

# Seeking legal advice in relation to CRPS

Many people find they have developed CRPS in the aftermath of an accident. It could have been anything from a serious incident to a relatively minor one; as we don't fully understand the cause of CRPS, there's no telling what level of injury might cause the condition.

However, what we do know is that it does develop as a result of injury. If this injury happened as a result of negligence on the part of someone else, for example if you were injured whilst at work, you may have a claim for compensation.

## What can compensation do for you?

Compensation for a personal injury is usually dependent on two things:

- the severity of the injury you have suffered, and the ongoing pain or discomfort it causes;
- the financial losses you have suffered as a result.

Because of these factors, every CRPS case is different so it is difficult to say how much you might receive precisely. However, at its most severe and life-changing, CRPS injuries can lead to compensation of over £1 million.

What this compensation will do for you is ensure that your needs are looked after for life. Therefore this will be calculated based upon:

- the earnings you have lost as a result
- any pension you may have lost
- the care and assistance your friends and family might need to provide for you
- the cost of treatments you need
- the aids, equipment and adaptations that you need to manage your condition and live a "normal" life
- the cost of medication you need.

At its most basic level, compensation is designed to put your life back as close as possible to how it was prior to the accident.

## Why seek specialist representation?

Often, following an accident, you will find you are offered representation from Claims Management Companies that have been referred your case by your insurer. However, due to the nature of CRPS, this area of personal injury litigation is extremely complex and requires expert understanding and analysis of medical evidence.

Defendant insurance companies are often suspicious about cases where a medical expert cannot fully explain either why a patient is suffering from the symptoms, or conclusively attribute them to the accident. In the absence of a perceived "orthodox" explanation, insurers may refuse to accept that symptoms have been caused by the accident at all. It is therefore crucial to instruct experts and solicitors who fully understand CRPS.

Not only this, but a solicitor who understands the condition fully will also empathise with what you are

going through, ensuring that your claim is dealt with effectively and with minimal stress to you.

## What if I'm already being represented by a firm and think I need to change?

If you feel that your claim is not proceeding as you would expect, or you do not have faith in your solicitor, it may be a good idea to think about changing. You can do this at any time.

It is worth doing two things before you change:

- Check whether they have a record of successfully settling claims similar to yours. If your injuries are complex, it is important that your solicitor fully understands your condition so that the right medical experts are instructed and you are given the right legal advice. If the wrong experts are instructed, it is likely their medical evidence will weaken your case.
- Check whether interim payments can be requested for you as this may be crucial in getting the right treatment arranged and paid for in advance of the conclusion of your claim.

Once you have made the decision to change solicitors, the process is straightforward:

- You will need to instruct your new solicitor to take over conduct of your personal injury claim.
- You do not need to speak with your previous solicitor about your decision to change.
- Your new solicitor will write to your previous solicitor confirming your instructions and requesting a copy of your files.
- Your previous solicitor will release these files subject to your new solicitor providing an undertaking confirming that they will preserve your previous solicitor's right to claim their costs at the conclusion of your claim. This means that your previous solicitor will be assured that they will be paid for the work they have done for you.
- Your files will be sent to your new solicitor and all future contact you have will be with your new solicitor.

However, think carefully about when you decide to change. If the third anniversary of your accident is approaching and proceedings haven't been issued with the court, you may have issues with your claim should there be any delay. Generally, it is in your interest to change solicitor as soon as reasonably possible, if you are not confident in your representation.

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**Making a claim for CRPS is not an easy decision for many, so it is imperative that you find the right representation to ensure maximum compensation.**

**If you would like to find out more about making a claim for CRPS or changing your solicitor, please contact our specialist solicitors:**

**Call us for free on:**  
0800 923 2068

**Or email:**  
[pi.enquiries@roydswithyking.com](mailto:pi.enquiries@roydswithyking.com)

**More information is available  
on our website at:**

[roydswithyking.com/crps](https://roydswithyking.com/crps)