

UNISON Personal Injury Legal Services

UNISON NORTH WEST

Summer 2009



Legal Helpline 0845 355 0845

Unsafe manhole cover at school

THE SON of a UNISON member who suffered injuries to his left knee, abrasions to his right thigh and shock as a result of falling into a manhole at school has received £1,250 from the local authority.

The 11 year old was walking towards the school reception when he stepped on a manhole cover.

The cover toppled, causing his left leg to go down the manhole. He

had to be pulled out by a friend.

UNISON's Family Scheme enabled Thompsons to pursue a compensation claim at no cost to the member.

The local authority had failed to regularly inspect and maintain the manhole cover and to ensure that it was secure and safe to walk on.

Liability was admitted and the court will invest the money until the boy is 18.

Child injured in car crash

UNISON and Thompsons helped the three year old son of a member who was injured in a road traffic accident.

The child was only 12 months old at the time of the accident and was a passenger in a child seat in his mother's car which was struck from behind by another vehicle.

Although not physically injured,

the baby was distressed and shocked after the accident.

He was taken to hospital and showed signs of being unwell for several days.

A settlement of £750 was reached with the other driver's insurers and the court invested this money for the child's future to be released when he reaches 18.

Injured by defective hands-free kit

UNISON instructed Thompsons to act on behalf of a member who suffered a pierced left retina caused by a defective mobile phone hands free kit bought from a supermarket.

As the member tried to attach the kit using the spring mounted clip, the clip shattered and shot into his

left eye. A claim was made against both the manufacturers of the kit and the supermarket, but both denied liability.

Thompsons issued Court proceedings and the case was settled before trial by the manufacturers of the product for £17,500.

To get legal advice simply Call UNISON Direct on 0845 355 0845 or by Textphone 0800 0 967 968 with your membership number

DID YOU KNOW...

Members of your family are entitled to FREE legal advice and representation on:

- Any Accident away from work
- Road Traffic Accident Injury
- Holiday injury
- Slips & Trips away from work

Road traffic guide for members and their families

1. Obtain the name, address, vehicle registration, and insurance details of the other driver
2. Call UNISON Direct on 0845 355 0845
3. Report the accident to the police
4. Notify your insurance company



THE MOST EXPERIENCED
PERSONAL INJURY FIRM IN THE UK

www.thompsons.law.co.uk

Who let the dog out?

A UNISON member was involved in a terrifying dog attack in which she suffered multiple bites and scratches.

The member was visiting her brother's house with her friend.

Her brother had recently become the owner of a Bull Mastiff dog which he had adopted from RSPCA kennels.

She and her friend sat on the settee and the dog was sitting on the floor but as she got up to leave, the dog suddenly jumped up and pushed her back onto the settee climbing onto her and trying to bite her face.

She put her hand up to protect her face, and as a result, she suffered nu-

merous bites to her right hand and arm. She also suffered claw marks and bruising to her body.

Thompsons made a claim against the RSPCA for failing to make a thorough assessment of the dog's temperament and history before allowing the member's brother to adopt it.

The RSPCA have admitted responsibility for the incident and the member will receive compensation for her injuries and losses once the medical evidence is finalised.

As this case demonstrates, UNISON's legal services provides representation to members involved in accidents that are nothing to do with work.

Hope not hate

DESPITE UNISON members and Thompsons' staff campaigning tirelessly against the BNP in the weeks before the European elections, Nick Griffin was elected as our MEP.

If another 1,200 people had voted he would not have got in.

The good news is that the BNP

vote dropped and there is now a groundswell of support in the North West committed to ensuring he is not re-elected.

UNISON and Thompsons continue to work together to support the Hope Not Hate campaign.

For more information click on www.hopenothate.org.uk

Thompsons leaves no stone unturned

A UNISON member was unable to return to work after injuring his back moving large concrete stones within parkland.

His employer refused to provide him and a colleague with further assistance.

They had to do the job using only a mini tractor and digger.

The concrete stones weighed 1/2 tonne and were impossible to scoop up using the machinery alone. The member was forced to steady the stones as his colleague manoeuvred the load with the tractor bucket to prevent it falling straight back out again.

After moving six or seven stones, one of the loads shifted suddenly and he instinctively grabbed hold of the block, causing him to jar his back.

The member's employer denied liability for his injury and refused to change its position, saying that appropriate lifting equipment had been provided.

Thompsons issued court proceedings and the case went to trial.

The Judge concluded that the employers failed to provide suitable lifting equipment and although he found the member to be partly to blame, he awarded him £34,254.

No fun on family fun day

A UNISON MEMBER who works at a local authority sports centre was assisting with a 'Family Fun Day' when she tripped over a rescue pole that had been left leaning in the doorway between two swimming pools.

She suffered a fractured hip and needed two operations.

Thompsons made a claim against the local authority on the member's behalf on the basis that they failed to fully prepare for the event to ensure that the venue was safe.

The member was awarded £17,000.

REMEMBER...

As a member of UNISON you get free legal assistance for:

- Road Traffic Accidents
- Any accident at work
- Any accident outside work (including slipping, tripping and holiday accidents)
- Assaults at work
- Industrial Disease

There is a three-year time limit to get your case to court so don't delay in getting advice.



THE MOST EXPERIENCED
PERSONAL INJURY FIRM IN THE UK

www.thompsons.law.co.uk