

Character Reference Name/address

12th November 2015

Dear Sirs

I have been asked by [defendant's name] to provide a character reference in relation to a criminal conviction. I write this with full awareness of the gravity of the charge. I am willing to add any further information should it be required.

[Defendant's name] is someone I have known for approximately 15 years, when he was a member of our youth group at Bridgestone Church (for which at the time I was his Youth Pastor). In that time, I have always found him to be a person with enormous potential for good; but with a crucial weakness of being easily led when in the face of negative influences. It is these influences which I believe have proved his downfall in this situation.

The reality is, that since the incident has taken place, [defendant's name] has acknowledged this weakness and subsequently made a number of decisions in order to change his circumstances and to provide a more healthy environment for himself, his wife and his son. If he had not made these decisions, I do not believe I would have been able to write this statement endorsing him.

The first decision [defendant's name] has made is in the context of his employment situation, whereby he is no longer works in the automobile industry; this has come at some personal expense for [defendant's name], who has found significant success, enjoyment and pride in the industry. In acknowledging that much of the incident which occurred came from a 'false arrogance' fueled by an environment where drinking and driving are considered the 'norm', he has found employment elsewhere (telecoms). It should be noted that he deliberately chose this role ahead of one working for a sports car race track, to ensure that as much was done to ensure that an incident similar for which he is being charged for does not happen again.

He has moved himself and his family out from St Newton, where they were isolated away from family and friends to a house in Oxford, where he and his wife have a stronger (and I would consider very positive) support network. This again was an important step for [defendant's name]. He has a strong circle of friends (many in the church) who act as positive role models and will support him practically and personally. He has intentionally relied upon these friendships and influences to ensure that he is supported well and in a manner which I (and he) believe have his and his family's best interest at heart.

Finally, since August, he has been coming regularly back to church, which I believe has been helpful. He was an integral part of our church family for many years. When [defendant's name] is in an environment of a positive nature he is a credit to himself and to others. In the past he has worked tirelessly with young people from the local estate, determined to make a difference in ensuring that they have a place where they receive care and value. He has made a tangible difference in many of these young people's lives - and he has also been a good influence on many around him. [Defendant's name] is determined to align himself with these positive influences once again.

I would like to finish by saying that there is not one part of this charge that I condone or accept as anyone's failing other than [defendant's name]; however he is without doubt a

Example Character Reference

good man, with a good heart. Without sounding hyperbolic, he doesn't realise the personal qualities that he truly possesses, which if he continues to show the repentance he has and persevere with the tough decisions he has started to make, I have no doubt that he will truly be an inspiration to many others around him and a credit to the society for which we serve. My prayer is that the court will see this potential for good and give it the best chance to flourish not only for his family, but for indeed for himself.

Mr. J. Bloggs
(Church Pastor for Bridgestone Church)