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If you would like more information about the Independent Fetal Anti-Convulsant Trusts work please get in touch.

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Co-Founders

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Independent
Fetal Anti-Convulsant
Trust



IN-FACT

The Condition

Fetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (FACS) is diagnosed by a medical specialist when the child of a mother who has needed to take anticonvulsant drugs during pregnancy has a combination of specific physical malformations, characteristic facial features and/or neurodevelopment or cognitive difficulties, and no other cause can be found for these problems.

FACS is thought to arise because some anti-convulsants taken to treat Epilepsy and other conditions, pass through the placenta and into the developing fetus.

Research shows that different medications carry different risks and even when higher risk medications are taken not every exposed child is affected.

Anticonvulsant medication should never be stopped without medical advice.

IN-FACT Objectives:

- IN-FACT has been set up for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to all persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact of their mother taking an Anti-Convulsant drug during pregnancy to treat her condition.
- To support by means of payments to the beneficiaries to help with the cost of care, welfare, treatment and/or education supporting them with their injuries.
- With intentions to pay sums of money to help and support submitted through Government and/or Pharmaceutical Company donations.
- To become actively involved in campaigning for Government redress.

These Beneficiaries must be persons born within the United Kingdom.

The Trust's Work

The Trusts work entails providing long term support for those affected by Anti-Convulsant medications during pregnancy, and working with a wide range of professionals and organisations in raising awareness of Fetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (FACS) within Government and Health Agencies.

Both the Co-Founders have children affected by Fetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome. Both founder members shared their voluntary careers with this subject working voluntarily for the Organisation for Anti-Convulsant Syndrome. Janet Williams being the Founder of OACS and working for a total of 16 years with this topic, while Emma Murphy being their vice secretary and fundraiser for 3 years.