

About AvMA

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) was established in 1982. It is the leading UK Charity specialising in advice and support for patients and their families affected by medical accidents.

AvMA's Lawyers Service Department provides specialist advice and information to lawyers who practise clinical negligence. Headed by Legal Director, Fiona Freeland, herself an experienced clinical negligence specialist lawyer, the department has staff from medical and legal backgrounds. We maintain a database of medical experts experienced in providing medico-legal advice to clinical negligence lawyers.

Membership of AvMA's Lawyers Service is open to claimant lawyers working in the clinical negligence field and provides access to a range of vital services and information.

Resources

- An acclaimed and dedicated clinical negligence expert database that is continually revised and maintained by experienced AvMA staff. We can advise and recommend the appropriate expert to instruct in any clinical negligence claim.
- Our medical advisors can review medical reports and advise on the merits of the case and its future progression.
- Assistance with an initial application for public funding. We can undertake literature searches on your behalf on medical conditions or procedures.
- Maximising client's damages. We can research and advise you on recent settlements achieved in similar cases.

Education & Training

- Free CPD points: Lawyers Support Group meetings are convened in each part of the country to update members on medical and legal issues and provide opportunities for networking. On some occasions a minimal fee may be levied to cover the cost of the venue.

- AvMA's e-newsletter containing legal and health policy news relevant to clinical negligence will be automatically sent to you and all members in your clinical negligence team.
- Entitlement to a discount on "Clinical Risk" incorporating the AvMA Medical and Legal Journal. This leading medico-legal journal contains articles of general and specific medico-legal interest including case reports.
- Entitlement to substantial discounts for AvMA conferences and events including the Annual Clinical Negligence Conference.

Campaigning

Your experience of legal procedures, processes and specific case examples inform AvMA's legal policy and campaigning. Our national profile gives members a collective voice in effective campaigning work to ensure the continued provision of effective legal services, as well as access to justice to those injured following a medical accident.

AvMA's Legal Service Team:

Fiona Freedland -Legal Director

Qualified as a solicitor in 1990 and worked in private practice for ten years as a Clinical Negligence lawyer (Law Society panel member). As Legal Director of AvMA, she heads up the Legal Services department and is responsible for making and implementing legal policy and strategy for the charity. She is a Governor of a primary school in Hackney. She holds a Masters degree in Medical Law & Ethics (Kings College) and is an accredited mediator with CEDR.

Linda Lee – Lawyers Service Manager

Qualified as a solicitor in 1994. Specialised in clinical and professional negligence. AvMA panel member. Wide experience of advocacy in the Coroner's Courts representing bereaved families and duty solicitor for the Road Victim's Trust. Lectures on medical negligence related matters and has a particular interest in raising awareness amongst healthcare professionals to improve patient safety. Regular contributor to a number of publications. Experienced in training, including writing and presenting DVDs. Law Society Council Member since 2003.

Moira Gwilliam - Lawyers Service Senior Medical Advisor.

Moira qualified as a diagnostic radiographer and chose to specialise in nuclear medicine. She was employed at Hammersmith Hospital NHS Trust as a Superintendent Radiographer until 2001 and has been a Trustee of a Neurological Charity, the Dystonia Society for 12 years. She has worked in the Lawyers Service department for five years as a senior medical advisor.

Christine Daley -Lawyers Service Senior Medical Advisor

Christine trained as a registered general nurse in Leeds. She specialised in cardiothoracics in Middlesbrough and Saudi Arabia before embarking on a LLB (Hons) in 1998. After qualification she worked for the CPS for two years before moving to AvMA.

Tracy Minns -Case Worker & Risk Assessor

A barrister by training Tracy has worked in a variety of positions at AvMA since 1989. At present her main roles are helping members of the public with enquiries through our casework department and providing risk assessments for the insurance industry. She has been assisting both the public funders and insurance industry with risk assessment services since the mid 1990's.

Norika Patel / Christine Mulligan - Administrators

Norika qualified as a solicitor in 1989. After practising as a personal injury solicitor, she changed careers and is responsible for administering the Legal Services department with Christine Mulligan, her job-share. Christine has worked in a variety of admin/secretarial roles in the medical and legal professions.

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AvMA is a registered charity (Number: 299123), and a company limited by guarantee (Number 2239250).

LAWYERS SERVICE