



THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS

STANDING UP FOR YOU

An introduction to
claiming compensation:
Asbestos and mesothelioma

**Vivienne, Thompsons'
mesothelioma client**

Our pledge to you

Thompsons Solicitors has been standing up for the injured and mistreated since Harry Thompson founded the firm in 1921. We have fought for millions of people, won countless landmark cases and secured key legal reforms.

We have more experience of winning personal injury and employment claims than any other firm – and we use that experience solely for the injured and mistreated.

Thompsons will stand up for you by:

Staying true to our principles – regardless of how difficult our job is made by government, employers or the insurance industry

Remaining committed to the trade union movement, working closely with them and with professional associations for the benefit of working people everywhere

Thompsons pledge that we will:

Work solely for the injured or mistreated

Refuse to represent insurance companies and employers

Invest our specialist expertise in each and every case

Fight for the maximum compensation in the shortest possible time

Be open and transparent about fees and costs

standing up for you

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“

Thompsons worked tirelessly on my claim for compensation.”

Vivienne Swain
Mesothelioma client



Introduction

Asbestos is the greatest single cause of work related deaths in the UK and a damning indictment of corporate negligence.

The importing and use of asbestos has been banned in the UK, but the symptoms of asbestos related illnesses can take a long time to appear; between 10 and 40 years after exposure has ceased, sometimes longer. Many people suffering now were exposed to asbestos in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Mesothelioma is a fatal form of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. Once mesothelioma has developed, symptoms can sometimes be eased but there is no cure. For a person or their family in this terrible situation, claiming compensation can help by providing financial security and bringing some sense of acting against a grievous injustice.

Thompsons has unrivalled experience in this complex area of personal injury law; we brought the first ever successful case for asbestos disease in the UK in the House of Lords and have been involved in ground breaking asbestos compensation cases ever since.

We've dealt with thousands of claims for mesothelioma, achieved substantial compensation levels for our clients and done so with empathy and compassion.

Our formidable reputation means we will fight hard for the maximum compensation, in the shortest possible time and striving to secure justice for individuals and their families.

Why Thompsons?

At Thompsons, we have a dedicated team of specialist lawyers who exclusively deal with compensation claims for asbestos related disease.

The team acts for major trade unions, works closely with asbestos victim support groups and works directly for individual clients and family members who have been affected by asbestos diseases. We never work for employers and we never work for the insurance industry.

Our expert asbestos solicitors have assembled an extensive database containing information about previous asbestos claims and details of employers' liability insurers for companies which are no longer trading. The contents of this archive is based on information obtained from thousands of successful industrial disease claims over the last 30 years. Having access to this wealth of background information assists us in investigating and pursuing cases for clients suffering from asbestos related diseases today. We work with and support organisations such as Families Against Corporate Killing, Mesothelioma UK and The Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund.

Lisa's story

“My dad, Billy, had lost a lot of weight, and was in hospital after injuring his rib in a fall. While being treated, doctors noticed a shadow on his lung, which they thought was fluid.

After being discharged and returning home, dad insisted that his symptoms be investigated further. He was eventually introduced to a mesothelioma consultant, who asked him when had he been diagnosed with mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer often linked with exposure to asbestos. He replied that he hadn't been diagnosed. My dad passed away on September 7th, 2011, aged just 64.

Two heavy goods vehicle companies have been held responsible for my dad's exposure to asbestos dust. An asbestos charity recommended Thompsons who were absolutely fantastic - so compassionate - they went the extra mile for the family. Our solicitor was so sincere and supportive. She always kept me informed, even though it was hard for me to talk about dad after he had died. With help from the settlement, I have been able to sponsor a local boxing gym in Liverpool, to help nurture the talent of young people, and become a patron to the Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund to provide support for research, as well launching my own clothing label, Mossy. Dad was always so supportive of my career, and always keen to support talent in others, I know he would have loved what I've done in his memory.”

“

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for the family.*”

Lisa E Moss

The daughter of Billy Moss



Making a mesothelioma compensation claim

The liability of your employer or ex-employer

Employers are responsible for protecting their workforce from asbestos exposure.

In most cases, we can claim compensation from employers - past and present - for failing to provide protection and the consequences suffered by you or your loved one.

Even if the employer no longer exists we may still be able to pursue a claim by tracing the employer's insurers.

In cases where we are unable to trace an employer's insurer; you will still be entitled to claim under other schemes.

If you are, or were, a member of a trade union, claiming compensation may be free through your union's legal assistance scheme. If you are unsure which union you were in, contact us and we should be able to help.

If you are not a member of a union, we will assess your case free of charge. If we can pursue a claim on your behalf it will be on a no-cost to you basis.

So, either way, you will not pay anything for us to act for you. You'll get 100% of the settlement recovered and not a penny less.

Where were you exposed to asbestos?

Asbestos related illnesses, including mesothelioma, can take anything from 10 to 40 years or more to develop after exposure to asbestos.

Some of the jobs where asbestos exposure may have occurred include:

- Construction workers
- Fitters
- Carpenters
- Plumbers
- Boilermakers
- Joiners
- Electricians
- Shipbuilders

But you could have worked in other jobs where you believe you were exposed. If so, we can help you by looking into when or where you might have been exposed.

How much compensation might be awarded?

The amount of compensation payable varies in each case and is calculated by considering factors including:

- Pain and suffering
- Disability
- Financial losses (past and future)
- Care costs
- Other expenses incurred as a result of asbestos-related illness.

We will claim compensation for all past and future losses, and our aim is to maximise your compensation in the shortest possible time. We have a proven track record of successfully concluding mesothelioma claims during the lifetime of our clients and understand the importance of our clients knowing that their family will be financially secure.

If you or your loved one were diagnosed with mesothelioma on or before the 25th July 2012 and we're unable to trace the employer's insurance company, you may be eligible for compensation under a new scheme.

What about State Benefit claims?

You may be entitled to state benefits such as Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB). Thompsons can provide advice as, of course, can asbestos victims support groups.

Any such claims are made separately to your claim for compensation.



Next steps

We hope this booklet has provided you with the information and guidance you need.

If you would like to talk to us to discuss your situation in more detail, you can contact us, without obligation, for free advice.

Phone us: **0800 0 224 224**

Visit us: **www.thompsons.law**

Useful contacts

Mesothelioma UK (the National Macmillan Mesothelioma Resource Centre)

Freephone 0800 169 2409

DWP - Pneumoconiosis (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and 2008

Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme

Freephone 0800 279 2322

Department for Work and Pensions benefit enquiry line

Freephone 0800 88 22 00

Textphone 0800 24 33 55

0800 0 224 224

For more information visit:

www.thompsons.law



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The information contained in this booklet is not a substitute for legal advice. You should talk to a lawyer or adviser before making a decision about what to do. Thompsons Solicitors is a trading name of Thompsons Solicitors LLP and is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

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