

PRESS RELEASE

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E3,000,000 Compensation for Valproate Victims

Sanofi, the French pharmaceutical giant, has been ordered by a regional court in France to pay compensation to one family of 3 million Euros. In the UK Victims and survivors of fetal valproate syndrome have been struggling to gain recognition for the damage caused to thousands of victims after their case had Legal Aid withdrawn before ever reaching court.

REGULATOR

The drug was licensed here in the UK for use since 1974 however UK Government regulators withdrew warnings from patient information leaflets stating that warnings about the drug's use in pregnancy would cause "**fruitless anxiety**". Although regulators are under scrutiny, it is the product itself which has caused the damage and valproate has been described by the Judge as *«a product which does not offer the safety that one would reasonably expect»**.

OTHER FAULTY MEDICINES AND PRODUCTS

In the hormone pregnancy test (**Primodos**) scandal, only two weeks ago, MPs were locked out of a press conference held by the UK Medicines agency (MHRA) - a government appointed agency. Their report was conflicted and dismissed by MPs as a **whitewash**. A Panorama programme on **mesh** products will be aired this evening on the BBC. It shows a similar pattern of failure to regulate effectively. Sharon Hodgson MP and Mims Davies MP are among many **MPs** who are shocked by what's happening and see this familiar pattern particularly affecting **women**.

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

Susan Cole, whose family has been adversely affected by the drug states *“This medicine has a profound effect on families. They lost their jobs, their homes, they have their own disability and now have to care for sometimes several children with disabilities. Many of these children are now adults and families have been made to feel that it was their own fault. All the professional*

organisations involved blame each other - the regulators, the psychiatrists, the GPs and the pharmaceuticals - the blame game has gone on long enough”.

BIG PHARMA

Sanofi has Revenues of nearly **Euro 34 Billion** and Assets and Equities worth **Euro 160 Billion**.

The fees such a large firm would have to pay if they were to compensate the victims and their families are a comparatively small despite the big numbers.

GOVERNMENT

The consequences of these failures are devastating. Charities and campaigners have been left frustrated by their plight, running on small **donations** whilst trying to keep their families well and in some cases, alive. A meeting to discuss their needs and **demands** was due to be held with the Department of Health last week but was cancelled at short notice and is reconvened for 24th January.

BREXIT

Today, Theresa May announced that the UK will be removing itself from the **European Court of Justice**. This change may hinder the last chance victims may have of achieving justice however she did also state that “it’s not agreed until it’s all agreed”.

FRANCE

Charles Joseph-Oudin, lawyer representing the families in France stated today: *“This is a crucial step, Sanofi must move out of its strategy of **denying responsibility**. They cannot continue to refuse to participate in compensation claims, both in civil proceedings but also in the mutual agreement procedure set up before the National Office for Compensation of Medical Accidents”*

- Ends -

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<https://www.oacscharity.org/>

References: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanofi> <https://apesac.org/>

<https://www.oacscharity.org/> *Liberation



Protest outside MHRA by Oacs Charity and campaigners in 2013