

# Accidents at Work

## A guide to health and safety at work

### Expert advice

Employers have a legal obligation to maintain certain health and safety standards to minimise the risk of workplace accidents.

If an accident was caused because your employer failed to maintain these standards, you may have a claim for compensation.

Slater and Gordon has a team of experts who have a vast amount of experience dealing with accident at work claims and can ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved.



### What should you do if you've had an accident at work?

If you've had an accident at work there are various steps you can take which will assist your case:

- Report the accident to your employer
- Make sure details go in the accident book
- Report the accident to the Health and Safety Representative, if you have one
- Get the names and addresses of any witnesses
- Seek medical advice for your injuries
- Contact a lawyer who specialises in accident at work claims

### What is the HSE?

The HSE is the Health and Safety Executive, which is a public body responsible for the regulation and enforcement of health, safety and welfare in the workplace.

The HSE is sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions and also investigates industrial accidents, regardless of how big or small.

### What if you were partly to blame for the accident?

If your employer was fully or even only partly to blame for your accident, you may still be entitled to make a claim for compensation.

Once we've reviewed the details, we'll confirm whether or not you're able to make a claim and at what percentage we believe your employer to be at fault.

### What if you lost a loved one due to an accident at work?

If you've lost a loved one as a result of an accident at work, you may still be entitled to make a claim for compensation.

If your loved one had a Will, the person named as executor in the Will is responsible for pursuing the claim. If there is no Will, we have a highly experienced Probate team who can assist in obtaining a Grant of Probate to enable you to pursue a claim.

We understand what a difficult time it can be and will be there to provide you with support every step of the way.

### What if there's an inquest?

An Inquest can be a very daunting prospect for a bereaved family. We have a team of specialist lawyers with a vast amount of experience of representing families at Inquests.

We can attend the Inquest with you and guide you through the process. We'll ensure that all your questions are addressed with empathy and understanding and that all events are thoroughly investigated.

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I'm so pleased I contacted Slater and Gordon. They were able to support me every step of the way.

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Please feel free to discuss your own position and concerns. Contact your nearest office on:

T: 0800 916 9015  
E: [enquiries@slatergordon.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@slatergordon.co.uk)  
W: [www.slatergordon.co.uk](http://www.slatergordon.co.uk)

Slater and Gordon is one of the UK's leading and largest legal practices with offices throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

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# Advice on making a claim for compensation

For those who don't have experience of the legal process, contacting a lawyer and making a claim for compensation can be a daunting prospect. However, we're with our clients every step of the way, ensuring they understand the claims process, and relieving the burden of having to deal with a variety of practical issues, at what can be a difficult time.



## What should you do if you think you have a claim?

Contact us. Our team of specialists have a vast amount of experience of dealing with accidents at work.

Once we've taken details, we'll tell you whether or not you have a claim. If you're entitled to compensation, we can start work on your case straightaway and begin gathering evidence.

There are time limits which apply when making a claim for compensation, so don't delay in contacting us.

## What is the cost of making a claim?

We understand that the cost of legal advice can be a worry, but there are options available to fund personal injury cases.

You may have legal expenses insurance under an existing insurance policy which entitles you to free representation. If legal expenses insurance is not in place, we can conduct your case under a Conditional Fee Agreement, also known as a 'No Win, No Fee' Agreement. This means if the case fails, no payment is due.

Once we know the circumstances of your case, we'll be able to discuss your funding options in more detail.

## What is the amount of compensation likely to be?

Compensation will be based on the severity of the injury, and also on the personal circumstances of the injured person. For example, if they've been unable to work as a result of their injury, loss of earnings may be accounted for. If the injured person requires rehabilitation, treatment, aids, equipment or adaptations, we'll also seek to recover these costs.

If the injured person passed away and had dependents who relied on them for income and/or services such as household tasks or caring for a relative, this will also be taken into consideration.

## How long is the case likely to take?

Every case is different so it's difficult to estimate how long a case is likely to take without first reviewing the circumstances. However, the case will be dealt with by an expert from our accidents at work team who will deal with the case as quickly and efficiently as possible.

## Frequently asked questions

### Will I have to go to court?

A large majority of cases settle before a trial takes place. However, if the case doesn't settle before trial, attendance at court may be necessary.

### What if the injury requires rehabilitation or treatment?

We have many years' experience working on behalf of people who have suffered serious injuries and see it as an important part of our role to make sure that our clients get the best quality support to maximise their chances of recovery and future independence.

We work closely with case managers, medical experts and approved rehabilitation providers to ensure that a tailored programme is put in place as soon as possible so rehabilitation can begin without delay.

Where we've proved that the other side was fully or partly to blame, we can obtain interim payments to pay for treatment and other costs before the case reaches settlement.

### What if I need assistance in other areas?

We have experts in many areas of law such as employment, family, welfare benefits, trusts, Court of Protection and disability rights and work closely with those departments to ensure that you get the best possible outcome.