

Welcome to Simpkins and Co's June newsletter

Visit our website for news, views, blogs & useful information. Keeping you up-to-date with the changes in legislation, interesting cases and issues that arise in the areas of the law we specialise in: Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, Employment Law and Business Advice.

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What is a Personal Injury Accreditation from the Law Society?



The Law Society is the independent professional body for solicitors in England and Wales. It supports solicitors to deliver a high standard of service to their clients. If you have never sought legal advice before, it can be difficult to choose the right legal practice or lawyer to advise you.

The Law Society's quality marks can help you find the right legal advice quickly and with confidence. The Law Society awards quality accreditations to legal practices and individuals who meet the highest standards of technical expertise and client service in specific areas of the law. Wherever you see the quality mark logos, you'll know that the technical legal skills and client service standards have been rigorously and independently tested by the Law Society.

Solicitors who hold a Law Society Personal Injury Accreditation will have shown, to the satisfaction of the Law Society, that they have and will maintain a high level of knowledge, skills, experience and practice in the area of personal injury law. Each member will have been conducting personal injury compensation cases for at least three years, will have proven competency in personal injury law and will have been through rigorous examination and testing.

Regular re-accreditation ensures that relevant standards of competency and expertise in the field are met and continually maintained. Members will have demonstrated conformity to a best practice quality mark which prospective clients can trust.

At Simpkins & Co Solicitors, we hold a Law Society Personal Injury Accreditation. We have 25 years' worth of experience in this field and you can therefore be sure that we have a wealth of skills and knowledge when it comes to conducting and winning personal injury compensation claims.

“ Excellent is indeed the only description of the final outcome regarding the settlement, and I have you to thank for that. I would have no hesitation in recommending Simpkins & Co to anyone requiring personal injury case advice and management. It is my belief that I could not have been better advised. ”

If you have suffered a personal injury through no fault of your own, then contact our Highcliffe office on **01425 275555** for a **FREE**, no obligation initial consultation or visit **www.simpkinsand.co.uk**.

We are also members of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).



Why claim compensation for a personal injury?

A personal injury is a legal term for an injury to the body, mind or emotions, as opposed to an injury to property.

Physical injuries These include: -

- Injuries at work or work-related illnesses such as asbestosis
- RTA injuries
- Injuries received as a result of faulty goods or services
- Injuries caused if you trip over paving stones or slip on spilt fluid
- Injuries caused by errors in hospital/GP treatment or by vaccinations.

How ever you have been injured, it can be a devastating experience, physically, psychologically and emotionally.

Some injuries suffered can be so severe that they have a lasting impact on your life, your family's lives and your future. Making the decision to claim compensation is a serious one and we know that money cannot make up for what you've been through, but compensation can help you with, amongst other things: -

- Ongoing care or support
- Medical treatment
- Future loss of income through lost earnings or pension
- Future handicap in employment such as a lack of future job opportunities
- Costs of adapting your home if necessary

Not all solicitors specialise in personal injury compensation claims. At Simpkins & Co Solicitors we have 25 years' worth of experience in winning our clients the compensation they deserve for their pain and suffering and securing their financial futures. **Check out our client testimonials at simpkinsand.co.uk/testimonials.**

Psychological injuries These include: -

- Psychological illnesses caused by stress at work
- Psychological illnesses caused by discrimination or harassment in your work-place
- Psychological illnesses suffered as a result of abuse as a child
- Psychological injuries sustained as a victim in the course of a crime.

“ From the outset Steve Simpkins was most helpful and was able to give valuable support and advice regarding my options. After further discussions and clinical investigations Simpkins & Co took on my case free of charge and have invested a huge amount of time and resources into ensuring a fair and appropriate outcome. In fact, Steve has personally taken on responsibility for getting the best outcome. I must say that I have found the whole team extremely ethical and most helpful with a variety of issues. I have received regular updates and communications and all my questions have been answered in full and in a timely manner. I can't thank Steve and his team enough for both the genuine client care and professional legal representation that they have provided. I would strongly recommend the services of Simpkins & Co to any friends and family in the future. ”

If you have suffered a personal injury in the last 3 years through no fault of your own, then contact us now for a **FREE**, no obligation consultation. Call our Highcliffe office on **01425 275555** or visit **www.simpkinsand.co.uk**. We can arrange a no win, no fee agreement or many people have legal cover on house contents, car insurance or travel policies.

We are members of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and the Spinal Injuries Association.

£400k fine for claims company who made 100 million nuisance calls

Keurboom Communications Ltd who are behind nearly 100m nuisance calls has been fined a record £400,000 by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). They plagued their victims over an 18-month period with enquiries, including road traffic accident claims. The company hid its identity and some people reported receiving repeat calls on the same day and during unsociable hours.



The ICO had more than 1,000 complaints about automated calls and, during its investigation, they issued seven demands to the company for information. After failing to comply with these requests, Keurboom was prosecuted and fined. Head of enforcement at the ICO, said that the company had failed to cooperate with the investigation and had operated on an 'unprecedented scale', showing scant regard for the rules and causing distress to those unfortunate enough to be a recipient of one of its calls.

The calls have now stopped, but the ICO will continue to track down companies who blight people's lives with nuisance calls and they hope to have their powers enhanced when the government agrees on new laws to allow the ICO to fine company directors behind nuisance call firms.

Cold calling is regularly brought up in discussions about personal injury reforms. Claimant representatives have called for a total ban and solicitors are already banned from making unsolicited calls. Unfortunately, the restriction does not apply to claims management companies.

At Simpkins & Co Solicitors we never make unsolicited calls. Our client care record is exceptional and the excellent feedback we've received from our clients is evident on the testimonials page of our website <http://simpkinsand.co.uk/testimonials>.

We have a reputation for fighting difficult cases that other firms would not take on. Our Principal, Steve Simpkins, has 25 years' experience in this area of the law, having fought and won substantial compensation for our clients who come from all over the UK. We have a Polish division within our firm and we also assist clients from the Hungarian and Romanian communities.

At Simpkins & Co Solicitors we sit on the Law Society Personal Injury Panel, we are accredited with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and we have a corporate membership with the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA).

Have you have suffered a personal injury through no fault of your own? This could include RTA, slipping/tripping accidents, accidents at work, or any physical or psychological injury. It also includes clinical negligence. Contact our Highcliffe office on **01425 275555** for a **FREE**, no obligation, confidential initial consultation or visit **www.simpkinsand.co.uk**. One of our solicitors can visit you at home if you prefer. They will discuss your case with you and answer any questions you have before you decide to proceed with your compensation claim.

Law student takes on Government Legal Service



When Miss B applied for a legal training contract with Government Legal Services (GLS), she knew it wouldn't be easy as she'd be up against thousands of other applicants. She'd wanted to be a lawyer since she was 9 years old so she was determined to not to give up on her dream. However, Miss B was dismayed to find that she would be required to sit an initial multiple-choice test. She has Asperger's syndrome, dyslexia and post-traumatic stress disorder, so she finds tests with a 'social imagination element' ('what would you do if...') impossible. These tests ask people to predict the future and so if you ask someone with Asperger's what they'd do in a given situation, chances are they could not give you an answer. If she didn't take the test, her application would not be submitted. She contacted the GLS to request reasonable adjustments for this test, asking if she could submit written answers to the questions. Her request was refused, so she gave the test a go, but scored below the pass mark and didn't progress to stage two.

She immediately made a formal complaint, citing disability discrimination, but GLS maintained that they'd done nothing wrong. She then went on to issue a claim to the employment tribunal. She was told that she was "brave and crazy" to bring a case against such a large organisation and that GLS would not change its whole recruitment process for just one person. All she thought about was the difference this case could make for others in a similar situation. It turned out that she was right to think that way! The medical experts called to the tribunal were on her side, and more importantly, so was the tribunal.

Miss B was awarded exactly what she asked for. Money-wise, it was the minimum amount of compensation stipulated by the guidelines, but as she said, "this was a case fought on principle, not for money". GLS were also ordered to send her a written apology and to review its application process.

GLS appealed this ruling at the Employment Appeal Tribunal. After deliberating for 4 hours, the judges refused the appeal. David had won over Goliath!

Have you suffered disability (or any other) discrimination at work? Are you an employer who needs help with ensuring fair treatment of your employees? Contact our Highcliffe office for a **FREE** initial consultation on **01425 275555** or visit **www.simpkinsand.co.uk**.

We are accredited members of the Employment Lawyers Association (ELA).

At Simpkins & Co Solicitors we deal in certain areas of the law, the ones we specialise in, giving you the **best service** from the right people. If you need support regarding any aspect of **personal injury, employment law, clinical negligence, business advice** or **Polish start-up assistance**, contact us to **arrange a FREE initial consultation** where we can also advise in relation to funding options as we appreciate that clients are often concerned about potential legal costs. **We may be able to act on a no win no fee basis**, or fixed fee arrangement, plus we can advise on whether legal expenses insurance cover is already in place via other means. We are always happy to take enquiries from Bureau advisors or clients.

Contact us to arrange a FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION: 01425 275555
FREEPHONE: 0800 0832755 or FREEMOBILE: 0333 7777 420

The above information and the content of this e-newsletter should never be taken as specific legal advice. If you have a legal problem then please contact Simpkins and Co, Highcliffe, Dorset, on 01425 275555 to discuss your issue in detail.

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