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## Sample 5 - Character reference

Brisbane Magistrates Court

Your Honour

I have known Lionel Bedford for the last 10 years. Lionel's grandparents live next door to me. Lionel lived with his grandparents until five years ago. He is friends with my children and he regularly visits his grandparents and will come over to talk with me.

During this time I have found Lionel to be an honest and trustworthy person. I have trusted him to look after my cat and collect my mail while I was on holidays.

Lionel had a troubled early family life. He was placed with his grandparents at the age of 14 years by the Department of Families. I do not know the reason for the placement.

Lionel has held a few different jobs since he left school, but seems to have settled into a good retail job over the past couple of years.

Lionel has told me he has been charged with wilful damage. He said this was because he threw his wallet, which hit some glasses and smashed them. He said this only happened because he was under the influence of alcohol and became agitated.

Lionel has told me he is embarrassed about the incident and does not normally behave in that manner. He also said he was willing to pay for the broken glasses to be replaced.

Yours sincerely

*B. Hillway*

Beatrice Hillway

