



Understanding  
**BRAIN INJURY**

# LANYON BOWDLER'S SPECIALIST TEAM

Lanyon Bowdler's team of personal injury and clinical negligence lawyers have years of experience in recovering compensation on behalf of individuals who have suffered a traumatic brain injury from birth or following an accident. Financial compensation for brain injuries can help pay for medical and rehabilitation costs, as well as compensating for loss of earnings.

The dedicated solicitors within the Court of Protection team are able to help with every stage of involvement with the Court of Protection. The Court of Protection makes decisions for those who lack capacity to do so themselves. Those decisions principally involve health, financial affairs, property and personal welfare. Our specialists can guide you through the process when it is recognised such involvement is required.

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## **No brain is the same**

The brain is the most complex and brilliant organ in the human body. While everyone has a brain, no one's brain works exactly the same. Similarly an injury to the brain will affect different people differently. A brain injury can lead to a myriad of cognitive, behavioural and physical symptoms which range from mild symptoms that resolve relatively quickly to severe symptoms that can persist indefinitely. Not only will the symptoms differ, but the impact of those symptoms can vary from person to person based on their age, lifestyle and personality. For instance, a serious brain injury will affect a teenager very differently to a pensioner.

## A brain injury can affect everything

The brain controls everything - the way you walk, the way you talk, your memories, your personality, your ability to sleep and the way you think. So when your brain is hurt, it can affect everything about you.

You can become someone who is easily irritated and depressed. It can take away your confidence in social situations. You can become so fatigued that you can sleep from 9pm until 11am and still feel exhausted when you wake up. You can suddenly find it difficult to follow the thread of a conversation or the plot of your favourite TV Show. A brain injury can also impair your impulse control and ability to rationalise, so that you can find yourself making decisions and taking risks you would never have taken before. This can be as simple as finding yourself unable to resist impulse buying shoes, or as dangerous as being unable to judge when it is safe to cross a road.

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## Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it's not real

Many people who suffer brain injuries look the same as they did prior to their injuries. This can make it difficult for those around them to understand that they are injured and may need a little bit more understanding or assistance than others.

It's difficult for an outsider to see the internal struggles of someone suffering a brain injury. If you are in a car accident and have your right arm amputated, people will instantly understand you'll struggle to write, lift things and button up your shirt. If, however, instead you suffer a brain injury, this may affect your balance and co-ordination, make your limbs feel weak or shaky and cause you to feel excessively tired. In addition, the brain injury might affect the way you think so that your ability to plan, multi-task and motivate yourself is much worse than it was prior to your injury. Because others can't see these problems, they might think that the victim is just being difficult, or not trying.

It is important to try not to make assumptions about how a person is feeling, and to try and understand that for brain injuries, what you see is only the tip of the iceberg. The actual impact of that injury goes far beneath the surface.

What our clients have to say:

“My personal injury claim was very complex and took over four years of legal processes handled by Lanyon Bowdler, with exemplary expertise and sensitivity. They have been with me all the way and secured the best outcome possible. Whenever I call there has always been someone cheerful at the end of the phone who has dealt with my call with great efficiency.”

Mr M Bishop, Shrewsbury

“We have been clients with Lanyon Bowdler for 10 years. During that time they have been supportive, efficient, trustworthy and friendly. We would recommend Lanyon Bowdler to anyone.”

Ms S Morris, Bridgnorth

*The 2016 edition of The Legal 500 recognises the clinical negligence and personal injury teams in the Top-Tier for the West Midlands*

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