



**Supporting you**  
through mesothelioma





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If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with mesothelioma we're here to help and support you and your family every step of the way.

Mesothelioma is a form of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. The condition most commonly affects the lining of the lung, but mesothelioma can develop in the lining of the abdomen and the heart.

Most of our clients are diagnosed with the illness many years after being exposed to asbestos at work. We can't turn back time, but we will fight for the justice and compensation you and your loved ones deserve. We've been supporting people affected by mesothelioma and their families for well over 30 years. We understand that everyone's condition is different – that's why we aim to bring you peace of mind, whatever the future holds.

“

I'd highly recommend Irwin Mitchell. They explained everything, listened and answered any questions no matter how trivial they may've seemed. Thank you for making this a positive experience.

**Janet**  
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



## How we can help

We're one of the largest law firms in the country, and our experience helps us recover millions of pounds for our clients every year.

We have more specialists accredited by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) than any other law firm.

A mesothelioma diagnosis is life-changing, and our experts understand the impact it will have on you and your family. Our focus is on getting our clients the support they need and the justice they deserve.

We have experts throughout the UK ready to help you and your loved ones get the answers you're searching for. Our investigations are thorough, and we'll go through your employment history with you to track down those responsible for your illness.

If we're unable to find them, we'll make a claim through the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS).



## Here for you, wherever you are

Our experts are happy to meet you where you feel most comfortable.





It's hard to imagine going back over four and a half years, being told I had limited life left with a disease that's terminal. I'm here now. I'm still quite fit and healthy, and long may it continue.

**Ron**  
Our client

## Ron's story: Defying the odds of mesothelioma

For an active man who always looks for the next challenge, being diagnosed with mesothelioma and told he had three to nine months to live was hard to take in. "I was in no man's land" says Ron, "I never thought I'd run again."

In September 2018, Ron developed symptoms of mesothelioma. Tests confirmed the devastating diagnosis on his partner's birthday in December 2018.

Ron's oncologist referred him for the NHS MARS 2 clinical trial, and he was deemed fit enough for lung-sparing surgery in 2019.

The treatment was a success, allowing Ron to return to some of the activities he enjoys.

Ron was exposed to asbestos as a ship building apprentice in the early 1970s. We supported him to claim against his employers. Within a few weeks, benefits

were secured to cover his mortgage and bills, and in just a few months, Ron received a substantial interim payment.

Ron's case settled quickly. The compensation gave him peace of mind and includes provision for the specialist care and treatment he may need in the future.

Ron's about to start immunotherapy because his cancer's unfortunately developing. He remains optimistic and his positive mindset drives him to set new challenges, including completing his 42nd consecutive Great North Run in September 2023.

## Our commitment to you

The legal process can be a complex one, but we're here to make it easier for you.

### **Supporting you and your family**

We understand what you're going through, so we'll make sure everything is explained, from our first conversation right through until your case is settled.

We'll visit you at home or in hospital at a time to suit you and your family. From the moment you ask us to act on your behalf, you'll have a team of professionals working with you. Within your team, there'll be a dedicated person who you can speak with at any time.

### **Unique approach**

Every client we deal with is unique and has different needs. Good work takes time, and we'll never compromise on this when your quality of life is at stake. Whatever support you need, we'll aim to provide it, from the best medical care to tracking down co-workers to support your claim.

### **Financial support**

Although it's not your first concern, you or your families' finances will be a consideration after a diagnosis.

Every mesothelioma patient is entitled to receive welfare benefits. If you've never claimed benefits from the government, this might be a new experience for you. We'll complete the application forms on your behalf and ensure you receive your full entitlement.

The purpose of a legal claim is to get you the justice you deserve, and seek sufficient compensation to meet any costs that might arise from your condition. Our experts will understand your circumstances, and aim to maximise the financial support so you can begin the treatment that's right for you.

You don't have to pay anything for our services, even if your case is successful or unsuccessful. If your claim is successful, you'll keep 100% of your compensation as our bill will be paid separately by your opponent\*.

\*Unless your claim is made through the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS), where legal costs are built into the compensation and they are capped at £7,000.



## Mesothelioma and your case

The only known cause of mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos, which can happen in many different ways and places.

### There are three main kinds of asbestos exposure:

**Occupational:** When the exposure happens at work

**Secondary or domestic/para-occupational exposure:** When an employee's loved ones are exposed to asbestos through dust and fibers on their work clothing

**Environmental:** When the area around an asbestos site is contaminated by airborne fibres.

You normally have three years to start your claim, from the date that you or your loved one was diagnosed with mesothelioma or you found out that your partner's death was caused by an asbestos related illness.

The time limit isn't from when you or your partner was first exposed to asbestos, as these diseases can take many decades to develop.

Don't worry if you no longer work at the same company, or if it's ceased trading or changed names. This won't necessarily prevent a claim being pursued.

### Although no two cases are ever the same, they usually follow these five steps:

#### Free initial consultation

We'll discuss the background of your case and the best way to support you moving forward.

#### Determining responsibility

We'll investigate when and where you were exposed to asbestos. Even if the company responsible is no longer trading, we can still pursue its insurers for compensation.

#### Understanding your needs

We'll look at the impact your illness is having, and will have, on yours and your family's lives. We'll calculate the amount of compensation we think you'll need to access the best treatment and ensure your family is provided for.

#### Accessing support

We can help you claim any benefits you're entitled to, while helping you access the very best care and support services while your claim is ongoing.

#### Compensation settlement

Most asbestos claims are settled out of court. Sometimes the responsible party doesn't accept blame or agree to the amount of compensation we feel you need. When this happens, we'll start court proceedings, but we'll be here to support you every step of the way.

## Proud of our history

We've represented clients in a number of landmark cases that have helped to challenge and shape the law.

Our experts are pioneers when it comes to mesothelioma claims, and passionate about ensuring everyone gets the justice and support they deserve.

Many of our high-profile cases have gone to the Supreme Court. All of these have changed the rules for employers and insurers, and their responsibility to those exposed to asbestos.

### **Environmental asbestos**

Back in 1995, we successfully represented our client, June Hancock, in the first ever environmental asbestos case.

June had never worked with asbestos, but she grew up near the JW Roberts factory in Leeds, which emitted asbestos dust into the local neighbourhood. Her mother died in 1982 of mesothelioma. In 1993, very sadly June was also diagnosed with the disease. The case was the first of its kind. It extended a company's duty of care to those affected by secondary exposure to asbestos, not just its employees.

### **Hospice care**

In 2010 we secured hospice costs for our client, who had contracted mesothelioma after working at a power station in the 1950s. The claim was brought on behalf of his daughters after he sadly passed away in 2007. In addition to the claim they made for their father's estate, they also made a claim for the care their father received during the final stages of his life at St Joseph's Hospice.

This was the first case where costs for hospice care were included in the compensation settlement. Since then we've recovered over £1 million for hospices across the country.

### **Future treatment**

We secured a Periodical Payment Order for our client's future immunotherapy treatment for mesothelioma. This landmark ruling meant that the case could settle before medical treatment started. It also ensured that our client had peace of mind, knowing that all his future treatments would be covered by the insurers.

This was the first mesothelioma case of its kind, and represented a huge step forwards in how care costs were treated as part of compensation packages.

### **Education Fund**

In addition to our commitment to our clients, we're committed to advancing the understanding and treatment of asbestos related diseases too.

For over ten years, our Education Fund has helped specialist cancer nurses to attend courses to further their knowledge of asbestos related diseases and treatment options.



When we were looking for legal representation for my late father's asbestos lawsuit, we weren't sure who to turn to and an old friend recommended Irwin Mitchell. We could not make a better choice.

**Wes**

**5\* Trustpilot review**



## What our clients think

Our clients' feedback is crucial to us and allows us to understand how they felt throughout their journey.

Trustpilot is an online platform where clients can publish reviews of their experience with us. At the end of every case, we ask our clients for their views so we can see what we've done well and if there's anything we can do better.



Irwin Mitchell have been outstanding from start to finish. They've given me confidence to take things forward.

**Ethan**  
5\* Trustpilot review



Samantha Shaw has been professional, compassionate, welcoming and a thoroughly lovely person throughout our recent case.

**Nigel**  
5\* Trustpilot review



All members of the team I came in contact with were fabulous. They were helpful and gave full support throughout a stressful process.

**Alex**  
5\* Trustpilot review



Helen Jones was timely, caring, clear and factual. She showed empathy and respect for my family, and was clearly an expert in her field.

**Alison**  
5\* Trustpilot review

## Frequently asked questions

If you contact us for an initial consultation, we'll be able to answer all the questions you may have. In the meantime, we hope these answers to some of the more common queries we receive will help.

### **What should I do if I think that a previous employer may be responsible for my mesothelioma diagnosis?**

The best way to get answers is to contact us – we'll make sure your case is thoroughly investigated. We'll look through your employment history, explore where you may have come into contact with asbestos and if there were any shortcomings in the duty of care your employer(s) provided.

### **Can I make a claim if my employer is no longer trading?**

Our solicitors can access several databases, and may be able to trace the company and check whether it's currently trading under a different name.

If your employer is no longer trading, don't worry, compensation is normally paid by your former employer's insurer. Even if you were exposed to asbestos decades ago, we can still help you find out who was responsible.

If we're unable to find your former employer or their insurers, we can make a claim on your behalf through the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme.

### **I'm still working – can I apply for welfare benefits?**

Yes – you'll be entitled to welfare benefits because of your mesothelioma diagnosis, and these are not means tested. Our specialist team can advise you further and complete the relevant application forms for you.

### **How long will a claim take?**

A legal claim can vary in the time it takes to conclude. Some can take only a few months, others longer. We'll give you an estimate of time once we've spoken to you further. Claims for government compensation are usually processed very quickly, in a matter of weeks. We'll always try to conclude a case as soon as possible, and always in your best interests.

### **Can a claim continue if anything happens to me or a loved one?**

Yes – if a claim is started during yours or your loved ones lifetime and information has been provided about the circumstances in which exposure to asbestos occurred. It's still possible to pursue a claim after your loved one has passed away on behalf of their estate and any of their dependants.

### **When should I contact a solicitor?**

As soon as possible. State benefits are only backdated for a limited time. Also, in the vast majority of mesothelioma cases, the time limit for pursuing a claim is three years from the date of diagnosis. There can be other ways to claim even after this period. The more information we have, the better your prospects of success.

## 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.

## Asthma + Lung UK

Promotes lung health and supports those affected by lung disease.

18 Mansell Street  
London  
E1 8AA

☎ 0300 222 5800  
🌐 [asthmaandlung.org.uk](http://asthmaandlung.org.uk)

## Forum of Asbestos Victims Support Groups

Working together to give a voice to asbestos victims.

34 Glumangate  
Chesterfield  
S40 1TX

☎ 01246 380 415  
✉ [forum.asbestos@gmail.com](mailto:forum.asbestos@gmail.com)  
🌐 [asbestosforum.org.uk](http://asbestosforum.org.uk)

## June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund

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

The June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund  
c/o Riverside East  
2 Millsands  
Sheffield  
S3 8DT

☎ 0114 2744 420  
✉ [info@junehancockfund.org](mailto:info@junehancockfund.org)  
🌐 [junehancockfund.org](http://junehancockfund.org)

## Macmillan Cancer Support

Provides physical, emotional and financial support to those affected by cancer.

89 Albert Embankment  
London  
SE1 7UQ

☎ 0808 8080 000  
🌐 [macmillan.org.uk](http://macmillan.org.uk)

## Hospice UK

An organisation that supports the development of hospice care in the UK. By supporting hospice professionals, championing the voice of hospice care and promoting clinical excellence, they help hospice care providers to deliver the highest quality of care to people with life-limiting or terminal conditions and their families.

Hospice UK  
34-44 Britannia Street  
London  
WC1X 9JG

☎ 020 7520 8200  
🌐 [hospiceuk.org](http://hospiceuk.org)

## Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

From getting diagnosed to having treatment for lung cancer, they're here to help you make sense of your diagnosis and support you through it.

Cotton Exchange Building  
Old Hall Street  
Liverpool  
L3 9LQ

☎ 0333 323 7200  
🌐 [roycastle.org](http://roycastle.org)

## Mesothelioma UK

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

235 Loughborough Road  
Mountsorrel  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE12 7AS

☎ 0800 1692 409  
✉ [info@mesothelioma.uk.com](mailto:info@mesothelioma.uk.com)  
🌐 [mesothelioma.uk.com](http://mesothelioma.uk.com)

 0800 023 2233

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



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