A character letter for court for a family member is a letter written by a relative who can provide testimony about the defendant's character and personal qualities. These letters may be submitted as part of the family member's defense and may be used as evidence in court. The letter may be particularly useful if the family member has a limited criminal history or has demonstrated positive character traits or actions that are relevant to the case.

### Why Write a Character Letter for a Family Member?

The goal of a character letter for court is to provide evidence of the family member's good character and to persuade the court to show leniency in its decision. The letter is intended to provide context and insight into the family member's personality and behavior, and to give the court a more complete picture of who they are as a person. By highlighting the family member's positive qualities and any relevant experiences that demonstrate their good character, the writer hopes to persuade the court to be more lenient in its sentencing decision.

#### What Should Be Included?

To write a character letter for court for a family member, it is important to include:

- An introduction that explains the author's relationship to the family member.
- A statement of the purpose of the letter, which is to provide character testimony on behalf of the family member.
- The author's personal observations of the family

member's character and any positive qualities they have observed.

- A description of any relevant experiences the author has had with the family member that demonstrate good character.
- A summary of the author's thoughts on the family member's character and a request for leniency in the court's decision.
- An offer to make yourself available for any followup questions.

### When Should It Be Written?

A character letter for court for a family member should be written and submitted as part of the family member's defense. This usually occurs when the family member is facing charges and is seeking a reduced sentence or other favorable outcome from the court. It is typically submitted to the judge or other decision-making authority in the case.

# Sample Character Letter For Court From a Family Member

[Your Name]
[Your Street Address]
[City, State Zip]
[Your Phone Number]

[Date]

[Judge/Court Clerk]
[Court Name]
[Court's Street Address]
[Court's City, State Zip]

Dear [Judge/Court Clerk],

I am writing to you today to share my thoughts about [Name], whom I have known for [Number] years as a [Relationship to You]. [Name] has always been an important part of my life and I have had the privilege of watching them grow and develop into the kind, compassionate, and trustworthy individual they are today.

In my experience, [Name] has always been there for me and my family, offering support and love whenever it was needed. They have a big heart and are always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. [Name] is also incredibly honest and dependable - I have always been able to count on them to keep their word and follow through on their commitments.

I have also seen [Name] face and overcome many challenges and setbacks in life. They approach these challenges with resilience and determination, and always seem to come out on top. [Name] is a true inspiration to me and I have no doubt that they will continue to achieve great things in the future.

I hope this letter helps to shed some light on the character of [Name] and the positive impact they have had on my life. I believe that they have the potential to do great things and make a positive difference in the world, and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

## Sample Character Letter For Court From a Family Member (Flexible Version)

[Your Name]
[Your Street Address]
[City, State Zip]
[Your Phone Number]

#### [Date]

[Judge/Court Clerk]
[Court Name]
[Court's Street Address]
[Court's City, State Zip]

Dear [Judge/Court Clerk],

I am writing to you today to provide a character reference for my [Relationship to the Individual], [Name]. I have known [Name] for [Number] years, and in that time, I have come to know them as a [Positive Character Trait 1], [Positive Character Trait 2], and [Positive Character Trait 3] individual.

Some specific examples of [Name]'s character include:

[Instance 1]: [Name] demonstrated their [Positive Character Trait 1] by [Action 1].

[Instance 2]: [Name] showed their [Positive Character Trait 2] by [Action 2].

[Instance 3]: [Name] exhibited their [Positive Character Trait 3] by [Action 3].

One of [Name]'s goals is to [Goal 1], [Goal 2], and [Goal 3]. I have no doubt that they will achieve this through their hard work and dedication.

[Name] is also deeply involved in [Community Service] and has always been a leader among their peers. Their kindness and compassion are evident in the way that they interact with others, and I have no doubt that they will continue to be a positive influence on those around them.

I hope that this letter helps to provide some insight into the character of [Name] and that it will be taken into consideration by the court.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]