

BARRISTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

UPDATED 15TH MAY 2023

1. About Avma

- 1.1 Avma, operating name of Action Against Medical Accidents, is an independent charity which promotes better patient safety and justice for people who have been affected by medical accidents.

2. The core aims of Avma's services are:

- 2.1 Supporting patients following an incident of avoidable harm in a healthcare setting.
- 2.2 Providing a medico-legal service to claimant lawyers practising clinical negligence law.
- 2.3 Organising medico-legal conferences and conferences designed for lawyers, clinicians, or NHS management.
- 2.4 Campaigning for improved patient safety, working with various stakeholders, both government and non-government organisations and agencies to secure changes and improvements to promote better patient safety and accountability.

3. Avma's Lawyers Service Code of Conduct: As a barrister member of Avma's Lawyer Service I agree:

- 3.1 To be sympathetic to Avma's aims and core objectives.
- 3.2 To always act to the best of my ability for the clients I represent.
- 3.3 To always act with integrity, honesty, and commitment to the case throughout the case.
- 3.4 To declare as soon as possible any potential conflict of interest that may exist in acting for the client.

- 3.5 To treat those I represent with dignity, respect and compassion while managing their expectations.
 - 3.6 To demonstrate an ongoing commitment to education and training in clinical negligence work to ensure my practice, advice and skills remain current and relevant.
- 4. Not to approach Avma's Lawyer's Service or utilise Avma's resources with a request for information or advice for the purposes of assisting a defendant or a proposed defendant in clinical negligence proceedings.
- 5. Barristers' membership of Avma's Lawyer Service does not confer any specialist status or knowledge of clinical negligence and should not be used in a way that suggests otherwise.
- 6. Nothing in this Code of Conduct is intended to preclude any barrister from representing a Defendant in a clinical negligence case and fulfilling his/her professional duty to that client.
- 7. Being a barrister member of Avma's Lawyer Service, implies that I have read this code of conduct and agree to be bound by it.