



## PERSONAL INJURY OR ACCIDENT

The first step - Preserve the Evidence

Accidents can lead to injury in many ways, on the road, on the pavement, in a shop, at a station, at work, or in the home from defective equipment.

You may be slightly injured or suffer serious injury or the death of someone close to you. At the time the injury occurs you may be totally focused on how to get treatment or in the worst case may be unconscious. We often rely on the emergency services to preserve the evidence but police officers are not trained in the rules of evidence in civil cases and may not be aware of what evidence a civil Court may need.

How do you preserve the evidence

If a piece of equipment is faulty, or you have purchased goods that are dangerous - keep that equipment or those goods - do not send them back to the manufacturer. An independent expert will be needed to show if it was a fault in your use of the goods or the equipment or a basic fault of manufacture.

Always carry a camera in your vehicle. You can then take photos to show the accident scene, the time and circumstances of the accident. You can also record road and weather conditions and show the extent of damage to the vehicles.

Always carry notepaper and a pen or pencil. Obtain the names, addresses, registration numbers and insurance details of the drivers of any other vehicles involved. The police may be reluctant to give you this information later. It is best to be prepared.

Get the names and addresses of all witnesses and if possible and time allows a short signed statement from them. Witnesses who are willing to help at the time of the accident are very frequently reluctant to assist when contacted days or weeks later.

If a defect in the road or street furniture led to the accident get photographs and in the case of a hole in the road or skid marks put a ruler alongside and in the hole so that its size is apparent. The same thinking applies to other accidents in the work place or elsewhere. "A Picture is worth a thousand words".

Find a good Personal Injury Lawyer

Chris Kennett is a Fellow of the College of Personal Injury Law, a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and on the Law Society's Personal Injury Panel. His qualifications and years of experience are what you need to guide you.

Contact Chris for a free initial interview

If you are incapacitated through your injury he can see you at home or even in hospital. At that interview Chris will advise you, in terms which are easy to understand, whether you have a right to compensation and how to go about obtaining it. In the overwhelming majority of cases this will be on a "no win no fee" basis. You will receive every penny of the compensation awarded to you. If you need any further information, please call

Contact Chris on Freephone 0800 019 3967 or e-mail: [chris@hawklaw.co.uk](mailto:chris@hawklaw.co.uk)