

Impact on work Example 8: Full-time brick layer employed in family company

1. Does your joint limit the time you spend doing your work or your ability to do your usual work?
NOTES: I've not been able to do, shall we say I can't put 100% in at work, and I always try to. I'm dedicated at work, and because I can't do it it is so frustrating. My work is very physical so my hip really hampers me. I usually muck in with the other lads but I'm not able to do the lifting and carrying bits.
2. Does your joint make it difficult for you to get around your place of work?
NOTES: My work is very physical and involves walking around rough ground and building sites. This is very difficult for me now.
3. Does your joint make it difficult to do specific tasks or activities in your place of work?
NOTES I act as the charge hand so now do more supervision of other peoples' work rather than doing it myself. I prefer to be more hands-on but can't physically do the lifting and carrying required to do the job.
4. Does your joint affect the way you feel at work?
NOTES: I am now doing more management type work which I don't like. I don't feel like one of the lads which is making me frustrated and down.
5. Does the treatment you are receiving for your joint e.g. painkillers, physiotherapy, affect your ability to work?
NOTES: I try not to take painkillers so I wouldn't say so. I'm used to pain as I've had lots of sporting injuries over the years.
6. Does your joint make it difficult for you to concentrate and make decisions at work?
NOTES: I am employed as a builder within a family business so I don't have to make decisions if I'm not feeling up to it. The pain can be intense and if it is I'll call my brother in who owns the company. He will oversee any decisions made.
7. Are there any 'essential' tasks that you need to be able to do in your place of work that you cannot do because of your joint?
NOTES: Too many things to mention! I can't do any climbing, lifting or carrying just now. I have taken on all of the least physical activities. If I wasn't employed by family I think my position would be very different. Most employers would be frustrated with me.
8. Are there any tasks that you feel are unsafe because of your joint?
NOTES: Climbing ladders or scaffolding, carrying bricks, lifting bags of cement - just about all of my usual tasks. I just have to struggle on.