



Occupational Therapy Expert Witnesses

At Bush & Co we celebrate the core aims of Occupational Therapy (OT) which are to take a 'whole-person approach' to both mental and physical health and wellbeing to enable individuals to achieve their maximum potential.

In dealing with people who have sustained catastrophic injury as a result of personal injury or clinical negligence Bush & Co understand that expert OT's are well placed in civil litigation to provide a holistic assessment and provide an opinion on an individual's care needs.

Bush & Co's OT experts are sometimes instructed to undertake liability reports; however, more frequently, they are required to write quantum reports which evaluate the quantification of damages sustained when a person has experienced negligence as a result of another person or entity.

Our occupational therapy expert reports focus on the functional difficulties faced by a claimant as a result of their injury; setting out what they require in order to optimise their independence, social integration and ability to undertake all of their activities of daily living.

Recommendations regarding appropriate wheelchairs/seating and suitable vehicles including any adaptations necessary to manage their injury are provided within our occupational therapy reports, alongside up to date market costs and sources.

Bush & Co's OT experts recognise that they may be required to give evidence in court and they are trained to ensure that their opinions are clinically robust.

Our associates

Our breadth of occupational therapy expertise enables us to provide occupational therapy expert reports for the following conditions:

- Amputation
- Birth injuries
- Brain injuries
- Burns
- Cauda Equina
- Developmental delay
- Hand and upper limb injuries
- Meningitis
- Orthopaedic trauma
- Peripheral nerve injury
- Sensory disorders
- Spinal injuries
- Work-related injuries

Get in touch

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Rebecca Stark | Occupational Therapist

Rebecca is an advanced specialist neuro-occupational therapist. She is experienced in providing occupational therapy to patients with a broad range of conditions and since for a number of years has specialised in the therapeutic management of patients who have suffered a stroke and those with acute neurological conditions. Since 2017, she has worked in a Team Lead role for the Acute Stroke service at University Hospital Southampton and manages a large therapy team, working under pressure to deliver a high quality service to patients admitted with an acute stroke. Within this role, she completes specialist integrated neurological assessments and carries out holistic goal setting, therapy interventions and discharge planning for patients with complex presentations. Her role as a specialist neurological occupational therapist also involves the assessment for specialist seating and postural management systems. She is additionally able to provide fatigue management and return to work programmes.

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Jacqui Thorogood | Occupational Therapist

Jacqui is most experienced in working with adults with complex needs and multiple conditions, including learning disability, mental ill health, trauma, neurodegenerative, amputee, orthopaedic, spinal cord, respiratory and chronic pain conditions. She works closely with multi-disciplinary rehabilitation teams including nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, and mental health colleagues to assess and support clients. Part of her role has involved reviewing and commissioning care packages, the provision of equipment, recommending adaptations to the home environment and liaising across different agencies. Because of her clinical experience and therapy skillset, Jacqui was given the opportunity to lead a pilot across the Trust to develop integrated working across health and social care. The interventions which were put in place were evidence based and regularly audited to maintain quality of service.

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Emma Skuse | Occupational Therapist

Emma is a highly specialist occupational therapist with over 18 years' experience and has worked across numerous departments, clinical specialties and settings throughout her career. She provides assessment and therapeutic intervention for both adults and children presenting with all manner of orthopaedic, neurological and functional upper limb disorders and has a special interest in complex orthopaedic and plastic trauma conditions of the upper limb. Emma has also worked with patients with neurological conditions, including children with cerebral palsy who present with complex limb problems and provides intensive therapy to patients who have undergone Botox injections to manage their limb spasticity. She has previously completed training in the ordering of x-rays for assessment where this is required to understand and support the necessary therapy input required.

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Stephanie Doar | Occupational Therapist

Stephanie is a highly experienced paediatric occupational therapist with over 12 years' experience working in senior occupational therapy roles within local authority settings. She is specialist in assessment of and interventions for the most complex children and young people and has experience of working with children and young people following disability and injury including Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Congenital Abnormalities, ASD, learning difficulties and Acquired Brain Injury. She is also experienced in working with looked after children and has n-depth knowledge of paediatric equipment, working within the home where care teams are in place, moving and handling and complex structural adaptations, including the overseeing the design of several purpose built, adapted properties and short breaks facilities. Through CPD and clinical roles, Stephanie is also knowledgeable in the Chailey Approach to Postural Management.

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