

## **FINGER INJURIES\***

Finger injuries\* suffered in the work place are common. They can range from sprains, deep lacerations or cuts, crush type injuries\* and, in more serious cases, partial amputations and full amputations.

Finger injuries\* can range from mild to moderate to severe. They can be painful injuries\*. Permanent symptoms can include pain, tenderness, reduced dexterity, numbness, arthritis and a reduction in the function of the hand. In addition, depending on the type of finger injury\* suffered, a worker can be left with permanent disfigurement and cosmetic issues. In more severe cases, this can cause some psychological symptoms while adjusting to these permanent symptoms. These are symptoms that also need to be included in your case.

In more severe cases and depending on a worker's occupation, a finger injury\* can have an impact on a person's ability to earn a living. If your work involves working with your hands and this has been impacted by the finger injury\*, this cannot be ignored. An experienced personal injury\* solicitor will be able to advise you whether or not you can pursue a claim\* for loss of employment opportunity or future loss of earnings. Expert reports from a hand surgeon and a vocational assessor will assist with this aspect of your case.

Most finger injuries\* at work can be avoided. They very often arise as a result of some negligent or unsafe work practice at work such as a missing guard from a machine or a lack of training, hazard identification or risk assessment for the task involved. If your employer is disputing liability for your injury\*, it may be necessary to obtain an expert report from an engineer to deal with all of the health and safety issues.

If an employee has suffered a finger injury due to negligence on behalf of the employer or as a result of some unsafe or dangerous work practice, he/she may be able to bring a personal injuries case for compensation for the injury as well as any associated losses, such as the cost of medical treatment, medical expenses, loss of wages or loss of employment opportunity.

A solicitor can assist you with obtaining a medical report and submitting a case to the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB), keep you informed throughout the court process, if relevant, and advise you in relation to any PIAB assessment of the injury and losses or any

offer of settlement. A solicitor can also advise you in relation to whether there is a company sick pay policy to which you are entitled if you have been absent from work due to a finger injury. Employees will have two years from the date of the accident or the date of knowledge of the injury within which to bring a personal injury claim for a finger injury.

***\*Before acting or refraining from acting on anything in this guide, legal advice should be sought from a solicitor.***

***\*\*In contentious cases, a solicitor may not charge fees as a proportion or percentage of any award or settlement.***