



Life After Baby Loss

Support | Understanding | Investigations | Answers



A heart-breaking loss with a long-lasting impact on all involved

Losing a baby during pregnancy or birth is a heart-breaking and distressing experience which can have a long-lasting impact on all involved. There is often a huge psychological impact on parents and their families. It can affect relationships, work, health and mental well-being. Many initially question their own actions, sometimes wrongly blaming themselves. Others simply lock away their feelings and focus on other areas of life as a way of dealing with the trauma they have been through.

If you are on your own, there can be nobody to turn to during one of the most painful periods of your life. In our work at Hudgell Solicitors, we encounter people in these situations all too often when supporting clients, as sadly, families do experience the loss of their baby, as a result of negligent management of pregnancies, labour and birth. Families leave hospital without their baby, but with many unanswered questions as to why things went wrong, and whether the tragic outcome could have been avoided. It is why our team of birth negligence solicitors are dedicated to understanding the impact on each and every individual's life after loss, and making a positive difference.

We aim to always provide expert legal advice in a sympathetic and sensitive manner, using our experience to provide you with the support you require to get the answers, help and support you need.



Helping you access the specialist support you need



We are proud of our partnerships with charities and organisations which provide dedicated and specialist support for those who suffer baby loss. We also continually campaign for improvements in maternity care.

[A charity close to our hearts is Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity](#), which operates throughout the UK and provides support to anyone affected by the death of a baby.

Sands works to improve the care bereaved parents receive, and promotes research to help reduce the loss of babies' lives. We are committed to providing ongoing support to our local Sands volunteers who provide vital support services for bereaved families in the areas we reside, and the people we represent.

We'll continue raising awareness for Sands by sharing key findings about baby loss and their work to reduce the number of babies dying, and by using our legal knowledge and expertise to question and challenge health care where we feel mistakes have been made. Our partnership also means that we can provide the best possible support service to our clients who have lost a precious baby.



Finding answers as to what went wrong, and why

It is often the case that as the weeks and months pass after the loss of a baby, parents feel uneasy at the explanations provided to them by hospitals as to what went wrong, and therefore begin to think with greater clarity and ask more questions. If that happens to you, and you don't feel you have been given the answers you need and deserve, you can turn to our team of specialist lawyers for our support.

Many families who contact us for legal advice say we are the first people who have really fully listened to them. We know people then turn to us for help at these most difficult times as most parents who have a child stillborn or a neonatal death struggle to move on in any way until they have answers. When answers are found it is not always easy, but it does often help bring closure. At no cost to you, our team can discuss what happened in your case, and, should we feel there were possible issues with the care and treatment you and your baby received, we can begin investigations and request to see medical records relating to your pregnancy and birth.

In many cases we also secure independent medical evidence which can help us show that medical errors were at fault. This can prove a very difficult and upsetting time, as parents face the reality that had they received appropriate care, the outcome could have been very different.

However, it can importantly bring some form of closure, as parents are able to know that nothing they could have done would have changed the situation.

Supporting you through the legal process

We know the thought of legal action can seem daunting to many, especially having being through a tragic life event such as the loss of a baby. Although we are instructed by families in a legal role to investigate whether mistakes in healthcare led to the death of your baby, we see our contribution as much more than that, and take great pride in our role in supporting families through these traumatic times.

It is why we have an established and experienced team of litigation specialists who are fully committed to providing advice in a sympathetic and caring manner, and making the process as easy as possible.

As part of our 'Life after Baby Loss' support service, our solicitors are dedicated to;

- Helping you through the complaints process to ensure a thorough investigation is launched
- Gathering evidence of independent medical experts about the treatment you and your baby received
- Securing compensation for the emotional and psychological impact on you and your family should medical professionals be found to have been at fault
- Providing you with help and access to any additional therapy, counselling and care you may require

We understand that no amount of money can ever compensate for the loss of a baby, but it can provide crucial financial support that helps people recover any funds they may be owed, such as lost earnings or support costs, and to help fund therapy for the psychological impact on them.

Our experienced baby loss legal team



Amanda Stevens – Managing Director

Having worked and qualified as a hospital manager before becoming a medical negligence lawyer, Amanda has experience which has given her an excellent understanding on what happens on hospital wards, and where things can go wrong. Amanda has led the firm's campaigning for improved maternity care, working alongside the mother and baby charity Baby Lifeline to call for extra Government funding into maternity care and training, and improved equipment on maternity wards. Amanda was named Catastrophic Personal Injury Claims Lawyer of the year in 2019.



Victoria Gofton – Senior Solicitor, Clinical Negligence

A former National Head of Clinical Negligence at Slater & Gordon, Victoria adds valuable experience, bringing more than 17 years' experience supporting families who have suffered birth injury. Throughout her career Victoria has overseen many complex legal cases and she firmly believes justice should be available to all. She is accredited by the Law Society as a specialist in Clinical Negligence work and has a reputation for handling cases involving the loss of loved ones sensitively and compassionately.



Helena Wood – Legal Executive and Team Leader – Clinical Negligence

Helena has supported many clients affected by birth injury and baby loss and her expertise and advice is sought out by many when considering taking legal action against NHS Trusts given her significant experience in holding them to account and identifying failings. She has specialised solely in clinical negligence litigation since 2008 and has been part of the Hudgell Solicitors Clinical Negligence team since 2013.



Lauren Dale- Solicitor, Clinical Negligence

Lauren joined Hudgell Solicitors in 2010 and qualified as a solicitor in 2012. She is known for working hard to provide her clients with the highest level of support, guiding them through the legal process to help secure justice for them and their family. Lauren has taken an active role at Hudgell Solicitors in leading our campaigns for improved standards of healthcare.

Contact us on email info@hudgellsolicitors.co.uk
Or call 0800 321 3322

Our clients say
we're excellent



How we've helped parents find answers after baby loss

Our brave clients willing to share their stories

Stephanie Broadley, 28, lost her baby boy Beau when he was stillborn

Determined to get answers, Stephanie instructed our team to investigate, leading to the Trust admitting to 'breach of duty' and errors in her maternity care.

Investigations revealed the hospital had wrongly assumed her to be a 'low-risk' case when she went into labour at 36 weeks pregnant, when she was in fact 'high risk', as two of her previous children had been born before reaching full term – one of who needed treatment for an infection.

Mistakes meant she was not given antibiotics to prevent infection, blood screening was not carried out as it should have been and 'over-optimistic' records were written down, which failed to reflect the growing risk to baby Beau. This meant increased monitoring of his heart rate was not carried out as required. [Read more here](#)

David and Tracey Church lost their son Lewis during birth

Mrs Church, 34 at the time, was rushed to hospital by ambulance after suffering a haemorrhage at home. However, it was only when she was violently sick and doctors lost all trace of her baby's heart on monitors – three hours after her admission – that she was rushed for emergency delivery.

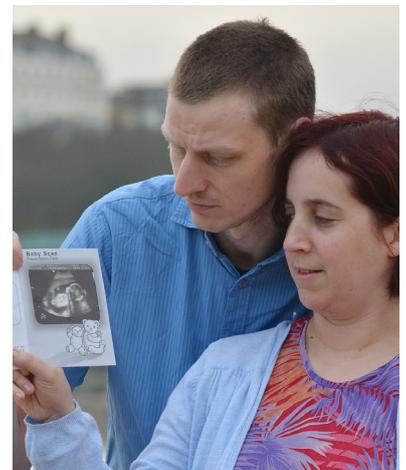
A serious incident report revealed that despite blood samples being taken shortly she was admitted, they were not checked by a health professional due to an alleged 'medical emergency' on the ward. Despite CTG recordings of the baby's heartbeat also being taken, they were not continuous, and no further action was taken by midwives. Lewis was sadly delivered stillborn, and after investigations by our lawyers, the Hospital Trust admitted he could have been saved had they intervened earlier.

The family said concerns they raised when in hospital were ignored. *"Losing a precious life, simply through not listening to the patient, is totally unacceptable."* said Mr Church. [Read more here](#)

Kelly Attree's twin boy Samuel was delivered stillborn

Kelly was classed as 'high risk' as she was carrying twins and was diagnosed with gestational diabetes. She delivered a healthy girl, Bliss, at 37 weeks, but her son Samuel was delivered stillborn. This happened as errors during scanning meant the hospital failed to spot he had not grown in the previous five weeks, and that he had died a week earlier.

During investigations carried out by our team at Hudgell Solicitors, medical records were obtained and independent experts consulted, identifying that during scans to measure Mrs Attree's babies' sizes, her son was 'over-measured' at weeks 33 and 35, giving the inaccurate impression he was growing. [Read more here](#)



Campaigning for change and less instances of baby loss in the UK



Safer maternity care – and reducing the numbers of avoidable injuries and deaths to mothers and babies – has been a major government priority since 2010. There is evidence to suggest 76-80% of stillbirths and perinatal deaths investigated by national bodies could have been avoidable with different care.

It is these statistics that led to the UK Government pledging to halve the rate of stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths by 2025. Yet today, major maternity care scandals and failings continue to be exposed.

Our team is passionate about improving maternity care across the UK and helping ensure vital lessons are learned to help improve standards and ultimately reduce the number of avoidable deaths and life-changing injuries to mothers and babies. Indeed, our lawyers have been involved in campaigns which have taken us to Downing Street to call for greater investment into the training of midwives across the UK.

We have a strong, long-established partnership with the charity Baby Lifeline, established by Judy Ledger in 1981 after her personal loss of three premature babies and supported by high-profile figures including leading health experts and celebrities including actors Dame Judi Dench and David Tennant.

We've been headline sponsors of the Baby Lifeline National Maternity Safety Conference, which provides a platform for NHS managers and leading consultant obstetricians, gynaecologists, anaesthetists and midwives to share real examples of maternity safety improvement and learning, helping to drive up standards.

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Our campaigning has seen us call for

- The reinstatement of a £8.1m Maternity Safety Training Fund which saw 30,000 staff access training to improve maternity care in 2016
- Standardised maternity training for all UK Health Trusts
- Investment in improved equipment on maternity wards to ensure staff are able to provide the best care
- Complete transparency over investigations into all avoidable deaths and injuries of mothers and babies
- Greater involvement of parents and families in investigations when things do go wrong
- Quicker admissions of errors causing life-changing injuries and deaths – and faster access to investigation findings and compensation