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THE DIFFUSE MESOTHELIOMA SCHEME

The Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme came into force in April 2014.

This is a new Scheme which applies to those cases where past employers cannot be pursued, and the employers did not take out any insurance cover or the insurers cannot be traced.

The Scheme only applies to mesothelioma claims. It does not apply to other asbestos conditions, such as asbestosis and pleural thickening. However, claims for an asbestos related injury other than mesothelioma can still be pursued in the civil Courts, if an employer/insurer can be found.

The Scheme provides a fixed sum of compensation, depending upon the age of the sufferer at the time of diagnosis of mesothelioma.

There is not an automatic entitlement to a compensation payment. It is still necessary to prove negligence on the part of the former employer.

If the Defendant can be traced, or an insurance company can be located, it is still necessary to bring a civil claim instead of pursuing a claim through the Scheme. It will be necessary to prove that all efforts and correct searches have been made to find the insurers, before the claim can be submitted through the Scheme.

If a claim is successful through the Scheme, an award of £7,000 is made as part of the overall payment towards Solicitors costs. A Dependant of the Deceased can pursue a claim through the Scheme after the sufferer has died. A personal representative of the sufferer may also be able to pursue a claim through the Scheme, if not a dependant, if the claim was submitted prior to the death of the sufferer.

A Solicitor is not necessary to pursue a claim through the Scheme, however due to the complex nature of searching for a Defendant/Insurer, establishing negligence and obtaining relevant documents, it is helpful to have legal advice. In addition, if a Defendant can be traced, then a Solicitor can run the civil claim for you, as well as assisting with applying for relevant State benefits.

The Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme has paid out many millions of pounds since it has been in operation. Novum Law has successfully obtained compensation on behalf of numerous Claimants through the Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme, including the submission and successful conclusion of the very first online application made to the Scheme.

Settlement times are usually quick if the information is obtained with speed. Solicitor experts such as Novum Law are able to make the required investigations into working histories and insurance traces with speed and ensure that payments can be processed as soon as possible.

Novum Law have settled many claims through the Scheme within 2 months. Examples include a retired builder who cut up asbestos sheets for an employer in the 1950s, and a man who worked for a small, uninsured family company in 1961 and was exposed to asbestos dust when he installed furnaces lined with asbestos and was able to recover a six figure sum which allowed him to provide for his wife in the future. Without the Scheme, these men would not have been able to pursue a claim.

“They have been supremely professional throughout, and they have excellent people skills – the combination has helped us at a particularly difficult time.”

Client

For more information visit www.novumlaw.com or call us on 0800 884 0777