

My friend is planning to get a new false passport

Q *My friend has a pink papered Westphalian who is 18, but she intends to 'lose' the Society passport and apply for a new standard one, with a younger (and false) age for the horse - and then sell him on. What should I do?*



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serious injury cases. Visit www.horsesolicitor.com

If your friend obtains a passport that contains false information and knowingly sells the horse on, a buyer would have a valid claim for fraudulent misrepresentation.

A buyer is likely to ask your friend the

horse's true age and this will be verified by the passport. Given that a seller is not allowed to tell lies, the buyer's case would be made on the enquires he made and the false assurance your friend intends to give in relation to the horse's age. If it can be established that your friend has fraudulently misrepresented the true position the buyer is not likely to have any difficulty in establishing that he relied on her representations in the sense that he would not have bought the horse, had the true picture been given.

Your friend could be liable for reimbursing the buyer for the horse



Passports should verify the true age of a horse

and any associated costs. The legal costs alone can quickly escalate particularly if it got as far as a civil trial. The buyer would be entitled to instruct a solicitor on a no-win no-fee basis who would pursue your friend for the compensation owed in addition to the legal fees.

Aside from a potential civil action, providing false information to a passport-issuing authority is an offence and could result in a fine or a conviction.

Making your friend aware of the potential consequences of her actions may be the best way forward. If this fails you could attempt to warn potential buyers or report her.