

Birth Injuries and Legal Claims



For every birth. For every baby. For every family.

When birth doesn't go to plan, you shouldn't face it alone.



A birth injury can change everything. In those first weeks and months, many parents feel overwhelmed: looking for answers, worrying about the future, and unsure where to turn.

In those moments, the quality of support around you – legal, practical and emotional – matters enormously.

We're here to listen, explain what your options are, and help you decide what feels right for your family. For decades, we have stood alongside families through some of the most difficult moments they will ever face.

Our role is to help you find the answers and support you need, so you can focus on you and your family.

Because the right help, at the right time, can make all the difference.

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Praised by clients for its 'rare combination of legal acumen, empathy, and dedication', the practice at Fletchers Solicitors is geared towards handling high-value, complex matters.

The Legal 500, 2026

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About us

We have one of the UK's most experienced birth injury teams, acting for families whose lives have been affected by failures in maternity care.

Our work is about more than legal expertise – it's about listening, guiding, and helping families build secure and supported futures. We've supported hundreds of families and secured answers and outcomes providing for lifelong care, therapies, and housing. That is why we focus on more than the legal claim itself. We take the time to understand what has happened, explain your options clearly, and help you plan for what comes next.

Our team includes more than 50 specialists. We are recognised by leading independent directories and panels, including The Legal 500, Chambers & Partners, the Law Society Clinical Negligence Panel and AvMA's Specialist Clinical Negligence Panel and some of the team are APIL panel members.

But what matters most to us is how families feel when they work with us. We answer questions, stand beside you in difficult times, and make sure your voice is heard. We don't just focus on compensation; we focus on care, stability and dignity. For every birth, every baby, and every family we help.

Why families trust us

- Specialist birth injury expertise built over decades
- Personal support from your first call through to settlement and beyond
- Strong partnerships with charities, therapists and case managers
- Cases resolved at every level of complexity, including multi-million-pound settlements supporting long-term care.

We know these are the moments that matter most. Our role is to make sure families have the answers, the help and the financial certainty they deserve, now and in the years ahead.

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I have to say a massive thank you for all the hard work and perseverance with our case. The whole process of dealing with Fletchers Solicitors as a firm has been made easier because of the amount of information by letter, emails and phone calls along with being able to pick up the phone at any time and ask any questions we may have had.

We are so pleased for our daughter that she can make up for lost time in a fully adapted one level property and will get as much physiotherapy, specialist help and carers required to make her life as wonderful as possible. She is such a beautiful and happy girl and deserves every opportunity possible and we are all looking forward to what the future holds for our family.

Dad and Fletchers Solicitors' client

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What is a birth injury?



Types of birth injuries

Birth injuries can happen in different ways: during pregnancy, labour, delivery, or soon after birth. They can affect both babies and mothers, and the impact is often lifelong.

Understanding the type of injury is an important first step towards getting the right answers and support.

Every situation is unique. Whatever you or your baby have experienced, we can help you make sense of what happened and guide you towards the right support.

During pregnancy

- Undiagnosed pre-eclampsia or gestational diabetes.
- Infections such as Group B Strep not identified or treated.
- Placental problems including abruption or premature rupture of membranes.
- Wrongful birth (where parents are not given information about serious conditions that would have affected choices in pregnancy).

After birth

- Delayed resuscitation when a baby is not breathing at birth.
- Kernicterus (severe jaundice left untreated).
- Hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar) not recognised and managed.
- Undiagnosed infections such as neonatal sepsis, or conditions like hip dysplasia or hydrocephalus.
- Neonatal death.

During labour and delivery

- Missed or delayed fetal heart monitoring.
- Shoulder dystocia and resulting injuries such as Erb's palsy.
- Misuse of forceps or ventouse instruments.
- Delayed delivery leading to oxygen deprivation and brain injury, sometimes resulting in cerebral palsy.
- Stillbirth due to failures in monitoring or response.

Injury to mothers

- Severe tears or haemorrhage not properly managed.
- Uterine rupture or retained placenta.
- Long-term physical complications or psychological trauma.

Support that goes beyond compensation

When you're in the middle of a birth injury case, it can feel as though everything is focused on the legal process. But what families need often goes much further than that.

Compensation is only the beginning. What matters is how it is used: to make daily life more manageable, and to give your family the financial certainty to plan ahead. We work with you to put the right help in place, tailored to your needs.



Here are some of the ways we make a difference:

Specialist care and therapies

Access to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language support, and other treatments that give children and parents the best possible chance to thrive.

Home adaptations and equipment

From ramps and hoists to fully adapted kitchens, bathrooms and vehicles, we help create environments that give families freedom and independence.

Education and support planning

Working with schools and local authorities to make sure children get the right educational support, whether through specialist placements or tailored learning plans.

Rehabilitation and case management

Appointing case managers to coordinate care, arrange therapies, and ensure families aren't left to navigate the system alone.

Benefits and financial guidance

Helping families secure the right benefits and financial advice, so they can focus on care rather than paperwork and uncertainty.

Court of Protection

For some families, compensation settlements are substantial enough to need formal, long-term oversight. The Court of Protection is the part of the legal system responsible for this. It can appoint a Professional Deputy, an authorised person who manages the funds on the family's behalf to ensure they are protected and last for as long as needed. We guide families through this process, giving reassurance that future care and support will always be safeguarded.

Questions families often ask us

When you're dealing with the impact of a birth injury, it's natural to have lots of questions: about what happened, what can be done, and what the future might look like.

We've answered some of the most common questions families bring to us. Every situation is different, but this will give you a sense of what to expect and how we can help.

Why make a birth injury claim?

Families often want two things: answers about what went wrong, and support to make life easier for the future. A claim can help with both.

By pursuing a case, you may be able to:

- Secure therapies, equipment and professional care
- Adapt your home so it meets your child's or your needs
- Access case managers and specialist support
- Plan for long-term financial security, knowing care will be in place in later life

Compensation is not just about money. It's about stability, independence and quality of life.

Do I have a claim?

Birth injuries can affect both babies and mothers. The first step is simply a conversation. We'll listen to your story, gather your medical records, and ask independent experts to review what happened. This initial investigation is free and without obligation.

Once we've looked carefully at the evidence, we'll explain clearly whether there may be a claim, what the process would involve, and what it could mean for your family's future.

Will making a claim affect my NHS care?

No. Your ongoing NHS care is completely separate from the legal process. Whether for you or your child, the treatment you receive should not change if you decide to bring a claim.

Many of our clients continue their care within the NHS while their claim is ongoing. We make sure the legal process runs alongside, not against, your medical needs.

How long will it take?

Every case is different. Some claims can be resolved within 18 to 24 months, while more complex cases, especially those involving serious, lifelong injuries, may take longer.

That's because we often need to understand the full impact on your child's development or your recovery before a final settlement is agreed. Throughout, we'll keep you updated, explain what's happening, and push to secure early support through interim payments wherever possible.

Will we have to go to court?

The vast majority of cases are settled without a trial. Negotiation and settlement meetings are usually enough to reach an agreement. In the rare situations where a hearing is needed, we'll guide you through what to expect, prepare you fully, and stand beside you at every step.

Our aim is to make the process as straightforward as possible.

Can we get help before the case ends?

Yes. If responsibility is accepted, we can often obtain interim payments: early funds released before the final settlement.

These payments can cover urgent needs such as therapies, specialist equipment, home adaptations, respite care, or extra support at school. Interim payments can make a big difference, allowing families to access the right help without waiting years for the legal process to finish.





How long do I have to make a claim?

Many families don't realise straight away that their child has suffered a birth injury. Sometimes the signs only become clear as a child grows, receives a diagnosis, or their future needs become more obvious. It's common for parents to contact us several years after the birth.

For children, a claim can usually be made any time up to their 21st birthday (and in some cases beyond that, where a person is unable to manage their own affairs).

For mothers, or if you're making a claim after the death or stillbirth of a child, the usual time limit is three years. This runs from the date of the injury, the death, or from when you first suspected negligence may have played a role.

Because every situation is different, the safest step is to ask for advice as soon as you feel ready. Our first conversation is always free, and we'll explain clearly how the time limits apply in your case.

What is the Early Notification Scheme?

The NHS has an Early Notification Scheme for certain serious birth injuries. Its aim is to give families quicker answers and earlier access to support.

If your case falls within this scheme, we can explain what it means, how it works, and how it fits alongside any legal claim.

What about legal costs?

We know that cost is one of the biggest worries for families thinking about a claim. There are different ways to fund your case, and our initial advice is always free. Most of our clients use a No Win No Fee agreement, which means:

- You only pay legal costs if your claim is successful
- If your claim doesn't succeed, you don't pay anything
- If compensation is awarded, most of the legal costs are paid by the hospital or their insurer.

Some families are also covered by Legal Expenses Insurance (sometimes included with home or motor insurance policies). If that applies, we can work with your insurer too.

We'll explain all the options clearly at the start, so you can decide what works best for your family.

What does compensation cover?

Compensation is about more than money. It's about security and quality of life. It can provide for:

- Therapies, treatment and equipment
- Lifelong care and professional support
- Educational support for children
- Home adaptations or new accommodation
- Transport and mobility needs
- Financial stability if you've had to give up work
- Future health needs for mothers.

The amount depends on the type and extent of the injury, and what you or your child will need for the future.

Our role is to make sure the settlement fully reflects those needs, so that your life is not only manageable, but supported and secure in the years ahead.

If your question isn't covered here, we're here to help. Every story is unique, and we'll take the time to understand yours, explain your options in plain English, and guide you at your pace. The first step is simply a conversation.



Real impact for real families

Bobbie's story

When Kelly* went into hospital to be induced, she trusted her baby would be closely monitored. But during labour, signs of distress on the heart monitor were missed. With no escalation to senior staff or timely intervention, her daughter Bobbie* was deprived of oxygen at birth.

Bobbie was later diagnosed with severe cerebral palsy. Now seven, she is non-verbal, has seizures, requires 24-hour care, and needs help with every aspect of daily life. The impact has been profound: Kelly left her teaching career to become her daughter's

full-time carer, while Bobbie's father reduced his work to support the family. Even Bobbie's grandmother, a former nurse, helps provide the round-the-clock care she needs.

The family came to us looking for answers and a secure future for Bobbie. Independent medical evidence confirmed that her injuries were the result of negligent care, and the hospital admitted full responsibility.

After detailed negotiations, the family achieved a settlement worth over £28 million. This

includes a secure annual payment to cover Bobbie's lifelong care, therapies, and support, as well as funds for a new permanent, accessible home designed around her needs. A case manager has been appointed to ensure her care is of the best possible standard as she grows.

For Kelly and her family, the settlement means more than financial support. It means Bobbie's future is secure, her complex needs will be met, and her parents can focus on being her family rather than her full-time carers.

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Standing with families. Driving change.

When things go wrong in maternity care, families need answers. But every case also carries a responsibility to learn, to improve, and to prevent the same mistakes happening again.

Across the UK, important programmes are shining a light on maternity safety and what must change:

Every Baby Counts (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists)

Reviewing around 1,000 cases each year where babies die or suffer severe brain injury during childbirth. Findings suggest that in as many as 3 in 4 cases, different care might have led to a different outcome.

Maternity and Newborn Safety Investigations (MNSI) programme

Carrying out thousands of independent investigations every year, focused on improving safety and learning lessons.

The Ockenden Review and other maternity safety reports

Exposing repeated failings in care and setting out recommendations for safer services.

NHS Resolution's Early Notification Scheme

Designed to provide families with earlier answers and help hospitals learn quickly from harm.

These programmes confirm what families already know: safer maternity care is urgently needed, and every voice matters. By pursuing answers and accountability, families help highlight where care can be improved. Together, we can press for changes.

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Our solicitors worked tirelessly on our case to get the best possible outcome. They were particularly sensitive when handling our case and we were kept informed throughout with regular updates and were helped through what I can only say is a minefield.

We are delighted with the outcome and all the work put in by all members of staff at Fletchers Solicitors. This has made a massive difference to our family, and we cannot thank them enough for the work they put into our case.

Mum and Fletchers Solicitors' client

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Real impact for real families

Liam's story

When Carol* went into labour with her son Liam*, she was considered low-risk. She trusted that she and her baby would be closely monitored throughout.

But during her labour, Liam's heart rate was not checked as often or as accurately as it should have been. When he was born, he was pale, floppy and not breathing, with his umbilical cord wrapped tightly around his neck and body. He had suffered a severe brain injury caused by a lack of oxygen.

As Carol later learned, hospital records had been inaccurately completed, hiding the fact that her baby's heart rate had not been monitored properly.

Now 13, Liam lives with the long-term effects of his injury. We worked with Carol to bring a case against the hospital, helping her find the answers she needed about what went wrong. The judge agreed that mistakes in care directly led to Liam's injury, and we are working to secure the funding Liam will need for the rest of his life.

For Carol, it was about more than a legal case. It was about being heard, uncovering the truth, and making sure Liam has the support he needs to live as fully and independently as possible.

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Real impact for real families

Jack's story

When Catherine* noticed her baby's movements had reduced late in pregnancy, she went to hospital for reassurance. A heart monitor showed worrying signs, but there were delays in deciding to deliver. When a caesarean was finally agreed, further complications with anaesthetic meant more time passed.

Jack* was born in very poor condition and was later diagnosed with a severe brain injury caused by lack of oxygen.

His injuries are complex and lifelong. Jack has epilepsy, cannot walk, talk or feed himself, and needs round-the-clock care.

Catherine gave up her career to care for him full-time. The family home no longer met Jack's needs, and his future required specialist education, therapy and equipment.

The family came to our birth injury team for help. Working with them at every step, we

negotiated a settlement of £5 million, including interim payments to cover urgent care, therapy and housing.

For Catherine, it was about more than money. It was about Jack getting the care he needs to live with dignity, and his family being free to focus on him rather than fight for the help and funding he deserves.

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.



Support beyond us

Here are some trusted organisations you may wish to contact:

Emotional support and bereavement care

Sands

Support for anyone affected by the death of a baby.

www.sands.org.uk

Child Bereavement UK

Support for families when a child dies or is grieving.

www.childbereavementuk.org

Petals

Specialised counselling for baby loss.

www.petalscharity.org

Grief Encounter

Helping bereaved children, young people and their families find hope and healing after the death of someone close.

www.griefencounter.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Support

Grief counselling and bereavement help.

www.cruse.org.uk

Love Jasmine

Supporting bereaved families following the loss of a child.

www.lovejasmine.org.uk

Tommy's

Support throughout pregnancy, from planning to birth and beyond. They also offer compassionate resources and a community for those affected by miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal loss.

www.tommys.org

When you're facing the impact of a birth injury, legal advice is only one part of the picture. Many families find practical help and reassurance through charities focused on parents, babies and children.

Birth trauma and mental health

Birth Trauma Association

For those affected by traumatic birth experiences.

www.birthtraumaassociation.org.uk

Peeps HIE Charity

Support for families affected by Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE).

www.peeps-hie.org

Mind

National mental health charity offering advice and support.

www.mind.org.uk

Make Birth Better

Supports people experiencing birth trauma through peer support, campaigning, and education.

www.makebirthbetter.org

MASIC Foundation

Supports women who have experienced severe perineal trauma during childbirth.

www.masic.org.uk

Neonatal and child health support

Bliss

For families of premature or sick babies.

www.bliss.org.uk

Cerebra

Supports children with brain conditions and their families.

www.cerebra.org.uk

The Children's Trust

Specialises in rehabilitation for children with brain injuries.

www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk

Lily Mae Foundation

Support following stillbirth or neonatal loss.

www.lilymaefoundation.org

Group B Strep Support

Provide information to families, healthcare professionals and those affected.

www.gbss.org.uk

Support for dads

Daddys with Angels

Child loss charity | Support for bereaved dads

www.daddyswithangels.org

StrongMen

UK Mens Bereavement Charity

www.strongmen.org.uk

Practical help you might find useful

Birthrights

The leading UK authority on the rights of women and birthing people during pregnancy and birth. They provide helpful guidance on how to raise concerns or make a complaint about your care, and advocate for change in policy and practice to improve maternity experiences.

www.birthrights.org.uk

Every family's journey is unique. These organisations, along with our team, are here to help you find the information, community and guidance you need.

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for all their hard work and dedication. Their friendly approach made it as stress-free as possible and ultimately the final settlement we achieved made it all worthwhile. It has enabled us to purchase a wheelchair-adapted vehicle and a bungalow so our child can freely use his power chair. In short, life is much different now and we now know that he will have a bright future.

Mum and Fletchers Solicitors' client

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Next steps

When you're ready, we're here.

You don't need to know all the answers before you speak to us. The first step is simply a conversation.

We'll listen to your story, explain your options, and guide you at your pace.

What happens when you contact us

- Free, confidential conversation. No pressure, no obligation.
- Independent expert review of your medical records.
- Clear advice on whether you may have a claim and what it could mean.
- Guidance on your next step, whether that's moving forward with a claim or just understanding your options.

How to reach us

Visit fletcherssolicitors.co.uk

or call us on 0330 008 1266

Rated **Excellent**



★ **Trustpilot**

