



**Re: *Should you be fined if you don't clear the snow off the path outside your house?*
(Daily Mail – 8 February 2012)**

It is a real shame that a lack of understanding about the difference between a simple accident and negligence can stop people from shovelling some snow.

Every winter this hysteria starts to develop as soon as the snow begins to settle. This is what happens when myths about a 'compensation culture' are allowed to circulate. You cannot be sued unless negligence is proven, and you cannot be sued for an accident which could not have been foreseen.

As with all things, care and common sense needs to be applied when clearing snow and ice. There's no point in being a Good Samaritan if you make a bad situation worse, and to achieve that in these icy conditions you would have to be very reckless, as well as foolish.

The bottom line is if residents want to do their bit and clear snow and ice then they should go ahead.

Deborah Evans

Chief executive

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)