

handling *with care...*

Introduction

Alexander Harris specialise exclusively in health related litigation. With over 100 staff and offices in Altrincham, Cheshire and Central London, we have built our reputation by combining compassion and understanding with the determination to succeed. Our ethos is to treat cases as causes, to act for clients with vigour and commitment as well as competence. Since our formation in 1989, we have recovered over £50million in compensation for our clients. This has ensured an improved quality of life and complete financial security for both them and their families.

Our lawyers are amongst the best in the country in their chosen fields. Many are members of the Law Society's specialist panels in Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury and Mental Health. The firm was one of the first in the country to achieve a Legal Aid Franchise - the hallmark of quality for any firm undertaking legal aid work, and is one of only eighteen firms nationwide to have been appointed to the Legal Aid Board's Multi Party Action Panel. A specialist management team supports the legal staff to ensure continuing development for the benefit of the firm and clients alike.

Bringing any claim where you or a loved one has been injured through no fault of your own can be very traumatic. Often our clients feel that they have been let down by professionals and can be angry and not know where to turn. We pride ourselves on being able to offer the necessary help, support and advice to enable the process to be dealt with smoothly and effectively.

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Clinical and Dental Negligence

Being under the care of a doctor is one of the rare occasions where an individual unconditionally places their entire welfare in the hands of another. What then happens if something goes wrong? Our department is dedicated to helping victims of medical and dental accidents, who through no fault of their own, have suffered physical and mental injury at the hands of those whom we think of as the most trusted profession. Recovering sums of money can never properly compensate for the grave harm suffered, but by bringing these cases to light we are able to heighten patient awareness and ensure continuing improvements in medical standards and treatment.

As committed specialists in this area, we have built up a team of caring solicitors and nurses. Their unparalleled expertise ensures the complexities of medical situations from the outset will be understood and pursued with vigour, empathy, speed and efficiency.

Personal Injury

Compensation is payable for all kinds of injuries. Whether you have been involved in an accident on the road, at work or in the home; whether you have suffered an industrial disease or you have been the victim of a crime; whether your injuries are relatively minor or very severe; whatever your injury, if it was not your fault, Alexander Harris' specialist personal injury team will obtain the best results for you. Many lawyers undertake personal injury work but it is vital that you obtain specialist advice. Often serious injury cases such as those involving head and spinal injuries can have hidden complications and there may be long term or permanent damage. These types of injury can have a serious impact not only for the injured person but also for their family. In such cases specialist advice and understanding is paramount to achieving a successful result.



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Multi Party and Pharmaceutical Product Liability

Major law firms like Alexander Harris often take the lead in cases involving groups of clients. We handle cases where individuals have been injured and wish to pursue claims against large organisations such as government departments or international companies. The team are well known as leading specialists in this area, with a distinguished reputation for piloting complex cases through to a successful conclusion.

Alexander Harris' recent casework is a chronicle of tragedy from the use of the hallucinatory drug LSD to treat depression, Silicone breast implants and more recently the Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine. We have championed the cause of women whose unborn children were damaged by contamination of food by listeriosis and ensured the successful award of £2 million in damages to patients given the wrong doses of radiotherapy at a Staffordshire Hospital.

Lawyers led by Alexander Harris pursued a long campaign against Glaxo, the manufacturer of Myodil. This resulted in damages of £7million and led to a greater awareness of the symptoms and debilitating effect of back pain.

Foreign Claims

Handling foreign claims is a particular speciality at Alexander Harris and is an area of work in which few English lawyers specialise. Every year a significant number of holidaymakers and business travellers suffer serious injury whilst abroad. It is not always easy to know what to do or who to turn to. All countries have different legal systems; in the USA, the legal systems even vary from State to State. Alexander Harris provides expert legal advice in respect of claims throughout the world and in particular in the USA and Canada.

Mental Health

The Mental Health and Community Care team at Alexander Harris represent the mentally ill and physically handicapped. They handle matters on behalf of those disadvantaged by mental illness at tribunals and in the civil courts. The team are committed to the rights of those detained under the Mental Health Act and always respond quickly to the needs of clients - visiting them in hospital or at home. They are able to offer advice on every aspect of mental health and all advice given is completely confidential and independent from the hospital.



Funding - which option

The funding of personal injury and clinical negligence claims is going through tremendous change. At Alexander Harris, we are dedicated to recommending and implementing whichever funding arrangements offer our clients the highest degree of financial security.

We can offer Legal Aid, Legal Expenses Insurance, After the Event Insurance and Conditional Fee Agreements. We are continuously researching this area and training our staff to ensure that we are best placed to advise our clients of all the options.

Added Value

To enable us to respond fully to our clients needs we also cover a variety of other health related areas and have set up four additional dedicated Units.

Through our **Education** Unit we are able to pursue Local Education Authorities with regard to the appropriate provision of education to those with special needs. We are able to assist where there has been a refusal to carry out provisions in a Statement and any failure by a Local Education Authority to appropriately educate a child.

Human Rights effects each and every area of our work. For example the convention includes rights to protect life. Rights to proper treatment and duties to safeguard the quality of a person's life. Through our knowledge of the Human Rights Act we are able to protect the rights of individuals and compel others to respect their entitlements.

Our **Disability Discrimination** Unit advises disabled people, who without justification, are treated less favourably than others.

In addition Alexander Harris have specialist expertise in the use of **Judicial Review** to question decisions made by a variety of Authorities and work to get these overturned.



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'Because of Alexander Harris we can put the last ten years behind us and start to enjoy ourselves again. Alexander Harris has restored my faith in the legal profession.'

Mrs A, London

'The team did their utmost to take away any worries or pressures of bringing a case, they were always reassuring and proved to be the best friends we could have. Without them I feel that we would not have been so successful.'

Mrs P, Stafford

'This was the best telephone call I could ever have made. Alexander Harris has always been available to give us the best advice and also to keep our spirits up when things got tough.'

Mrs E, London

'Thank you for the many hours of hard work you have put in and for the sympathetic and caring manner in which I have been treated. You are a credit to your profession.'

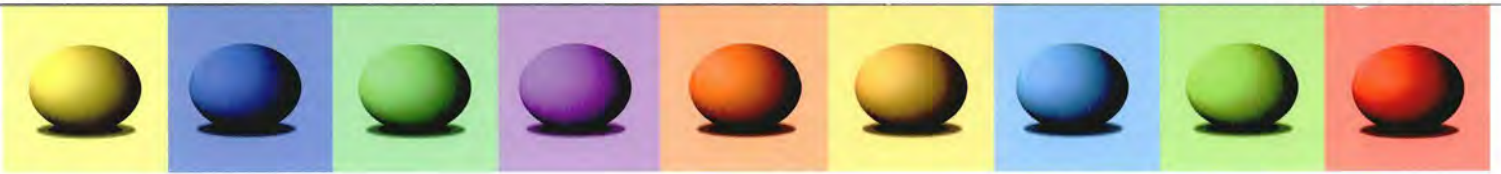
Mr M, Hertfordshire

**ard work and planning
ead - that's the secret**

Help on two fronts

**Alexander
Harris**

champion



Contacting Us

Many people do not know whether they are able to make a claim and contacting a solicitor for the first time is not always easy. We pride ourselves on our ability to make this experience as welcoming as possible and to be effective in our work for all our clients.

If you have an enquiry, you can contact us on our freephone and you will be put through to a member of our medico-legal team, which is made up of qualified nurses and midwives. These initial discussions are free and in addition we also

offer up to one hours interview time for free. You can also contact us through our website which provides an easy route for anyone with an enquiry.

In addition we are able to communicate in over 100 languages through a network of professional, confidential and experienced interpreters. If English is not your preferred language, all you need to do is contact us on our freephone number and let us know what language you would prefer to communicate in.

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