Sample Character Reference Letter for Court

LetterToJudge · Free sample

EXAMPLE ONLY. *The names, places, and details below are fictional. Do not copy this letter. Judges notice form letters. Use it to see the structure, then write in your own words about your own experience.*

November 9, 2026

Dear Judge Whitfield,

My name is Linda Carter. I live in Greenville, South Carolina, and I have worked as a pharmacy technician for 14 years. I am writing about my nephew, Marcus Bell, whom I have known his whole life. I helped raise him from age 10 to 17, and I still see him every week.

I know Marcus has pleaded guilty to shoplifting and possession charges. I am not writing to excuse what he did. When he called me after his arrest, the first thing he said was, “I did this, and I’m not going to blame anybody.”

The Marcus I know is the young man who, at 16, got up before school to help me care for my mother after her stroke, without being asked. He has worked at the same tire shop for three years, and his manager trusts him to open the store.

What gives me the most hope is what he has done since his arrest. He started meeting with a counselor every Tuesday in April and has not missed a session. He completed a structured 21-day change program and kept a daily log of his progress, which he showed me each Sunday. He has paid back the store in full. He has stopped spending time with the friends he was with that night, and he now drives his younger sister to school each morning.

I will continue to support him. He can stay with me if needed, and I will drive him to any appointment the court requires.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Respectfully,
(signature)

Linda Carter
(864) 555-0100 · linda.carter@example.com

Before you write, talk to the defense attorney about whether letters are wanted, who to address them to, and how to deliver them. This sample is for information only and is not legal advice. No outcome is promised.