



Character References

How they can help if you are going to Court

Written references about your good character can help your case in Court.

It is a good idea to obtain one or more references from people who are “of good reputation”. This means they don’t have a criminal record or a bad reputation. These people may be neighbours, family friends, workmates, members of clubs or organisations you belong to (e.g. community, sporting, religious, political or other groups).

Each reference should be:-

- Addressed to “The Presiding Magistrate”;
- An Original;
- Neatly written or typed;
- Signed by the writer of the reference, with the name of the person printed underneath;
- Dated.

Each reference should include the following:-

- A statement from the person writing the reference that he/she is aware of the charges before the Court and, if possible, that the offences are ‘out of character’ for you;
- How long the person has known you;
- How the person knows you (e.g. as an employer, workmate, priest, teacher, team members, family friend, flat mate, etc.);
- The person’s opinion of your character;
- Anything which might help the Court concerning your charges (e.g. your general honesty if it is a stealing charge; your general driving ability if it is a drink driving charge).

If you require any further information about Character References please contact Oliver Hagen or Ken Gray at Bateman Battersby Lawyers on (02) 4731 5899 email us at litigation@batemanbattersby.com.au.