

Anne's story

“He took my money then my daughter's life”

In 2004, Anne bought a house that needed a new central heating system and gas fire. She knew she needed a gas fitter who was registered, and thought the person she found was qualified to do the job.



When Anne returned from work on Good Friday the following year, she knew something was wrong as soon as she entered the house. She called for her 14 year old daughter and rushed upstairs to find her lying on the floor. She had no pulse and there were bubbles around her mouth caused as she had struggled to breathe.

“I wiped the bubbles from her mouth with my shirt, and held her to me. My child was dead.”

The emergency services came and realised immediately that it was carbon monoxide poisoning. Anne ultimately discovered, although the person who fitted the gas fire was registered, he was working illegally because he was not qualified or registered to carry out work on gas fires. He was prosecuted and received a two-year sentence for manslaughter. That finished on her birthday.

“He took my daughter's life, and he took my life away. My message to anyone who wants gas work done in their home is never use an illegal gas fitter and always check the fitter's card to make sure they are Gas Safe registered and qualified to do all the work you need doing. And I would urge everyone to fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm. If something does go wrong it can save your life.”

This is a true story illustrated by actors.

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