support do. Please

follow our team and specialist lawyers on our social media channels such as Facebook, X and LinkedIn where we share news, updates and work done by the charities and other organisations in the mesothelioma community.

We are proud to have helped write and edit booklets and publications giving advice to those diagnosed with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related illnesses. Again, we can give you details if you are interested in further reading. Please also see our website for our team magazine 'Airborne'.

SWASAG
ASBESTOS SUPPORT AWARENESS GROUP

HASAG
ASBESTOS DISEASE SUPPORT



TEAM SUCCESSES

What legal directories say about us

We are highly commended for Personal Injury in The Times/Sunday Times Best Law Firms and ranked in the Top 100 Law Firms by The Lawyer.

We are also proud to be ranked in the Chambers and Partners legal directory's prestigious Industrial Disease UK Nationwide category as well as in the Legal 500.

Legal 500

We are delighted to have been described as an "outstanding leader in the industrial disease sector" and "a leader in asbestos litigation".

The Legal 500 noted that "The team – led by Helen Childs – has really forged ahead in the last 10 years, becoming one of the best in the market, taking on difficult cases and really making a name for themselves in an area of law that previously had been sewn up by a handful of other firms."

We are incredibly grateful to have been recognised as "extremely knowledgeable and always ready to go the extra mile", priding ourselves on providing clear, straightforward advice to our clients and in leaving no stone unturned.

We continue to go from strength to strength and note our work is recognised as being of "excellent quality".

Partner Jennifer Seavor has been given special recognition as a 'Next Generation Partner' praised for her excellent communication with clients. Senior Associate Laura Wilkinson has also been recognised as a 'Key Lawyer' within our South West Personal Injury team.

Chambers and Partners

We have been praised for our strong national reputation for high-quality claimant work, putting our clients at the heart of everything we do. Our Helen Childs is commended for the way she "leads by example and is always on top of the detail".

In our Thames Valley team, Partner Rachel James has been recognised for her "unparalleled knowledge of industrial disease cases". Associate David Hughes is also described as very impressive with his lung cancer cases and termed "truly excellent". His personable skills and ability to build relationships with his clients means he continues to be ranked an "Associate to Watch".

"The team – led by Helen Childs – has really forged ahead in the last 10 years, becoming one of the best in the market, taking on difficult cases and really making a name for themselves in an area of law that previously had been sewn up by a handful of other firms."

"This is an asbestos team at the very cutting edge of asbestos litigation. Utterly dedicated to their clients and with the expertise to make that dedication count."

What our clients say about us

We see client feedback as the best indicator of the service we provide and list below some of the testimonials we are proud to have received:

“Michael Wolstencroft has been dealing with my dad’s asbestos compensation claim. He has guided us through the whole process with such empathy, kindness and professionalism. All contact that was made with my dad during his battle with terminal mesothelioma was done in a very sensitive way. Once my dad died he helped myself and my brother through to the end of the claim, being on hand whenever we needed his help or advice. With Michael’s expert help we won the claim and this has led to a sizeable amount of compensation being paid to my mum for her loss. We can’t thank Michael enough and highly recommend his services.”

“From the very beginning RWK Goodman were truly fantastic in supporting myself and my partner Nigel in his mesothelioma claim. Initially handled by Jennifer Seavor and Abbie Porter who were sensitive and very knowledgeable. Due to maternity leave the case was then handed to Michael Wolstencroft who did an excellent job in reaching a successful conclusion. The claim was emotional and stressful at times but the help and guidance I was given was outstanding.”

“I was very sceptical at first about making a claim but as soon as I spoke to Helen Childs I was instantly put at ease as she had such a lovely calm approach and so kind. We were put in touch with Laura Wilkinson who handled our claim and we couldn’t have asked for a more friendly, kind, genuine person who always delivered over and above.”

“My matter was handled by David Hughes and team who were extremely efficient and very sensitive. It was made difficult by the fact I now live in Australia however he was able to procure me a very substantial sum which will greatly help me and my future needs. I recommend David unconditionally.”

“My mesothelioma diagnosis came as a shock to me, never knowing what it was or where it came from. Annabelle Neilson’s expertise with dealing with this situation was unbelievable. Her team and the research that they went into to get me my compensation was amazing. I can’t thank Annabelle enough.”

“Laura Wilkinson dealt with our claim. She kept me informed in words I could understand at every stage in the proceedings in a very professional yet friendly manner. She left no stone unturned in order to get every detail to back up the claim which she won. Laura and her team are simply the best.”

“I will always be grateful that I made the right choice. The company made a point of making personal contact. I felt part of the team and could contact anybody at any time. The legal procedure was long and complicated requiring detailed technical statements. The total time of this process took only nine months, but this hides the fact that interim and final payments were made well within this period. I feel it is a privilege and an obligation to recommend this company for anyone following a similar journey to my own and I and my family will always be very grateful to the entire team.”

“Helen took our claim on when another solicitor had basically given up at the first hurdle – her persistence paid dividends and our claim was successful. Communication was good and we we’re kept updated as to progress. Would thoroughly recommend... for a mesothelioma claim.”

“....an excellent company. They dealt with my claim with outstanding expertise where three other solicitors had failed. I would not hesitate to recommend them.”

“A lesser lawyer might fall in to the traps set for those seeking redress, but not Helen Childs. She was also compassionate to a fault. We were blessed to find her.”

“From our first contact, Jennifer has treated us with great sensitivity, care and understanding. She has guided us through the claims process and kept us regularly updated. Jennifer is very passionate about her work, wanting to raise awareness for those who died of mesothelioma, and we would have no hesitation in recommending her and her colleagues at RWK Goodman for their professional and very personal service.”

“Michael was very efficient and prompt. Michael exhausted every avenue when trying to find the insurers of companies long gone! Excellent work.”

“My case with RWK Goodman successfully concluded. Their practice operates to very high standards, and I was always treated with warmth and courtesy. It was clear from the outset that I was with the ‘right’ firm. This belief was consolidated as the in-depth expertise, skilful drafting of documents and clear concise advice from Laura Wilkinson was evident throughout the process. I would heartily recommend their services.”

“Caring, attentive, always went above and beyond to please! Called me after work hours to let me know we had won the claim. Always kept me updated. Always helpful and friendly.”

“What Laura Wilkinson did for my dad and the family we will never forget you and your team helped me achieve my dad’s last wishes. Thank you so much for all your hard work I just wish my dad was still here to know what you did for him.”

“I phoned Jennifer and straight away she put me at ease and from that point she took control of every aspect. This was no easy case as my father’s health was very poor but with professionalism and compassion through the most difficult of times for our family, she succeeded in helping my mother with a successful claim. Her guidance and helpfulness on all aspects was second to none. It would seem daunting to anyone to go through this process, but I can assure you Jennifer and her team made it easy.”

“Michael from RWK Goodman has handled our entire case with upmost integrity and transparency. Keeping us totally informed and giving us sound advice to enable us to make the best decisions, based upon their knowledge of industrial disease claims.”

“So lucky to have David and Nadia take on our case for my father which reached a very successful outcome. They not only provided excellent professional guidance and regularly kept us updated on how the case was progressing, but also showed our family such sensitivity at what was a very emotional time, especially as my father sadly passed away during the course of the negotiations. It really did mean so much to us all. I would highly recommend their services.”

“I am so pleased that we picked Jennifer, I have nothing but praise and respect for her and her team, she is the best and I will always be forever grateful for her unstinting help and support. I highly recommend RWK Goodman.”

“Rachel Carman has been truly amazing in the handling of my father’s claim. At what has been a difficult time for my father and family, her professionalism, dedication, compassion and kindness have been nothing short of amazing. Thank you very much, Rachel.”



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