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Asbestos: How mesothelioma patients could help the hospice

THOMPSONS FACTSHEET



- Claiming back hospice costs
- How it works



Mesothelioma & compensation

Over 2,000 people are diagnosed with mesothelioma in the UK each year.

Exposure to asbestos is the most likely cause of mesothelioma.

People diagnosed with mesothelioma (or their family) may be entitled to compensation if an employer or someone else was legally responsible for the asbestos exposure which caused the disease.

Hospice care

One of the consequences of mesothelioma is that hospice care is often required during the advanced stages of illness. Hospices provide care free of charge and depend on charitable donations to maintain the services they provide to patients and their families.

When a person with mesothelioma, or their family, claims compensation a claim can also be made for the cost of the care provided by the hospice.

The cost of the hospice care can only be claimed if the person with mesothelioma or their family pursue a compensation claim. The hospice cannot make the claim on its own.

By claiming compensation from the employer (or employer's insurance company) it may be possible to recover the cost of the hospice care for the benefit of the hospice.

How it works

- The mesothelioma sufferer (or their family) brings a compensation claim on the understanding that any monies recovered for the hospice are paid directly to the hospice at the conclusion of the case.
- The mesothelioma sufferer (or their family) adds the cost of the hospice care to the compensation claim
- The hospice provides details of the actual or estimated cost of the care provided.
- The hospice care claim is added to a calculation setting out all the financial losses due to the mesothelioma and sent to the employer or its insurance company.
- Any payment recovered towards the hospice care is paid to the hospice at the conclusion of the case.



Impact on compensation

Pursuing a claim for the costs of hospice care will not reduce the mesothelioma sufferer or family's compensation but it could assist the hospice by recovering a contribution towards the cost of care the hospice provided.

Similarly, pursuing a claim for the costs of hospice care will not increase the compensation received by the mesothelioma sufferer or their family because any amount recovered for the hospice would be paid over to the hospice at the conclusion of the claim.

Alan's story

Thompsons claimed substantial damages for mesothelioma sufferer Alan Clark against his former employers. In addition £13,600 was recovered for Hartlepool and District Hospice.

Stella Clark who continued her husband Alan's claim after he sadly passed away said:

"The hospice took wonderful care of Alan during his final weeks... Alan was determined to claim compensation on behalf of the hospice.

They helped make his final days easier and he felt strongly that his former employers should pay towards the treatment. He would have been delighted with the settlement."

Further information

Call 08000 224 224 for free expert legal advice or visit our website at www.thompsons.law.co.uk, for more detailed information about mesothelioma and some useful links to other sites.