

Final

13.08.09

Sheffield Law Firm Supports Birth Trauma Awareness Day

Sheffield law firm Irwin Mitchell is backing a national campaign to raise awareness of the impact of birth trauma by supporting the Birth Trauma Awareness Day.

Saturday 15 August 2009 will be the third annual National Birth Trauma Awareness Day, which is organised by the Birth Trauma Association; a voluntary organisation that supports women and families who have suffered trauma during childbirth.

Birth trauma can lead to serious injuries to both mother and baby, and in severe cases can even cause deaths. It can cause mothers to tear or haemorrhage, and can leave babies affected by Cerebral Palsy or Erbs Palsy.

Lekisha May Brown, was born Bassetlaw District General Hospital in South Yorkshire with severe Cerebral Palsy in November 1999. As a result of the brain damage she suffered during delivery, Lekisha is barely able to move and can only communicate through a series of incoherent sounds.

She also has muscle spasms, restricted vision and has little understanding of the world around her, although she responds well to those she knows and loves.

It was alleged that had she been delivered earlier she would not have been born with the severe disabilities she has. Although the hospital denied negligence, at a hearing at the High Court in London the hospital's deep sadness and regret that Lekisha was born with such a severe disability was expressed and a letter of apology was sent to the family from the hospital's Chief Executive.

Media Information

Although Lekisha's parents were awarded compensation to fund some of the lifetime care that Lekisha now needs, some families are left facing the expenses of 24 hour care, home adaptations and physiotherapy with little or no support.

Carrie Brown, Lekisha's mother, said: "Organisations like the BTA do fantastic work because women who have suffered birth trauma of any kind can often feel incredibly isolated. Having another parent to talk to who has experienced similar emotions can be a real lifeline."

Irwin Mitchell supports clients throughout the region who have been affected by birth trauma, by ensuring they receive the necessary care, therapies and funding which are vital. The National Awareness Day plays an important role in this.

Cathie Delaney, an Associate Solicitor at Irwin Mitchell and a former midwife, said: "No amount of money can ever compensate for the tragic effects of birth trauma, but it is absolutely vital that sufferers are able to get the care they so desperately need.

"We need to continue to raise the awareness of the help that is out there for people who have been affected by birth trauma, whether directly or indirectly. There is help out there for everyone, but unless you know where to look it can be hard to find.

"Irwin Mitchell is proud to support this day because it can be life changing for many people. There are people out there who are suffering alone, and events like these can reach out to these people and provide them with the support they need."

Julie Orford, Chair of the Birth Trauma Association, said: "The aim of the day is to raise awareness of birth trauma and the work of our organisation, so that families

Media Information

know there is somewhere they can turn to for help and support during what can be a devastating time."

For more information on birth trauma visit www.birthtraumaassociation.org.uk/.

-ENDS-

Contact Details:

Dave Grimshaw
Account Manager
MK
Tel: 0114 275 6784
Mob: 07834 816 723
dave@mkthingshappen.co.uk

Ashlea McConnell
PR Officer
Irwin Mitchell
Tel: 0114 274 4363
Mob: 07918 726254
ashlea.mcconnell@irwinmitchell.com

Irwin Mitchell

Irwin Mitchell was established over 95 years ago and is one of the country's largest law firms – and the leading Personal Injury practice – in the UK. The firm, which was voted National Law Firm of the year at the 2007 Lawyer Magazine Awards, employs more than 2100 staff, with offices in Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Manchester, Newcastle, and Sheffield as well as the Spanish cities of Malaga and Madrid. For more information visit www.irwinmitchell.com