



*Trading as Phillippa Yaa de Villiers
DeScribe*

20 September 2007

To Whom it May Concern

I have known Jason Armstrong since 1993. When his first-born son Jared was a baby and a small child, I used to help out with babysitting. We became friends and when his relationship with Jared's mother ended, he lived with my husband and I as a tenant in our house for two years. He is the godfather of our son who was born in 1999. We have also had a professional relationship, creating theatre together, for a further two years. We have continued to be friends till the present day.

Jason is a man of integrity and I have always been impressed by the care and dedication that he has shown towards his children. When his relationship with Jared's mother ended, Jason made sure that he had daily contact with his son, and structured his working life around having time to spend with him. And again, although his relationship with Maria Svane has ended, Jason has, at a considerable expense and sacrifice of his career in South Africa, and his friends, family and support network here, moved to Copenhagen to be near his daughters and to be part of their lives.

Before his daughters were born, Jason moved to Denmark to be with Maria Svane. During this time he continued to maintain his relationship with his son Jared, who spent time in Denmark with his father's new partner without fear of being taken away from his mother. I find it extremely malicious for anyone to suggest that Jason would try to take Tatjana away from her mother. That is a negation of Jason's values and principles, which have always been to prioritize the needs of children to see both parents. He shares a close emotional bond with all his children and they would suffer a great sense of abandonment if he continues to be prevented from seeing them on a frequent and regular basis.

When Maria returned to South Africa with baby Tatjana, she found it very difficult at first. She had a sense of isolation that many mothers have, and she experienced frustration and lack of sleep. Jason was very supportive and took care of Tatjana on many occasions, giving Maria time and space to establish herself and her work and support network. In addition, he continued to build the bond between his children from his first and second marriages. Tatjana adores Jared: on family picnics and celebrations, Jared would take care of Tatjana and play with her, despite the difference in age. He is proud of his little sister and very fond of her.

In conversations with Maria before she returned to Denmark, since 2005, she often stated that she was unhappy with Jason and that she wished to divorce him. They tried to go to counseling but she was very unhappy and so they agreed to divorce. Jason's response has always been to ensure that the children have a chance to be together, and for himself to have frequent and regular contact with them.

When Jason chose to move to Denmark to support Maria as a co-parent, and because of his attachment to his daughters, I was not surprised. It is exactly what he has always strived for – to spend a lot of time with his children so that they can have a strong emotional bond. To this end Jared has already been to visit Jason and the girls in Copenhagen (August 2007). Jason will have created a safe, appropriate home in which he can take care of his daughters' needs.

I have written this statement because I firmly believe that Jason has a very positive influence on children (which is why we asked him to be our son's godfather). I am concerned that the breakdown in the relationship between the parents may have a negative impact on the children's chance to see their father. Everything I have written here is true. Space does not permit me to relate the many more examples of how Jason has proved himself as an exemplary father. I sincerely hope that the courts of Denmark will permit him the access that he has sacrificed so much to create, and allow Tatjana and Sophia to continue to benefit from his loving presence.