

AP76

September 1999

LAWYERS SUPPORT HAIR CAMPAIGN

A campaign to protect the public from rogue hairdressers who operate with no qualifications or training has been supported by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

Brenda Howe, the driving force behind the Brenda Howe Foundation, began to investigate injuries caused by hairdressers after suffering an horrific accident which left her permanently bald and scarred. Her call for a law to make it compulsory for all qualified hairdressers to register with the Hairdressing Council has now been backed by APIL.

“Compulsory registration will encourage people to use only properly-qualified stylists,” said Brenda. “The public will also be able to report to the Hairdressing Council on those occasions when a qualified hairdresser does cause an injury.”

Frances McCarthy, vice president of APIL said: “People don’t realise the trauma a hairdressing accident can cause. If styling chemicals fall into the hands of someone who isn’t properly trained the results can be horrific.

“Burns, permanent hair loss, scarring and disfigurement can be extremely painful and soul-destroying. At the moment, anyone can pick up a pair of scissors and a bottle of chemicals and call themselves a hairdresser - a compulsory register is the best way to offer people some protection”

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Brenda also has the support of many MPs and her campaign has been welcomed by other victims of hairdressing accidents who have suffered similar traumas. She is currently touring

hairdressing colleges in an attempt to raise awareness of the issue and gain support for her campaign.

In the meantime, until legislation is passed, people are advised to be cautious about which hairdresser they use. “Don’t be afraid to ask questions,” said Frances McCarthy. “Any hairdresser who has qualifications and experience should be more than happy to tell you so and answer any questions you may have.”

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