

## Useful Contacts

Irwin Mitchell has links with many professional organisations and individuals whose specialist skills and expertise can be called upon. Some useful websites and telephone numbers of children's injury charities and organisations are listed below:

**Advisory Centre for Education**  
T: 0808 800 5793  
[www.ace-ed.org.uk](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk)

**AvMA (Action Against Medical Accidents)**  
T: 0845 123 23 52  
[www.avma.org.uk](http://www.avma.org.uk)

**Brainwave**  
T: 01278 429089  
[www.brainwave.org.uk](http://www.brainwave.org.uk)

**BRAKE - The Road Safety Charity**  
T: 01484 559909  
[www.brake.org.uk](http://www.brake.org.uk)

**British Institute for Brain Injured Children (BIBIC)**  
T: 01278 684060  
[www.bibic.org.uk](http://www.bibic.org.uk)

**Cerebra**  
Parent Support Helpline: 0800 3281159  
[www.cerebra.org.uk](http://www.cerebra.org.uk)

**Child Accident Prevention Trust**  
T: 020 7608 3828  
[www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)

**Child Bereavement Charity**  
T: 01494 568900  
[www.childbereavement.org.uk](http://www.childbereavement.org.uk)

**Child Brain Injury Trust**  
T: 01869 341075  
[www.childbraininjurytrust.org.uk](http://www.childbraininjurytrust.org.uk)

**Children's Hospices UK**  
T: 0117 989 7820  
[www.childhospice.org.uk](http://www.childhospice.org.uk)

**Contact a Family**  
T: 0808 808 3555  
[www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)

**Cruse Bereavement Care**  
T: 0844 477 9400  
[www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk](http://www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk)

**Headway – the brain injury association**  
Helpline: 0808 800 2244  
[www.headway.org.uk](http://www.headway.org.uk)

**RoadPeace**  
Helpline: 0845 4500355  
[www.roadpeace.org](http://www.roadpeace.org)

**ROSPA**  
T: 0121 248 2000  
[www.rospa.com](http://www.rospa.com)

**Spinal Injuries Association**  
Helpline: 0800 980 0501  
[www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)

**The Children's Society**  
T: 0845 300 1128  
[www.childrensociety.org.uk](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk)

**The Children's Trust**  
T: 01737 365 000  
[www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk](http://www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk)

**The Patients Association**  
T: 0845 608 4455  
[www.patients-association.org.uk](http://www.patients-association.org.uk)

**Trust-Ed**  
[www.trust-ed.org](http://www.trust-ed.org)

This information was correct at the time of going to press and Irwin Mitchell cannot be held liable for any subsequent changes by the individual organisations listed.

*"When my sons were involved in a serious car accident we, as a family, found it very hard to cope with the shock, grief and practical issues we faced; things like sickness benefits, legal problems and dealing with medical procedures and jargon - we had never faced anything quite like it before. We found that the help and advice offered by Irwin Mitchell has been vitally important at a time when we all really needed support. It has been accurate and professional but, above all, shown a genuine understanding and concern for our feelings during a very difficult time and has enabled us, as a family, to cope so much better than we could have done on our own."*

- Helen

Talk to a specialist advisor today → Freephone 08000 23 22 33 or visit [www.irwinmitchell.com](http://www.irwinmitchell.com) Text claim to 61993 and someone will call you back



**Irwin Mitchell** Birmingham Bristol Glasgow Leeds London Manchester Newcastle Sheffield

**Irwin Mitchell Consulting Office†** Leicester

**Irwin Mitchel Abogados** Madrid Málaga

\* Accredited Irwin Mitchell offices: Birmingham, Leeds, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield

† Consultations are by appointment only.

\*\* Does not apply to group actions or accidents and illnesses outside England and Wales and is subject to compliance with the terms of your funding arrangements.

\*\*\* Subject to entering into a 'No Win, No Fee' agreement with us and complying within its terms.

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solicitors

## Our Services for Children

### Guidance with strength and sensitivity

Legal expertise from Irwin Mitchell

There are many groups who are required by law to keep our children safe from harm. When that protection falls short, the injuries suffered as a consequence can have a dramatic life changing impact not only for the child but also for their family. At Irwin Mitchell we believe that our clients deserve the best possible medical care, rehabilitation and support following an accident.

At Irwin Mitchell we fight fearlessly to give your child the greatest chance of winning their case. We're renowned for our understanding of the issues affecting your child and family, and we know what positive action to take to make a difference.

Our lawyers offer the highest level of professionalism and expertise, combined with dedication and sensitivity.

*Above all, we put you and your child first.*

#### Quality of Life

If your child has suffered an injury, the priority is to ensure that their treatment and care is focused on optimising recovery so as to enjoy the best possible quality of life.

The journey may not be easy and will require patience, determination and emotional strength. Your legal team will work with you and support you through any difficult decisions. When choices have to be made, we will guide you through the options to ensure that you feel comfortable that you are doing the right thing for your child. We will work together as a team.

#### An integrated approach with proven expertise

Irwin Mitchell's reputation for working on children's serious injury cases is second to none. We place maximum emphasis on the best interests and long term security of a child. We look at all the opportunities and possible outcomes and we demonstrate vision which extends far beyond litigation and compensation to provide an integrated service.

Where cases require, we can bring together expertise from a wide range of legal disciplines including: Personal Injury, Education Law, Community Care, Family Law, Court of Protection, Trusts and Investment Services. This approach enables us to provide highly effective, dedicated and focused services for children whose special legal needs are very different to those of adults.

**irwinmitchell** <sup>IM</sup>  
solicitors

## Personal Injury

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Our service includes:

- Immediate investigations to determine who was at fault.
- Interim payments wherever possible to help fund private healthcare, rehabilitation and financial security for your child.
- Taking into account any worries you may have such as the future financial needs of your child and their state benefits.
- Expert support for you to access rehabilitation and therapy services.
- Regular updates and contact with you to let you know how your child's claim is progressing.
- Meeting you at a place convenient for you i.e. at home or at hospital.

The service we provide is about much more than securing compensation. We can help with all manner of health, social and financial issues from arranging and purchasing specialist equipment and accommodation, to education and income provision through various types of investment.

As well as handling children's injuries suffered through an accident, we also have one of the UK's largest and most experienced medical negligence teams who have extensive experience of birth injury cases. We understand that parents of children with birth injuries come to us for a variety of reasons and so we aim to ensure that whether a claim for compensation succeeds or not, you as parents achieve a greater understanding of exactly what happened during your child's birth and afterwards.

The law makes provisions to help families in your position and it is vital that you take legal advice. Our initial consultation is free and will give you an informed platform upon which to make a decision.

## When can we make a claim?

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Unlike adults where there are strict time limits on making a claim, children can proceed to make a claim any time before their 21st birthday. The law states that people under the age of 18 cannot deal with their own compensation claim because they do not have the legal capacity. A Litigation Friend (usually a parent) needs to be appointed to act on the child's behalf. However, the sooner you contact us the better we are able to prepare your child's claim and we will give you clear advice about how we will progress the claim.

A children's accident claim can take years, especially in the case of a serious injury, as it is important to properly assess the long-term impact of the injury. Sometimes the effects of an injury only become more apparent as the child grows up and progresses through school.

In general, the more serious the injury and the younger the child when injured, the longer the child accident claim will take. In these cases, we will continue to monitor your child's progress and provide support wherever needed.

## What will it cost me and my child?

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If you are worried about legal costs, don't be. Contacting us for initial advice on your child's claim will cost you nothing. If we advise you to pursue a claim with us, we will review all the options for funding it.

At Irwin Mitchell our preferred option is our "No Cost To You" scheme which under a "No Win, No Fee" agreement means that:

- If you win, your child will keep 100% of your compensation.\*
- If you lose, you pay nothing.\*\*
- There are no hidden costs.

When we discuss your claim in more detail, we will tell you if the "No Cost To You" option is available or if we need to look at other funding options. You may for example be able to fund your case through legal expenses insurance. We will advise you clearly and impartially on the best options to fund your child's claim without any cost to you.

**The funding arrangements above relate only to personal injury cases and do not refer to any other legal services supplied by Irwin Mitchell LLP.**

## How much compensation will my child receive?

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The amount of compensation your child receives will depend on many factors, including how seriously your child was injured, how that injury will affect their current and future adult life and the extra support they will need in the future.

Irwin Mitchell can also assist in obtaining interim payments which can be used as the case progresses to fund care, medical treatment and educational support.

Through many years of representing children, Irwin Mitchell understands how important it is to protect their long term financial interests. There are many aspects to consider when safeguarding compensation for your child and it is vital that you take legal and financial advice. Where appropriate, Irwin Mitchell can set up a private trust, advising you of the benefits, handling all arrangement and even providing a professional trustee service if required. Our Court of Protection and IM Asset Management teams detailed later in this brochure, can help you with these matters.

*"I would like to say thank you not only for all your hard work but also for the help you gave us with getting interim payments. I know that to you it is just part of your job but it really did make a huge difference to Laura's life and for that we will always be grateful."*

- Geraldine

## Our Integrated Legal Services

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Irwin Mitchell offers an integrated approach to children's legal services. When needed, we can bring together expertise from a wide range of legal disciplines including some of our key services often utilised in children's serious injuries as detailed here. The approach enables us to provide highly effective, dedicated and focused services for your child, whose special legal needs are often very different to those of an adult.

### Court of Protection

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The Court of Protection is a division of the High Court which can protect people who are incapable of managing their finances and welfare. Our specialist team can guide and support you through the options available for managing the financial affairs for your child, and help you make choices that will be of most benefit to them.

Our Court of Protection team deals with a full range of services including: Deputyships; Damages Management; Trusts; Lasting Powers of Attorney; Wills and Personal Injury Trusts.

### Public Law

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If your child has health or social care needs which require additional support or services, then your local authority or primary care trust have specific duties to ensure that your child's needs are being met.

Our Public Law team has extensive experience providing advice and assistance in relation to community and healthcare law. The team regularly fights for clients in a number of community and healthcare areas including:

- Obtaining assessments of needs and securing care plans.
- Liaising with Primary Care Trusts regarding NHS Continuing Healthcare Funding.
- Obtaining respite care services.
- Challenging Social Services Departments and Primary Care Trusts on provision of care and other services for children with disabilities living in their own homes or in residential placements.

### Client Liaison Managers

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Our Client Liaison Team provide a unique service for children with serious injuries, providing support and information to you and your family whilst working alongside our solicitors to help you deal with all of the non legal problems you may face.

Offering practical and professional advice, the Client Liaison Team will liaise with local services, medical and local authority professionals to ensure ongoing external support is provided and education programmes are put in place to best meet the needs of your child. In addition to this, our Client Liaison Managers offer practical support with day to day issues such as budgeting; welfare benefits; rehabilitation; coping strategies (including educating siblings about their injured brother or sister) as well as working closely with you and your family concerning housing adaptations or equipment and liaising with your child's treating team and their school.

## IM Asset Management

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IM Asset Management are a wholly owned subsidiary of Irwin Mitchell LLP. They can provide you with specialist financial advice providing support and guidance on how to make the most of an award on behalf of your child and, if appropriate, in conjunction with our Court of Protection team.

As there are different ways in which legal cases can be settled, it is important to ensure you have an initial unbiased meeting with a financial expert. IM Asset Management benefits from unique and unrivalled expertise. Their advice ranges from helping find the best cash accounts, to how to generate the greatest and most effective long term returns. IM Asset Management offer this initial advice at no cost to you.

## Family Law

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Unfortunately, the pressures of a child suffering a serious injury can have a major impact on the family unit. With expert advice on parenting time arrangements including residence (custody) and contact (access) as well as a whole range of other concerns and issues that might arise, our team of specialist advisors will help you and your family. We also have experience in special guardianship orders, adoption and issues grandparents can face.

As well as providing legal advice we will also assist you in accessing emotional support to keep the emotional impact of any difficulties within your family unit to a minimum and assist you through this transition.

*"We as a family can't find the right words to thank you for everything... We are so grateful for what you have achieved for Luke and it's such a relief to know his future is secure." - Kevin*