

MEDICOLEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)



Why have I been asked to go to meet with a psychologist?

Your solicitor has instructed one of our psychologists to meet with you to complete a medicolegal assessment in relation to your compensation claim.



What is a medicolegal appointment like?

Your psychologist will ask you about the event that led to your compensation claim. They will also have to ask you about your general life circumstances and how your health was, including your mental health, before the claim event.



How long does an appointment last?

Our medicolegal appointments usually last 90 minutes. We offer both online and face to face appointments.

Can you guarantee a favourable outcome in my legal case?

Medicolegal assessments are conducted on an independent basis, the outcome of which may be favourable or otherwise. By consenting to take part you are agreeing for us to share our opinion with the instructing party.

What happens to my information?

Your psychologist will write up a report which they will send to the instructing solicitor, and this will be used as part of your legal case.



Will you offer me psychological therapy?

The psychologist who completes your medicolegal assessment cannot provide psychological therapy as this would be a conflict of interest. However, they will likely give you feedback at your appointment about what they think would be helpful for you. Their report may suggest the type of therapy you may benefit from, if relevant. You may decide to seek that from the NHS, or you may have this organised on a private basis, as organised by your solicitor. Please ask your psychologist for more information.

Why is my psychologist writing things down?

Your psychologist will take some written notes as a record. These written notes are stored securely in a locked filing cabinet within a locked office.



Only your psychologist has physical access to these written notes. You can ask your psychologist questions about the notes if you would like to find out more.

Is electronic information secure?

Yes, any electronic information – e.g. a brief summary of a session is kept on a password-secured laptop.



Will the psychologist talk to my GP?

Usually information will not be shared with your GP unless you would like us to contact them. Your psychologist will explain that confidential information about you and your treatment is not usually shared with other people. However, there are some specific situations when some information may need to be shared and it is a good idea to discuss with your psychologist who any information about your treatment may be shared with. You can decide whether or not you would like your GP to be updated about your treatment. Your psychologist will discuss with you the rare times that information may need to be shared with another professional in the unusual event of an emergency situation.

Do I have to pay?

No. Your solicitor will pay for your appointment with a psychologist to complete a medicolegal assessment.



Can I cancel or rearrange my appointment?

Please contact your psychologist if you need to cancel or rearrange your appointment. Please give us at least 24 hours' notice of a cancellation. The full fee will be payable for short notice by your solicitor but be aware that this may be taken by out of your claim. Please ask your psychologist if you have any questions.

What if I am in crisis and I need help right now?

We are not able to offer crisis services. If you need help straight away please contact your GP, NHS24 or a Crisis Line. Please see the Advice page of our website (www.aberdeenshirecp.com) for more information and links.

I still have more questions, what do I do?

That's completely fine. Please contact us on info@aberdeenshirecp.com or on **07469 251 449** or contact your psychologist directly to ask. We are very happy to discuss any questions with you. There are no silly questions – it is fine to ask!

