

**YOUR LOCAL CRIMINAL
INJURY EXPERTS**

Everything you need to know about the **Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme**

If you, or someone you know, has suffered the trauma of physical, domestic or sexual abuse, you could be entitled to compensation for your injuries from the Government's Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)

We're here to listen

Call us for **free** advice on

0808 231 7077

no win, no fee

How we can help you make a successful claim?

We have helped thousands of innocent victims of abuse and assault secure compensation for criminal injuries whilst providing support they need to get their life back on track.

As the leading criminal injury law firm, we work closely with the CICA to secure you the compensation and justice you deserve.

“ *When I contacted Hudgell Solicitors they were brilliant in listening to me and understanding the position I was coming from. Finally, after all these years and all I have been through, somebody had listened and somebody recognised me as a victim. I am overwhelmed by the result.* ”

£23,000 Compensation, South Yorkshire Woman

We as a firm, and our individual claims handlers, have extensive experience of working with the Scheme, in order to :-

Initial application

- complete your initial application to the CICA in a way which maximises the chances of your application being successful in the first instance, by ensuring that all relevant information is provided and presented in a way which we know the CICA will accept.
- present details of your injuries in a manner which should ensure that you receive the maximum compensation for your injuries.
- ensure that no information is submitted which may prejudice your claim adversely.
- chase the CICA for a decision on a regular and persistent basis. Many clients who have initially tried to deal with matters themselves have reported to us that they have found the CICA to be dismissive of those who do not have the backing of a legal representative, and have felt taken advantage of for their lack of familiarity with how the scheme works in practice.

Review process

- review the CICA's initial decision. If a claim is initially rejected, then we will check that we have been provided with all of the documentary evidence upon which that decision was based, and that the decision is a correct one based upon that documentation. We will then contact you to discuss whether we agree with the decision, and advise you on the best course of action.
- work with you to complete and submit any application for review of a CICA decision in a way which maximises the chances of that review being successful.
- prepare and review all of the paperwork necessary for an appeal hearing before the CICA tribunal panel, and represent you at that hearing.

“ We felt that the initial decision was wrong and so submitted an appeal which we attended with our client , and following a review they were satisfied there had been a crime of violence and my client was awarded £29,000 ”

Hudgell Solicitors, Stacey Flegg (Litigation Executive)

What you can claim for?

If you have been the victim of a crime of violence, including assaults and physical, domestic or sexual abuse, you may be eligible for:

Assault

- 1 Compensation on a fixed tariff basis for the injury or abuse
Examples of the most common awards received include:
 - > **£1,500: Fractured jaw**
 - > **£1,000: Strained neck or whiplash injury lasting for more than 13 weeks**
 - > **£4,600: Depressed fracture of the skull requiring an operation**
 - > **£1,500: Loss of a front tooth**
 - > **£2,400: Significant scarring to the face**
- 2 Loss of earnings, at the rate of statutory sick pay
- 3 Special expenses
 - Costs arising from treatment not covered by the NHS
 - Cost of care
 - Court of Protection costs

Physical, Domestic and Sexual Abuse

As well as for physical injuries, we can seek compensation for you if you have been the victim of domestic or physical abuse. Examples of the available awards include:

- **£2,000** : Physical assaults resulting in an accumulation of healed wounds
- **£5,500**: A pattern of repetitive violence resulting in minor disfigurement
- **£8, 200**: A persistent pattern of severe abuse lasting for more than 3 years

Where a single injury sustained as part of the pattern of abuse would give rise to a higher tariff payment than that of the abuse, that award will be made instead.

Sexual Abuse

There are a number of different awards available if you have been the victim of sexual abuse even if you have suffered no physical injuries.

Psychological Injuries

Where psychological injuries have been sustained as a result of physical or sexual abuse, an award will be made for either the abuse or the psychological injury, whichever would give rise to the higher value.

We will not only support you through a legal claim for compensation but also by helping to put you in touch with partner charities and organisations able to provide additional support.

Psychological Injuries need to be diagnosed by a medical expert as disabling and last for a minimum of 6 weeks.

“ *My client was awarded £20,000. Such crimes can have a devastating impact on lives, and very substantial compensation awards can quite rightly be awarded, especially in cases where it is clear there has been long term, serious psychological impact.* ”

Michelle Nurse, Hudgell Solicitors (Litigation Specialist)

Interim Payments

Where the CICA has decided you are eligible for payment but are not in a position to make a final decision until the long-term impact is understood, Hudgell Solicitors will seek to secure you interim payments as early as possible to support your recovery.

Losing A Loved One

Losing a loved one can have unforeseen financial impacts on you and your family. In the event that a loved one dies as a result of injuries sustained in a crime of violence you may be eligible for certain payments:

Such payments can be made to the following qualifying relatives:-

- 1 Spouse or civil partner living with the deceased
- 2 Parent
- 3 Child
- 4 Partner living with the deceased for 2 years prior to the incident
- 5 Former spouse or civil partner that was financially dependent on the deceased

The types of payment available include:

1) Bereavement payments: Such payments may be made to qualifying relatives. Where more than 1 person is eligible for a bereavement payment, for example a spouse and a parent, the amount is £5,500 otherwise where only one person is eligible, it will be £11,000

2) Children's payments: A person under the age of 18 who was dependent on the deceased for parental services may be entitled to £2,000 per year until their 18th birthday.

3) Dependency payment: A dependency payment may be made to a qualifying relative who was financially or physically dependent on the deceased at the date of death. The amount payable for financial dependency is at the rate equivalent to the weekly rate of statutory sick pay. Physical dependency payments will be calculated on a case by case basis.

4) Funeral payments: Up to £5,000 is available for funeral expenses

Witnessing the assault of a loved one or the immediate aftermath of an assault on a loved one.

If your loved one sustains a serious or fatal injury, and as a result of witnessing the incident you are diagnosed with a disabling mental injury you may be eligible for compensation.

| How and when to make a claim

If you are considering making a claim to the CICA you need to lodge your application within two years of the incident or before your 20th birthday (if you were under 18 at the time of the incident). However, because cases of this nature can be highly sensitive, this timeframe can sometimes be waived if there are exceptional circumstances. Discretion is more readily exercised in abuse cases.

Alternatively, an application must be made within 2 years of a matter being reported to the police if the applicant is now over 18 but had been a victim of a violent crime under 18.

We advise you to submit your application to the CICA as soon as possible within that 2 year period and it is not necessary to await the outcome of the criminal trial before making the application.

A successful application to the CICA is not contingent upon the police charging the assailant and is not contingent upon a guilty plea or verdict, though of course this helps!

“ *My client was awarded £29,000 damages by the CICA scheme despite police not having enough evidence to bring criminal charges against his alleged abuser* ”

Stacey Flegg , Hudgell Solicitors (Litigation Specialist)

| Why use Hudgell Solicitors for your CICA application?

We will...

maximise your chances of success in the quickest time possible

secure you maximum compensation

chase decisions on a regular and persistent basis

if necessary, submit applications for review in a way to maximise chances of review being successful

| How long will it take before a decision is made and what is the cost?

CICA claims take an average of 18 months to conclude. All claims taken on by Hudgell Solicitors are funded on a no win no fee basis which means there will be no fees upfront, but 25% + vat will be deducted from your award, if successful.

Hudgell | *we're here*
SOLICITORS

FOR SOME INITIAL FREE ADVICE CALL US ON

0808 231 7077

TO SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR FRIENDLY TEAM TODAY

HUDGELL SOLICITORS ARE PROUD PARTNERS OF

