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Pattinson & Brewer
Solicitors

THE CLAIMANT SOLICITORS
PROUD TO REPRESENT THE UNIONS

Personal injury: Making a claim

Why should I use union solicitors?

- 1 Pattinson & Brewer specialise in accident and occupational disease claims and are dedicated to obtaining the highest possible compensation in the shortest possible time. We will also obtain interim payments and ensure the defendant funds rehabilitation treatment where appropriate to aid recovery.
- 2 There are never any legal charges to you when you use the union solicitors as long as you keep to the rules of the Legal Assistance Scheme – This means you ALWAYS GET 100% of your compensation under the union funding scheme, as contrary to opinion “No Win, No Fee” does not necessarily mean no cost if you win, as deductions can be made from compensation at the end of the case.
- 3 We are dedicated to securing justice for Claimants. Unlike many of our competitors, we act for victims only and would never act for an insurance company.
- 4 We can meet you at your local union office to discuss the merits of your claim, and will invite you to bring your union representative with you. We tell you whether there is a case to answer, what the next steps are and what your chances of success are.
- 5 We are one of the leading trade union solicitors, and have represented union members for over 80 years, so have developed a great understanding of the occupations and working conditions of union members. We will also visit your workplace or accident location to inspect if this helps us to understand further.
- 6 Our Employment Department will give Employment advice on your situation if appropriate.
- 7 You benefit from the union's network of Officers who are committed to helping their members.
- 8 We provide training and seminars on a wide range of topics, and will tailor make sessions to cover specific concerns or interests on request.
- 9 We campaign and lobby for improved conditions for injured people.
- 10 We recover £millions each year for injured union members.

Working together

Unions provide a comprehensive legal service for members injured at work, which may also include travelling to and from work and outside work.

Did you know?

- Your union membership may entitle your family to free legal cover for any non work accident such as road traffic accidents. This means they also get 100% of their compensation.
- If you contract an occupational disease, even after retirement, you may still be entitled to free union legal cover and should contact your union.
- Your union membership also means you may get FREE legal advice on many different subjects, including:-
 - Will drafting service.
 - General advice, including but not limited to, criminal, family, neighbour disputes and debt matters.
 - Employment law advice.

What do we need to prove a claim for personal injury?

Your union and Pattinson & Brewer Solicitors will work with you to establish four things:

- 1 To show who, if anyone, was responsible.
- 2 That you were owed a duty of care.
- 3 That there has been a breach of duty of care.
- 4 That the breach has caused consequential losses and injury which are reasonably foreseeable.



10 steps to help get your claim started:

As soon as possible after an accident:

- 1 Report your accident to your employer and owner/occupier of the site. If you are assaulted, the victim of crime or involved in a road traffic accident also report the matter to the police and your GP.
- 2 Report the matter to your Union Health & Safety Representative as one of their functions is to investigate potential hazards and dangerous occurrences in the workplace.
- 3 Complete the Accident Book. Check your account of the accident report carefully and ensure it gives details of the cause of the accident.
- 4 Take the names, addresses, telephone numbers of any witnesses to the accident, particularly any independent witnesses.
- 5 Take pictures, if possible, of the place the accident happened and any injuries or draw a rough sketch or map to show what happened.
- 6 Write down a full account of the accident as soon as you can.
- 7 Contact your Union Representative or Branch Secretary. Ask them to submit your claim through the Union Legal Assistance Scheme.



- 8 Keep a diary of events following the accident.
- 9 Give details of the severity of your injuries, medication and treatment, and how you feel on a daily basis.
- 10 Keep details of any money you have to spend as a result of the accident/disease e.g. taxi fares, prescriptions charges, special clothing and keep all relevant receipts.

Additional useful information

- 1 Has the type of accident/disease happened before? If it has try to provide the names or contact details of those involved. Your Union Representative should be able to help.
- 2 Speak to your Union Representative and Health & Safety Representative as they may have knowledge of previous complaints, or may have raised matters in meetings, verbally or in writing. We can then obtain a witness statement from them to strengthen your case.
- 3 Give the details of your Union Representative and Health & Safety Representative to your solicitor.
- 4 Does your employer have any paperwork (e.g. accident reports) that would support your claim? If you think they have, tell your solicitors.

What will Pattinson & Brewer do?

- 1 We will write a letter of claim.
- 2 We will formally request any relevant paperwork from your employer.
- 3 We may arrange an inspection of the machinery/equipment or location of the accident if appropriate.
- 4 We will interview and take statements from any witnesses.
- 5 We will speak to your Union Representatives to obtain background information.
- 6 We may get documents and other reports, for example from the police or Health & Safety Executive.
- 7 We will decide if expert evidence is needed and choose the experts for your case.
- 8 We will appoint experienced Barristers if necessary.
- 9 If the claim has reasonable prospects of success and the Defendant refuses to admit liability or refuses to pay adequate compensation, we will happily fight for you in court.



Clients' comments

“ Thank you for your help and understanding in my claim.” Mr G

“ I can't begin to say how very grateful I am to you in working so hard for me. Your kindness and help throughout this very hard time has been an immense help to me.” Ms M

“ I would like to say a big thank you to you and your team at Pattinson & Brewer for all your help and assistance in the last year.” Ms C

“ I wanted to thank you personally for working to ensure a satisfactory result. I have never been involved in a legal process before, but your efficiency and constant updates have proved it to be a hassle free and smooth experience.” Mr R

“ I just wanted to let you know how grateful I am for all your help with my case. I really appreciate you being so sympathetic and understanding when dealing with me. It was a difficult time.” Ms E

“ I would like to thank you for all your help and advice. You certainly helped to make it a straight forward and therefore relatively stress free time for me for which I am most grateful.” Mrs A

Call for further information

The Unions work tirelessly on behalf of their members to ensure a safe and healthy workplace for all. If you are involved in an accident at work you should consult your Union Representative or Branch Secretary.

Pattinson & Brewer Solicitors provide a comprehensive range of legal services for union members including advice and representation on Employment matters.

For further information please contact your local union office or your regional office or call Pattinson & Brewer Solicitors on **0207 400 5126**.

We can offer expert advice in all the following areas:

Personal Injury

- ▲ Road Traffic Accidents
- ▲ Accidents at Work
- ▲ Leisure Accidents
- ▲ Fatal Accidents
- ▲ Spinal Injuries including Partial or Total Paralysis
- ▲ Head Injuries including Brain Damage

Industrial Disease

- ▲ Asbestosis
- ▲ Mesothelioma
- ▲ Pneumoconiosis
- ▲ Industrial Deafness
- ▲ Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema
- ▲ Vibration Injuries
- ▲ Skin Diseases
- ▲ Respiratory Diseases
- ▲ Serious or Fatal Accidents

Medical Negligence

- ▲ GP, Paediatric, Obstetric and Orthopaedic Negligence or Malpractice
- ▲ Misdiagnosis of Condition
- ▲ Failure to Diagnose Condition
- ▲ Unnecessary Treatment or Surgery
- ▲ Post Operative Complications
- ▲ Incorrect Prescription

Employment

- ▲ Transfer of Business Undertakings and Protection of Employment Rights
- ▲ Unfair Dismissal
- ▲ Contracts and Pay
- ▲ Discrimination

How to get in touch

This brochure outlines just some of the legal services that we can offer you. If you would like to speak to us to find out how we can help please call us on the numbers below.

London
30 Great James Street
London WC1N 3HA
t. 020 7400 5100

Personal Injury
Frances McCarthy
Industrial Disease
Paul Meehan
Medical Negligence
John Kyriacou
Employment
Paul Statham

Bristol
Transport House
Victoria Street
Bristol
BS1 6AY
t. 0117 917 1100

Gary Lightwood

York
1 Bridge Street
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t. 01904 680 000

Jane Radcliffe