

Do you need to claim compensation for personal injuries to a child?

At the end of last month, a cricket ball was allegedly thrown at a 16-year-old school boy at a Bournemouth school, striking him in the temple. Tragically, he died later in hospital. His family may be able to claim compensation from the individual/s responsible, and the school for possible negligence. We at Ronald Fletcher & Co Solicitors act in similar cases where a child has been injured or killed as a result of someone else's negligence.

If you or a child relative has been injured and wish to claim compensation from the person responsible we can give you expert advice on whether you have a reasonable chance of success and, if so, what level of damages you can expect to win. It is extremely distressing to see your child injured following an accident that was someone else's fault. We at Ronald Fletcher & Co Solicitors will deal with your claim with experience and sensitivity.

Special rules and procedures apply in personal injury claims involving children and it is important to choose a law firm experienced in dealing with compensation claims for children. Personal injury claims by children must be made in the name of an adult (usually a parent) who is called their 'litigation friend' and must be someone who is independent of the incident in which the child's injuries were sustained.

Under the Limitation Act, children have a longer time period than adults in which they can initiate their compensation claim: adults must usually start their claim within three years of the injury, but children have until they are 21 years of age. However, it is important to start a claim as early as possible to ensure the best medical evidence is obtained early on and accurate information can be taken while it is fresh in your mind.

Children are particularly at risk of accidents in the playground, in school or college and sports centres. Injury claims involving children are frequently made against the insurance company of the organisation concerned. Ronald Fletcher & Co are experienced in dealing with personal injury claims against insurance companies.

When compensation has finally been agreed or ordered by the court, the money will be invested until the child has reached 18 years of age. Where there are special circumstances or a particular need arises in the meantime it is possible for some of the money to be accessed earlier. For example, if the child's home needs adapting money may be required to fund the purchase and installation of equipment.

If your child has been injured and you think you should be able to make a personal injury compensation claim, talk to our specialist personal injury lawyers at Ronald Fletcher & Co Solicitors for more information.

Ronald Fletcher & Co operates on a 'no win, no fee' basis meaning you keep all the compensation we secure for you. Call us now on 0808 231 6796 or send us an email [<http://www.rfclaw.co.uk/Contact.shtml>] For more information on this area of our practice, see our personal injury page.