

Statement in connection with closure of Joanna North Associates and advice if you have been affected.

I formerly owned and ran the company Joanna North Associates Ltd for the purpose of Adoption Intermediary Searches for adults affected by adoption. I spent 5 years engaged in this work under an Ofsted Registration of Outstanding. (Ofsted registration SC067674). I left the company and my role as Manager, resigning my Directorship in February 2022 as I was concerned about some of the procedures carried out by the Responsible Person which clashed with my deeply held values that people should be put before profit and that working relationships should be transparent and moral. I particularly held the view that Responsible Individuals are accountable for their actions. Ryan Shaw remained as Director and Major shareholder.

Following my resignation I made strenuous efforts to create a reasonable dialogue and fair outcome. I felt it was not right that Ryan Shaw appeared to usurp my professional name and continued to work under my banner as if he were Joanna North., making considerable profit out of my reputation. He also did not pay me as had been agreed for the shares in my company that he took over and I am now in legal proceedings with him over this.

At the time, I reported my concerns about his trading to Ofsted and the Information Commissioner who took up my complaints. I also made statements to Companies House and the Inland Revenue. Alison Schofield took over as Manager in July 2022 and has run the company with Ryan Shaw as Responsible Person since that time. I note that in 2023 the company was inspected by Ofsted as a result of my concerns and downgraded to 'good' having spent thirteen years rated as an Outstanding organisation (as evidenced by inspection reports).

Ryan Shaw currently appears to be in the process of closing Joanna North Associates Ofsted registered Adoption Support Agency. I am aware that existing clients have been told the company will close by 20th December 2024. He is however continuing to use the Joanna North Associates Ofsted registration certificate to apply to his company Relative Connections, saying that they are undertaking Ofsted registered Adoption Intermediary work. As far as I know Relative Connections are not registered with Ofsted. See the page for Relative Connections Adoption here:

<https://relativeconnections.co.uk/adoption/>

You will see if you scroll down the page that there is a link to Ofsted that leads through to the Joanna North registration certificate. If you click on the word Ofsted below you will see it leads to a JNA report yet this is advertising on the Relative Connections website now highlighted below.

This is service is regulated by **Ofsted**.

I think it is important to explore the actual legalities of this behaviour and I will be doing this on behalf of Joanna North Associates clients. I have informed Ofsted of this and my concerns about how it may affect the public in terms of being misleading and also in terms of exploitation. If Ofsted find that their practice is acceptable I will remove my concerns from this website and inform accordingly.

Now that the organisation has closed suddenly I have been contacted by some of their clients who have paid for a service and not had their work completed. I have evidence of their e mails and concerns to me in which they are worried that they may have been scammed and will not be treated fairly. If this applies to you I would advise as follows:

Action you can take:

Write to the registered provider of Joanna North Associates, Ryan Shaw and registered Manager Alison Schofield and ask them to fulfil their duty of care to you by completing your case or ask them to pass your file to another provider. If you contact them they should allay your concerns.

You can e mail the Responsible Person Ryan Shaw on ryan@joannanorth.co.uk (according to the Ofsted report).

Alternatively call Alison Schofield who is the registered manager and ask her to exercise her duty of care as a registered manager and send the documents to another agency for completion. As Alison is now involved with Relative Connections you can call her there on: 0113 436 0431

Providers I would recommend would be as follows because they are rated as Outstanding by Ofsted and I am aware of the quality of their work.

PAC-UK

T: 0300 1800 085

E: advice@pac-uk.org

And

Father Hudsons Care. The manager there is Siobhan Clemons.

SiobhanClemons@fatherhudsons.org.uk

Further to this you could complain to Ofsted if the matter does not reach a satisfactory conclusion. Their Ofsted Inspectors are:

Evelyn Chafota Social Care Inspector and Tina Ruffles Regulatory Inspection Manager

Title your e mail to them as COMPLAINT and make sure the inspectors names are on there. The e mail to use is enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Usually in order to complain to Ofsted you have to contact the provider first and ask them to settle the matter.

Finally I would say that it is most regrettable that this has been the outcome of my dedication to Joanna North Associates and I am especially disappointed if this has affected you. I am attempting to ensure that the right procedures now take place and that any illegal actions or misrepresentations can no longer affect the public. If all of my concerns are allayed I will look forward to removing this statement. At present this is a matter of public interest.

If you would like to e mail me do contact me on joanna@joannanorth.co.uk