

# Legal support available for survivors during lockdown

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# Our team in lockdown

- Largest team of specialist abuse solicitors in the country
- Business as usual
- Direct access to solicitors, from initial enquiry to end of case
- Direct mobile numbers for solicitors
- Zoom / Teams / video calls
- Out of hours service
- Male and female solicitors

# What we do

- Criminal vs Civil
- Personal injury claim
- For abuse and assaults

# Why bring a claim?

- Compensation
- Apology
- Rehabilitation/therapy/dependency treatment
- Acknowledgement
- Being believed
- Client-led process (different to criminal process)
- Loss of earnings
- Potentially life changing

# Who are the Defendants?

- Suing an abuser in person directly
- Institutional Defendant:
  - Scout Association
  - Ministry of Defence
  - Church / religious orders, eg Jehovah's Witnesses, Catholic Church, Church of England
  - Sports clubs such as football clubs
  - Schools and youth clubs
  - Salvation Army
  - Children's homes
  - Charitable organisations
  - Local authorities

# Time limits

- 3 year time limit / 21<sup>st</sup> birthday
- Reasons for the delay
- Is a fair trial still possible?
- Time continues to count – even during lockdown

# Process of bringing a claim

- Impact of lockdown
- Obtain police and court documents
- Letter before claim
- Obtain medical / educational / employment / counselling records
- Expert evidence
- Negotiate or proceed to Court process
- Therapy

# Compensation

Compensation for pain and suffering

- Abuse/assault
- Psychiatric damage



# Financial Losses

- Loss of earnings – calculated approach or a lump sum basis
- Treatment costs
- Disadvantage on the labour market
- Prescription costs
- Travel costs
- Loss of familial support
- Costs of retraining/education
- Care costs
- Relocation costs
- Camouflage/make up
- Tattoo removal
- Wasted expenditure on alcohol

# Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

- Sometimes CICA is only option for clients
- Government run scheme
- Can award up to £500,000
- Smaller awards than civil

# Limitation for CICA

- Strict deadlines – 2 years from incident, or from reaching majority if it occurred in childhood, or from reporting to police
- Discretion *if* exceptional circumstances prevented reporting earlier and the CICA can process the application without making extensive further enquiries

# Any questions?

For any questions after the event, please feel free to contact us

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