

# Medico-Legal Services

P O Box 370

SCUNTHORPE

North Lincolnshire DN15 5DQ

TELEPHONE: (01724) 282282 Ext 2803 or Mobile: 07747147636

Email: [mike.hockey@nhs.net](mailto:mike.hockey@nhs.net)

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Proprietor: Michael Hockey FRCS MBBS DA(UK) FCEM

Dear Sirs

**Re: MEDICO-LEGAL CURRICULUM VITAE**

Thank you for your enquiry about my medico-legal practice. Please find below details of my Curriculum Vitae for your information.

I trained at St George's Hospital Medical School, qualifying in 1973. My initial training was General Surgery, both before and after obtaining Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1979. In 1986 I undertook a period of Anaesthetic training and obtained the Diploma in Anaesthetics. Following this I entered a formal training programme as a Senior Registrar in Accident & Emergency Medicine in 1987. I was appointed Consultant in Accident & Emergency Medicine at Scunthorpe General Hospital in 1990. In 1993 I was accorded the FFAEM as a Founder Fellow of the Faculty of Accident & Emergency Medicine and I am now a Fellow of the College of Emergency Medicine.

I have continued experience in the management of soft tissue injuries and minor fractures, and particular follow-up experience of whiplash injuries to the neck.

In the past 28 years I have provided in excess of 50,000 medical reports and I have attended Court on only one occasion. The remainder of the cases have been settled by agreement. I understand that in a substantial portion of cases my report has been the single report on which settlement was based.

I have provided medical reports on minor fractures but I would not consider myself to be an appropriate single authority to provide a medical report where major fractures have been sustained, particularly if operative treatment was undertaken.

I can provide definitive reports on whiplash-type injuries, the majority of soft tissue injuries, minor head injuries, minor burns not requiring skin grafting and hand injuries not requiring surgical treatment. I do not provide reports on lifting-style back injuries which are the province of Orthopaedic Specialists.

I can provide an initial screening where multiple injuries have been sustained with advice on which Specialists are appropriate to provide detailed reports on the more serious injuries.

My reports have always contained a reference to psychological injury and advice on when a Psychologist's opinion is appropriate.

## Conditions for the Provision of Medico-Legal Reports:

1. My waiting time for medical reports is approximately 4 weeks at present, though 3 weeks may be possible if ALL records are supplied at the time of instruction.
2. I can accommodate more urgent appointments provided these are exceptional and justified.
3. My cost for reports is a minimum fee of £250. Increased charges result if the examination and interview time substantially exceeds the normal period, and particularly where extensive GP records need reviewing. The range at present varies from £300 to £400.

Simple reports, particularly on minors carried out at the same time as reports on other members of the family, can attract proportionally lower fees. A minimum of £150 is likely under these circumstances.

Fees for reviewing medical notes and writing addendums are time-dependent and charged at a rate of £150 per hour. These currently average from some £40 to £80.

4. I have in the past done domiciliary visits as far afield as Pontefract, ie, up to one hour's travelling time each way. They are substantially wasteful of time. Domiciliary visits local to the Scunthorpe area would attract a fee of £450; those up to an hour's travelling distance would cost approximately £600.
5. I carry out medical examinations at the Accident & Emergency Department of Scunthorpe General Hospital.
6. No fee is charged if cancellation is made more than 48 hours before the appointment. Cancellation within 48 hours will not attract a fee if a replacement patient can be found at short notice, otherwise a cancellation fee of £75 is charged.
7. A cancellation fee of £75 is charged for clients who miss appointments without notification.
8. My fees for attending Court are £600 per half-day, or part thereof.

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I do not charge cancellation fees up to the time of leaving to attend Court. Full fees are charged for Court appearances that are cancelled on the day of attendance.

9. I am not prepared to negotiate on fees if I present myself at Court only to be dismissed.
10. I am prepared to hold discussions over the phone regarding particular cases.
11. I am prepared to attend conferences with Counsel. Fees would be charged at the rate of £150 per hour. The minimum notice would be 2 weeks. It may be possible to accommodate urgent cases at shorter notice periods.
12. I am prepared to attend Conferences with other medical experts to resolve areas of dispute. The fees and conditions are as for 11.

13. There are no set periods of unavailability other than pre-planned holidays, which tend to be within school holiday periods.
14. I would prefer you to supply all GP notes, Hospital records and x-rays when sending instructions.
15. Payment is expected on completion of a case or at 12 months, whichever is the sooner.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Yours faithfully

**M S HOCKEY**

**Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)**

**Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FRCS)**

**Diploma of Anaesthetics DA(UK)**

**Founder Fellow of the Faculty of Accident & Emergency Medicine (FFAEM)**

**Consultant in Accident & Emergency Medicine (for 29 years)**