

Things to consider when choosing a solicitor

This self-help guide contains information on some of the things you should consider before appointing a clinical negligence solicitor.

If you have any further questions, please visit our website where you will find more advice and a range of specialised self-help guides, or call our helpline.

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The **charity** for patient safety and justice

AvMA is the charity for patient safety and justice. We provide specialist advice and support to people when things go wrong in healthcare and campaign to improve patient safety and justice.

For advice and information visit **www.avma.org.uk**

Or call our helpline
10am-3.30pm Monday-Friday
(03 calls cost no more than calls to geographic numbers (01 or 02) and must be included in inclusive minutes or there can be a cost per minute)

0345 123 2352



Freedman House,
Christopher Wren Yard,
117 High Street,
Croydon CR0 1QG



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Visit <https://www.medical-solicitors.com/about-us/to> see how we've helped other people.

If you need legal advice about making a clinical negligence claim, you can find a wide selection of solicitors accredited for AvMA's specialist clinical negligence panel at www.avma.org.uk/find-a-solicitor or call our helpline.

How do I choose a solicitor?

Clinical negligence is a particularly specialised and complex area of law. It is very important that you try and choose the right solicitor for you at the outset. Clinical negligence claims can take a long time to complete; you are likely to be with your solicitor or at least the firm for a number of years.

What should I look for when choosing a solicitor?

You want a solicitor who you feel will listen to you and can sympathise with your situation whilst remaining professional. You want someone who will give you clear and honest advice about your claim. There is no one size fits all and you should not be afraid to speak to several different solicitors before committing yourself.

No doubt, you will want to know how much the investigation and any later litigation will cost you. Please refer to our leaflet "How will I pay for my legal costs?" at www.avma.org.uk/guides.

You will certainly want to instruct a solicitor who can demonstrate that they have **experience and expertise in clinical negligence work**, the best way to be sure of this is to identify whether the solicitor holds a specialist clinical negligence accreditation.

AvMA specialist clinical negligence panel

AvMA independently assesses and accredits solicitors to its own specialist clinical negligence "panel", so that people can have more confidence that they receive the best possible specialist legal advice. Most of these solicitors are listed on the Find a Solicitor section of our website at www.avma.org.uk/find-a-solicitor.

A distinct hallmark of the AvMA accreditation scheme is that all of the solicitors on our panel are interviewed by us; in addition AvMA looks for solicitors who are prepared to go that extra mile for their clients where possible. However, AvMA does not believe that solicitors should run claims that do not have reasonable prospects of success although most claims need to be investigated before solicitors can reach that decision.

Only AvMA panel solicitors are entitled to carry our specialist logo which looks like this:



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better patient safety and justice

Become a
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You can help make healthcare safer and fairer for all

AvMA wants to build on the support we enjoy from people all round the country who share our passion for making healthcare safer and fairer for those who do suffer harm.

By signing up to be a Friend of AvMA you will belong to a growing movement for change. Join injured patients and their families, healthcare professionals, lawyers and many more who share our goals.

Becoming a Friend of AvMA costs from as little as £5 a month.

£5/month could provide vital advice to patients and families via our helpline

£10/month could help train a volunteer helpline advisor

£50/month could help support a family through an inquest hearing

Benefits of membership

- Regular newsletter keeping you up-to-date with our work
- Invitations to special events
- Share your thoughts on our work and policy issues

Your help could make a real difference to patient safety in the UK

Please sign up today at www.avma.org.uk/friends

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action *against* medical accidents

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