

# SUPPORTING FAMILIES

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# Agenda

- Introduction
- The solicitor's role in supporting families
- Case studies
- Nigel's story
- The role of BIRT
- The importance of finding the right solicitor

# The solicitor's role

- Why getting the right solicitor matters
  - The importance of early intervention
  - Early and on-going rehabilitation
  - Financial support and guidance
  - Advice on benefits and entitlements

# The solicitor's role

- Beyond the legals
  - Network of contacts
  - Medical teams
  - Ancillary services
  - Understanding timelines
  - Understanding of future requirements

# The solicitor's role

- Finding support
  - Help adapting to family life
  - Obtaining support workers
  - Liaising with social services
  - Securing occupational therapy
  - Identifying goals to aid recovery

# The solicitor's role

- A different approach
  - Not about following a 'set' of systems and procedures
  - Holistic approach
  - Face to face meetings
  - Support for the family as well as the client

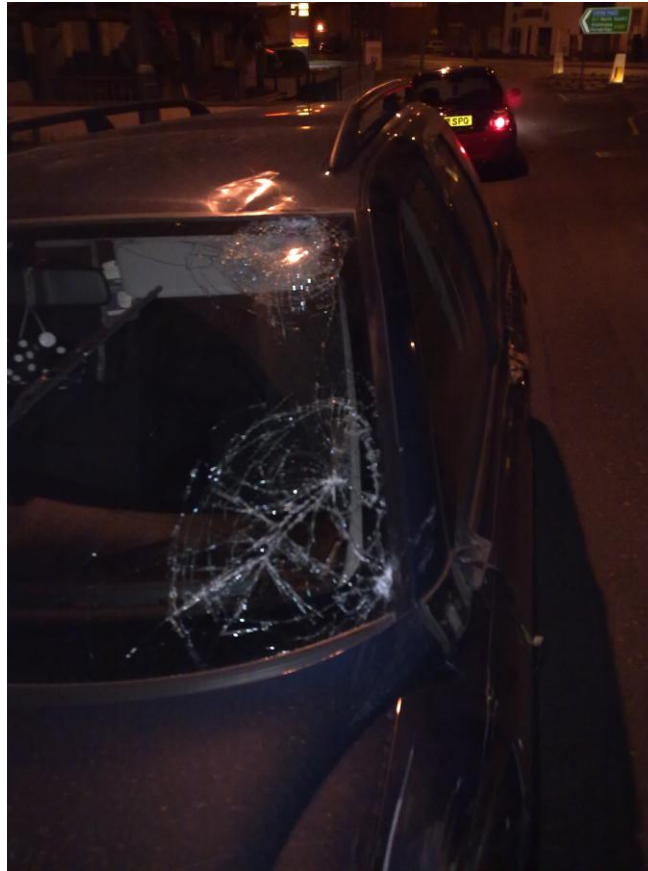
# Case Studies

# Case study 1

- Background
  - Former close protection officer
  - Serious motorcycle crash with a car
  - Client intubated
  - Glasgow coma score of 4
  - Severe closed traumatic brain injury
- Left hospital too early



# Case study 1



# Case study 1



# Case study 1

- On top of physical injuries the TBI caused:
  - Hyper-emotion
  - Confusion
  - Anger
- All impacting on family life

# Case study 1

- Coordinating support
  - Support given to the client's wife
  - Coordination of educational resources
  - Vestibular physio
  - Regular face to face meetings with client and family

# Case study 2

- Background
  - 20 year old client
  - Motorcycle accident v car
  - Motorcycle helmet disintegrated on impact
  - Coma for 9 days
  - Severe TBI
  - Hospital for 72 days
- Released from hospital but with little follow up

# Case study 2

- Co-ordinating support
  - Letter to GP prompted some action
  - Coordinated occupational therapy
  - Rehab assessment arranged
  - Speech therapist organised
  - Rehab integrated with NHS OT support

# Case study 2

- Coordinating support
  - Little or no support for the family initially
  - Care support arranged
  - Coordination of educational resources
  - Practical support
- Helping a family to continue to function in the long term

# Nigel's story



# Nigel's story

- Background
  - 49 year old male
  - May 2010
  - Motorcycle accident – head on impact
  - Coma 2 weeks
  - Severe brain injury
  - Released from hospital into community care

# Video

# Nigel's story

- How BIRT helped
  - Assessment and rehabilitation
  - Support network
  - Goals and enablement

# Summary

- A solicitor should be about more than just the legals
- They need to have the right network of contacts to coordinate family support
- They must understand the complex rehabilitation process
- It is VITAL to find a solicitor who specialises in brain injury

# Contact details

Please feel free to contact us to discuss any questions you may have.

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