

Sources of help for those contesting convictions for rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse and similar crimes, including institutional and historic sexual abuse convictions

Claims of wrongful conviction of innocent individuals for these crimes are some of the commonest being brought to the attention of INNOCENT at present.

Frequently the prosecution case consists of no more than the uncorroborated evidence of the victim. In any such case, since a jury has heard the evidence of the victim and chosen to believe it over any evidence presented by the defence, it is very difficult to challenge the resulting conviction. It is a frustrating situation not just for those convicted and their supporters, but also for those who wish to help. Fortunately there are a few lawyers and organisations prepared to work in this very difficult area.

Solicitors with experience of successful appeals in cases involving allegations of sexual abuse, etc.

INNOCENT cannot recommend particular solicitors, but we can say that the following solicitors appear to be committed to helping those who have been wrongly convicted and have taken cases of this type to appeal in which the appeal has succeeded.

Jordans LLP, Doncaster, <http://jordanscrime.co.uk/index.html>
lead solicitor **Mark Newby** <http://www.qualitysolicitors.com/jordans-mark-newby.html>

4 Priory Place
Doncaster
DN1 1BP
Telephone 01302 365374

Chris Saltrese Solicitors
13 Scarisbrick New Road
Southport
Merseyside PR8 6PU
Telephone 01704 535512
<http://www.chrissaltrese.co.uk/index.html>

In cases of convictions for rape in which the victim was attacked by a stranger, the issue involved is usually identification (eye witness, DNA, fibre etc.). These are issues more familiar to defence lawyers, and any solicitor prepared to assist with appeals from the crown court and CCRC applications ought to be competent to deal with such cases.

Specialist support organisations

Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers (FACT)

<http://www.factuk.org>

Help line 02920 777 499

PO Box 3074

Cardiff, CF3 3WZ

FACT is a well established organisation which campaigns on behalf of carers and teachers (and their families) who are victims of false allegations of abuse.

People Appealing Convictions for Sexual Offences (PACSO)

For anyone who has been falsely accused or been subjected to an unwarranted investigation, PACSO can provide advice pre-trial, on appeals and CCRC applications, and refer cases to specialist solicitors.

<http://www.pacso.co.uk/index-1.html>

email:support@pacso.co.uk

False Allegations Support Organisation (FASO)

PO Box 4

Crosskeys

Newport NP11 7YA

National Help Line 0844 335 1992 (Monday to Friday, 6pm to 10pm)

email support@false-allegations.org.uk

<http://www.false-allegations.org.uk/index.html>

FASO is a voluntary organisation dedicated to supporting anyone affected by a false allegation of abuse.

People Against False Accusations of Abuse / Support Organisation for Falsely Accused People (PAFAA and SOFAP)

<http://www.pafaa.org.uk/>

Contact – use contact page on their website

Aims to offer help and support to anyone who has been falsely accused of abuse of a sexual nature.

Supporting All Falsely Accused with Reference Information (SAFARI)

"We provide information ... of use to those who are in a position to make necessary changes in our investigative and judicial systems, those who have been affected by false accusations, including the family & friends of victims, and those who have suffered from being pressurised into making false accusations."

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~safari/>

Contact – use contact page on their website