

**16 November 2011**

**Campaign group backs South Normanton carer in fight against justice proposals**

A national campaign group has backed a South Normanton carer who has petitioned the Justice Secretary not to cut legal aid for victims of medical blunders.

Michelle Towle, 34, who cares for her disabled brother-in-law Aaron Tring, accused Ken Clarke of turning people like Aaron into “second class citizens”.

“I urge you to reconsider your plans to remove this vital access to justice for those people like Aaron,” Michelle wrote in a letter to Mr Clarke.

“Aaron’s case is not one in isolation. There are many people out there who have suffered the same or similar injustice and these are the very people who need support from the Government.”

Aaron, 26, developed cerebral palsy after he was starved of oxygen at birth. The Queen’s Medical Centre in Nottingham acknowledged the errors that occurred when he was born.

At the High Court in London in June this year, a judge approved a multi-million pound compensation settlement for Aaron’s case to ensure his complex needs will be met for the rest of his life.

APIL president David Bott said: “Cutting legal aid for victims of medical blunders, at the same time as restricting the ‘no-win, no-fee’ system, is a savage blow for people like Aaron.



“Michelle is right to take this issue straight to the Justice Secretary, as vulnerable people seem to have been ignored in these ill-thought through proposals.

“I have real concern that these reforms, if implemented, will deny access to justice for some victims whose cases are complicated. The proposals are unfair, unjust, unwarranted and must be reconsidered.”

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Notes for editors:

- For more information, please contact the APIL press office on 0115 943 5409 or 0115 943 5416.
- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) is a not-for-profit organisation, whose members are dedicated to campaigning for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.
- Further information can be found at [www.apil.org.uk](http://www.apil.org.uk).

### **Aaron's story**

Aaron Tring, 26, from Bilborough in Nottingham, was starved of oxygen at birth in March 1985. As a result he suffers from cerebral palsy and is severely disabled. Aaron's parents say they were always assured that nothing could have been done to prevent his severe disability.



However, following investigations by his legal team, medical experts agreed that there were delays when he was born and that if he had been born a few minutes earlier his brain damage would have been prevented.

The complications of Aaron's case arose because initial expert reports were conflicting and the cost of funding further reports and investigations, to confirm that Aaron's case was meritorious, was too much for Aaron's legal team to take on under a 'no-win, no-fee' agreement.

Legal aid was the only option if Aaron's case were to be brought, says his solicitor Malcolm Goff, a member of APIL and a partner at Barratts solicitors in Nottingham. Under the Government's proposed reforms to restrict 'no-win, no-fee' and cut to legal aid for clinical negligence cases, Mr Goff says Aaron would have been denied access to justice.