

Help Advice Support Action Guidance

Whether you need practical advice or just somebody to talk to, we're here for you. HASAG's experts work throughout the South and South East of England, London and the Home Counties.

Providing a complete source of help and support for anyone with an asbestos-related disease and their loved ones.

Our free services include:

- Home visits
- Information about asbestos-related diseases
- Information, help and advice on benefits and compensation
- Monthly support group coffee mornings
- Talking therapies (counselling)

We cover a wide area across the South of England including:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 📍 London | 📍 Kent | 📍 Avon |
| 📍 Essex | 📍 East Sussex | 📍 Somerset |
| 📍 Herts | 📍 West Sussex | 📍 Dorset |
| 📍 Bedfordshire | 📍 Surrey | 📍 Wiltshire |
| 📍 Middlesex | 📍 Hampshire | 📍 Berkshire |
| 📍 Buckinghamshire | 📍 Isle of Wight | 📍 Oxfordshire |

If you have any questions regarding your area, please contact the team: info@hasag.co.uk

Contact our team:

- T. 02380 010 015
02380 010 016
- E. info@hasag.co.uk
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"Providing free support, guidance and information to people with asbestos related diseases."

Registered Charity No. 1197946

Our History



HASAG was set up by sisters Lynne and Diane in 2006, following the loss and in memory of their father, Dave Salisbury. During their father's illness, the family were surprised by just how many people suffer in the UK due to exposure to asbestos and the lack of help and support available for those affected and their loved ones. Having experienced first-hand the devastating impact of an asbestos-related illness and how little information, guidance and support was available, they decided there was an urgent need for change. HASAG was launched initially in Hampshire to help asbestos sufferers and their loved ones to raise awareness of asbestos-related diseases. It now helps people across the South, South East, London and the Home Counties.

HASAG is committed to improving the lives of people affected by asbestos. We are also involved in campaigning and lobbying the Government for improved research into treatment and better availability of drugs and specialist medical care.

In October 2006, HASAG supported a lobby at the House of Commons, to campaign for the provision of the chemotherapy drug, Alimta to be made available on the NHS.

HASAG has also represented asbestos sufferers at the Government's Mesothelioma Summit and hosted Action Mesothelioma Day in Portsmouth in 2008. This is now an annual event, supported by the British Lung Foundation, to raise awareness of mesothelioma and to call for better treatment and care for mesothelioma patients.

Since its launch, HASAG has raised £900,000 for Mesothelioma UK and for more research into asbestos-related illnesses.

The HASAG team includes Lisa Booth, Alison Squibb, Jo Cooper and Trudie Green who, together with Lynne, are dedicated to supporting asbestos sufferers and their families and providing the understanding, support, guidance and information they feel everyone should be entitled to in their time of need.

Founded in 2006 by Diane and Lynne, in memory of their father Dave Salisbury, who suffered from the asbestos-related disease mesothelioma.

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Pleural Plaques and Thickening

Pleural plaques are small areas of thickening on the lining of the lungs (pleura). They are usually about the size of a coin, can be present on one or both lungs and become harder and calcified over time. They do not, in themselves, cause any symptoms but do act as an indicator of exposure to asbestos. Compensation for pleural plaques is not available in England and Wales but is possible in Scotland.

In pleural thickening the patches are more widespread and both layers of the pleura may be involved. Pleural thickening can cause the lungs to be restricted and not expand properly which may lead to breathlessness. There are other causes of pleural thickening such as infection, inflammatory disease and benign (non cancerous) pleural effusion (fluid around the lungs) and in all cases one or both lungs may be involved.

Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the lining of the lungs or, more rarely, the lining of the abdomen (peritoneal mesothelioma) with virtually all cases believed to be caused by exposure to asbestos. There are approximately 2500 cases of mesothelioma diagnosed in the UK every year although it is expected that this figure will continue to rise in the next few years. Treatments have historically been limited but there are more therapies emerging that may have an impact on symptoms and survival.

Asbestosis

Asbestosis is a type of pulmonary (lung) fibrosis or scarring of the lungs caused by inhaling asbestos fibres or dust, often through exposure at work. It is a benign or non-cancerous condition. The body's reaction to the asbestos fibres causes damage to the fragile air sacs in the lungs, making it more difficult for oxygen to get into the bloodstream which may result in breathlessness.

Unfortunately the damage done to the lungs by asbestos cannot be reversed and may continue to progress. Having asbestosis can increase your risk of lung cancer.

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer was the third most common cancer diagnosed in the UK in 2014 (CRUK). In most cases it is caused by smoking, so it is advisable to stop if you can. Support to do this is available from your GP or local 'stop smoking' services.

However, more than 10% of people with lung cancer have never smoked. It is recognised that being exposed to asbestos can increase your risk of developing lung cancer.

We offer a free and confidential service which includes help and information about asbestos-related diseases.

Benefits

If you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma or an asbestos-related disease, you may be entitled to claim certain benefits. We're here to help you understand and access the support you deserve. Below are the benefits you and your family may be entitled to:

Benefit name	In brief	Applies to...
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB)	This can be claimed if your exposure to asbestos happened when you were in employed work (not self-employed).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma • Asbestosis • Pleural thickening • Lung cancer /with asbestosis
Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Attendance Allowance	PIP can be claimed if you are under 65 and require assistance with your personal care. It includes two components: mobility and living. If you are aged over 65, this is called Attendance Allowance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma • Lung cancer /with asbestosis
Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)	ESA replaces Incapacity Benefit & Income Support, previously paid on incapacity grounds. It is also available if you are in employment and SSP has ended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma Lung cancer /with asbestosis
Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA)	You can claim CAA if you receive Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and you need daily care and attention. How much you receive depends on the extent of your disability and the amount of care you require.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma • Lung cancer /with asbestosis
Blue Badge	Blue Badge parking permits enable disabled drivers and their passengers to park nearer to where they're going.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma • Lung cancer /with asbestosis
Workers' Compensation Act 1979	<p>This is a lump-sum payment that you/your family may be entitled to if you already receive Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.</p> <p>This applies if your illness was caused by your employment. It can be claimed before you take legal action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma • Asbestosis • Pleural thickening • Lung cancer /with asbestosis

Asbestos-related disease sufferers are entitled to claim certain benefits.

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Benefit name	In brief	Applies to...
2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment	<p>You can claim for this scheme if you came into contact with asbestos</p> <p>a. While you were self-employed b. Through a family member (washing work clothes etc)</p> <p>It also applies if you don't know how you came into contact with the asbestos.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma
Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme (DMPS 2014)	<p>You may be able to claim for this if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You were diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012 2. Your illness was caused by exposure while working in the UK 3. You can't trace the employer or insurer 4. You haven't made a claim for compensation. <p>You may also be able to claim if you are the dependent of a sufferer who has died.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma
Carer's Allowance	<p>If someone helps look after you, they may be entitled to Carer's Allowance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma • Lung cancer /with asbestosis
War Pension/lump sum	<p>Military/Ex-personnel who were diagnosed during their service may be entitled to a lump sum or weekly payment. This is different to the scheme for civilians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesothelioma

Asbestos-related disease sufferers are entitled to claim certain benefits.

Legal Support

As far back as the late 19th century, UK industry knew about the dangers of asbestos. Now, legislation exists to help people suffering from asbestos-related diseases seek compensation. For some people, compensation is the first thing they think about when they hear their diagnosis. For others, it never crosses their mind. But it's important to know that there is specific legislation to help people suffering from asbestos-related diseases and their families seek compensation.

How we can help

We know legal matters can feel daunting. We're here to provide you with:

- Information and guidance
- HASAG's vetted panel of friendly, experienced solicitors
- Support throughout the process.

The process

Most compensation claims are made against former employers or their insurance companies. The claims can be made many decades after the exposure. It's also possible to bring a claim if you were exposed to asbestos environmentally or through a third party, e.g. washing a family member's work clothes.

When you can't claim

If you can't claim for compensation because your employer or their insurer can't be traced, you may be entitled to a benefit under the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme. You may be able to apply if you were diagnosed with mesothelioma on or after 25 July 2012. Unfortunately, the scheme does not benefit those with other asbestos-related diseases.

The HASAG Solicitor Panel

Over the years, we have developed a list of friendly, experienced solicitors who we trust to get patients and their families the best possible result. We call this the HASAG Solicitor Panel. They work on the basis of no upfront fees and, if your claim is successful, you will receive 100% of the compensation.

We want to make it easy for patients and their families to access the right legal support. Over the years, we have selected a small number of trusted local solicitors to create the HASAG Solicitor Panel. Each member of our panel specialise in asbestos-related disease claims and offers the following:

- Home visits
- No cost to patients or their family
- No upfront fees
- 100% of the compensation to be received by the patient and their family with no deductions for legal fees
- Years of experience providing specialist asbestos-disease legal expertise

Good to know

Some people worry about having to attend court, but very few claims progress to a full hearing.



Many patients and their families are unaware that they have a right to make a claim for compensation against their employer.

Meet Our Team



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"Get the best benefit advice from the best people".

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