



Supporting you
through asbestos -
related cancer

IM, irwinmitchell



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If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with asbestos-related lung cancer we understand what you're going through and are here to help you every step of the way.

Although many people suffer lung cancer as a result of smoking, some develop it due to direct asbestos exposure, which can also cause a range of other lung conditions including asbestosis, pleural thickening and malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Many of our clients are diagnosed with the illness several decades after being exposed to asbestos at work. We'll investigate your case to find out who was at fault, and work to get you the justice you deserve. We'll make sure you receive the best possible medical care and support – now and in the future, whatever it may hold.



My solicitor was excellent in my case. Very efficient, thorough and professional. She put our minds at ease and explained processes clearly. I would recommend Irwin Mitchell without hesitation.

Annette
5* Trustpilot review



This information relates to the law and procedures in England and Wales. Please contact us if you need advice about the law and procedure in other legal jurisdictions.

0800 023 2233

A helping hand

We're one of the largest and most experienced law firms in the country. Every year we recover substantial damages for people diagnosed with asbestos-related lung cancer.

Figures from the Health and Safety Executive indicate that each year approximately 2,500 people are diagnosed with lung cancer caused by exposure to asbestos dust at work. Fewer than 200 of these diagnoses result in a civil claim for compensation, as many sufferers are unaware that it may have been caused by their exposure to asbestos dust at work.

This is where we can help. Our reputation for getting people the justice they deserve is second to none.

With years of experience working with asbestos cancer sufferers and their families, our experts appreciate what you're going through and know exactly what needs to be done to help you get the compensation you deserve.

Employing many of the country's finest personal injury lawyers, our highly specialised team combines powerful legal arguments with care and consideration ensuring the best possible outcome for you.

Our friendly professional service includes:

An early investigation to find out how and why your diagnosis has happened

Early compensation payments where possible, to pay for private healthcare, rehabilitation, and bills if you can't work

Expert advice on state benefits, employment rights and other financial issues

Additional support, should you need it, such as financial planning, Personal Injury Trusts, Wills advice and Power of Attorney.





Our commitment to you

Seeing the physical and mental effects that a diagnosis of asbestos-related lung cancer has on our clients is always very difficult. This is one of the reasons why we campaign for research to improve the quality of treatment available to anyone affected by the illness.

We campaign alongside the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK and the medical profession for new and improved treatments to be made available on the NHS.

Our specialists are happy to discuss anything from your potential case to our campaigns for better care.

Understanding the cause

Inhalation of tobacco smoke and exposure to asbestos can cause all types of lung cancer, with doctors unable to determine the predominant cause.

Around 90% of lung cancers are thought to be attributable to smoking. Although it's widely accepted that substantial exposure to asbestos dust may cause lung cancer, the possibility that exposure to asbestos dust may have contributed to the development of the condition isn't explored in many cases.

Multiplying effect

Experts can say with certainty that smokers who have been significantly exposed to asbestos, over a prolonged period of time, face a dramatically increased risk of developing lung cancer.

A study of American insulation workers showed that, compared to a non-smoker who wasn't exposed to asbestos dust, the risks of developing lung cancer were increased over five times by exposure to asbestos dust; over 10 times by smoking and over 50 times by smoking and exposure to asbestos dust combined.

Of course, the results of this study can't be applied precisely to other situations or workers in other industries. Nonetheless, they highlight how the risks of developing lung cancer are significantly increased by smoking and substantial exposure to asbestos dust.





When can I claim?

You have to be able to demonstrate significant and prolonged exposure to asbestos to claim successfully when it comes to asbestos-related lung cancer.

Establishing a link

Medical experts believe that the following evidence would be enough to establish that the exposure to asbestos dust had contributed to the risk of developing lung cancer. This is providing that in each case there was at least a 10-year time lag between such exposure and development of the cancer:

- Fibrosis of the lungs due to asbestos exposure
- One year's very heavy exposure to asbestos dust through spraying, insulation or demolition
- Five to 10 years moderate exposure to asbestos dust.

Time limits

The time limit for claims is usually three years from the date you first suspected that your lung cancer may have been caused by exposure to asbestos dust.

If a loved one has died as a result of asbestos-related lung cancer, it may still be possible to make a claim against the person or company suspected to have contributed towards their disease. The time limit for this is usually three years from the date they passed away.

How much will it cost?

Contacting us for initial advice on your claim costs you nothing. If you do go on to pursue a claim with us, we'll review all the options for funding it.

Funding your case:

Conditional fee agreement – commonly known as a 'No Win No Fee' agreement*

Legal expenses insurance – you may have legal expenses cover to help with any legal costs as part of your household or car insurance

Trade union – if you're a member of a trade union, they may provide assistance for some legal issues.

Even if you do have access to legal expenses insurance, public funding or trade union assistance, your best option may still be a 'No Win No Fee' agreement.

* To make a No Win No Fee claim, you need to enter into an agreement that's linked to a suitable insurance policy. We'll explain this in more detail before we start your claim.



My solicitor handled the business side and the personal side of my claim with expertise and above all with kind respect considering such a sad situation.

Anthony
5* Trustpilot review



‘No win no fee’ agreements

If we recommend that a ‘No Win No Fee’ agreement* is your best option, you can be assured that there’s no financial risk to you if you’re unsuccessful.

If you win:

Your opponent will pay the majority of our basic legal costs and disbursements (e.g. court fees, medical reports)

Any costs not payable by your opponent will include:

- The premium for your insurance policy to protect you fully against any risk of legal costs

You won’t have to pay a penny out of your own pocket until your claim has successfully come to an end and then any of the costs not paid by your opponent will be deducted from any compensation awarded to you

If any disbursements can’t be recovered from your opponent these will be covered by your insurance policy

To help you with your legal costs, the government has provided a 10% increase in the amount awarded to you for your pain, suffering and loss of amenity.

If you lose:

We can promise you there’s no financial risk to you if your claim is unsuccessful*

There will be no charge to you

You’ll be fully covered by your insurance policy for any disbursements

You’ll be fully protected by your insurance policy from any of your opponent’s legal costs.

We’ll do everything we can to protect and support you to proceed with your claim and we’ll keep you updated at all times. Remember, there’s absolutely no financial risk to you or your family if you’re unsuccessful.

* To make a No Win No Fee claim, you need to enter into an agreement that’s linked to a suitable insurance policy. We’ll explain this in more detail before we start your claim.



How much compensation will I get?

The amount of compensation you receive depends on several aspects. This includes the severity of your illness and how it's affected your life, how much money you've lost or will lose as a consequence, and whether you'll need extra support in the future.

Individually assessed

We'll advise you at the outset on how your opponent's insurers and the courts approach the assessment of compensation, and how that will apply to your case. It's important to bear in mind that everyone is different, and the consequences of the same injury or illness will vary from person to person.

Keeping you informed

As we learn more about you and your circumstances, we'll be able to provide you with a more accurate idea of the financial value of your claim. We'll do everything we can to recover the maximum amount of compensation available to you. We'll also advise on the best payment terms to suit your immediate and ongoing needs.

As well as securing financial compensation, we'll help you and your family with the practical issues and day-to-day impact of your injury, as well as helping you access the best medical care.



What happens when I claim?

Once you've instructed us we'll investigate your case thoroughly by gathering witness statements and other relevant details.

Review

Once your witness statements, medical records and hospital background documents have been collated, we instruct a medical expert to review them, who will then give their opinion on the cause of your illness.

Following this, your solicitor is likely to arrange another meeting with the medical expert and/or an engineering expert and a specialist barrister to discuss all the information. Listening to all of the input and based on several factors, we establish if you have grounds to pursue a claim.

If we're confident you have a case, we'll pursue the claim against your opponent.

Court settlements

Most cases are settled before they go to trial. But if your case is one of the few that's to be decided by a judge, it's perfectly normal and we'll be there to help you every step of the way.

What else can we help you with?

Whether it's business or personal we understand that everyone's situation is different.

If you need legal advice or support with financial planning, we're here to offer expert advice tailored to your circumstances, so you can focus on what really matters.

We're here to help you with:

- Buying or selling a house
- Court of Protection
- Divorce, children and family matters
- Planning disputes
- Financial planning and wealth management*
- Support with your business and employment issues
- Social, education and healthcare provisions
- Tax and trusts
- Welfare and healthcare matters
- Wills

* Financial planning and wealth management services are provided by IM Asset Management Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Its Financial Services Register Firm Reference Number is 402770.



Contact us:

📞 0800 023 2233

💻 [irwinmitchell.com](https://www.irwinmitchell.com)

Useful Contacts

We have close relationships with organisations and charities that can provide extra support when you need it most.

Support groups

Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum

A central library of national asbestos victim support groups.

Windrush Millennium Centre
70 Alexandra Road
Manchester
M16 7WD

☎ 0161 636 7555
✉ asbestos.mcr@gmail.com
🌐 asbestosforum.org.uk

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Charity

The only UK lung cancer charity dedicated to helping everyone affected by the disease.

Cotton Exchange Building
Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9LQ

☎ 0333 323 7200
🌐 roycastle.org

British Lung Foundation

Promotes lung health and supports those affected by lung disease.

73-75 Goswell Road
London
EC1V 7ER

☎ 0300 003 0555
✉ [enquiry form online](http://enquiryformonline.org)
🌐 blf.org.uk

Mesothelioma UK

Provides mesothelioma information, support and education, while improving care and treatment for those affected by this cancer.

Unit 116
Greenacres
The Sidings
Leicester
LE4 3BR

☎ 0800 169 2409
✉ info@mesothelioma.uk.com
🌐 mesothelioma.uk.com

Research funds

June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund

Raises funds for research and the care of people with mesothelioma.

c/o Riverside East
2 Millsands
Sheffield
S3 8DT

☎ 0114 274 4420
✉ info@junehancockfund.org
🌐 junehancockfund.org

Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund

Raises awareness and funds for crucial research projects into mesothelioma.

🌐 blf.org.uk/mkmrf

Campaigning organisations

International Ban Asbestos Secretariat

Supporting the global ban on asbestos by campaigning and challenging malpractice.


✉ lkaz@btconnect.com
🌐 ibasecretariat.org


Hazards

A UK-wide network of resources and campaigners for justice and safety at work.

PO Box 4042
Sheffield
S8 2DG

🌐 hazards.org

 0800 023 2233

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SIV-B-2003