

## **SAMPLE CHARACTER REFERENCE LETTER – SIBLING**

The Honorable Rebecca Lawson

United States District Judge

[Address of the Court]

Dear Judge Lawson,

My name is Andrew Hayes, and I am Daniel Hayes’s younger brother. I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective about Daniel as both a brother and a role model in my life.

Growing up as the middle child, I looked to Daniel constantly. He was two years older than me, and like many younger brothers, I followed him everywhere. What made Daniel different, even as a teenager, was the way he took that responsibility seriously. He didn’t brush me off or treat me as a nuisance. Instead, he included me in his activities, whether it was a pickup basketball game with his friends, a school project, or chores around the house. That early sense of loyalty and mentorship shaped the bond we’ve had for more than three decades.

Daniel has spoken with me about his current case. I won’t comment on the legal matters, but I do want to give you insight into the man I know. To me, Daniel has always embodied perseverance and service.

One memory that stands out took place when we were in high school. I was struggling badly in algebra, and it frustrated me to the point of wanting to give up. Daniel had his own studies and sports practices, but he set aside an hour every evening to sit with me at the kitchen table. He walked me through problem after problem, never losing patience even when I became angry at myself. By the end of that semester, I passed the class largely because of his encouragement. That may sound small, but it taught me how Daniel lives—he sees someone struggling, and he steps in to help.

As adults, that same instinct has shown up in more meaningful ways. When our father passed unexpectedly in 2018, I was overwhelmed with grief. Daniel took on the burden of organizing the funeral, handling the paperwork, and making sure our mother felt supported. I saw him working late into the night, juggling calls to family and arranging meals for relatives

who traveled from out of state. He did this quietly, without complaint, because he knew it was what needed to be done. It was one of the hardest weeks of our lives, and Daniel's leadership carried us through.

Beyond our family, Daniel has also been a steady presence in his community. I've watched him coach a youth basketball team at the local recreation center, volunteering his evenings to guide teenagers who needed structure and encouragement. I once visited during practice, and I'll never forget hearing one of the kids say, "Coach Hayes is the only one who believes I can do this." Those young men respected him not just because of basketball, but because he listened and cared.

While Daniel now faces a conviction, none of these qualities have disappeared. He remains the same brother who mentored me, the same son who supported our mother, and the same neighbor who quietly served his community. He acknowledges his mistakes, and he has spoken openly with me about how he wants to use this experience to rebuild his life with honesty and purpose.

As his brother, I want you to know I will continue to support him through this journey. I have a stable career and a family of my own, and I will be there to hold him accountable and encourage him to keep moving forward. Whatever challenges lie ahead, he will not face them alone.

Thank you for considering my perspective and for allowing me to share the Daniel I know.

Respectfully,

Andrew Hayes

[Contact Information]



## **PRISON CHARITABLE CORPORATION**

Prison Professors Charitable Corporation / PO Box 50996 / Irvine CA 92619  
IRS 501c3 #85-2603315 / [www.PrisonProfessors.org](http://www.PrisonProfessors.org)  
Email: [Impact@PrisonProfessors.org](mailto:Impact@PrisonProfessors.org)