

SAMPLE CHARACTER REFERENCE LETTER – SPOUSE

The Honorable Rebecca Lawson

United States District Judge

[Address of the Court]

Dear Judge Lawson,

My name is Emily Hayes, and I have been married to Daniel Hayes for twelve years. I am writing to share my perspective as his wife and the mother of our two children. I know that Daniel’s conviction has brought him before your Court, and while I do not comment on the legal proceedings themselves, I want to offer an honest picture of the man I know as a husband, father, and partner.

Daniel and I met in 2009 through mutual friends, and from the beginning I admired his sincerity and steadiness. Over the years of our marriage, I have come to rely on him not only as a spouse but as the anchor of our family. He has spoken with me about his case, and I can tell you that he takes responsibility for his mistakes and has reflected deeply on the changes he must make. What I want to emphasize here are the many qualities of his character that remain constant.

As a father, Daniel has always put our children first. One vivid memory comes from when our daughter Lily was in second grade. She was struggling with reading and would often cry at homework time, saying she felt “dumb.” Daniel took it upon himself to sit with her every night after work, reading aloud together, sounding out words, and encouraging her with patience I could never quite manage after a long day. Within months, Lily’s teacher reported not only her improvement but her renewed confidence. To this day, she credits her dad for helping her believe in herself. That is the kind of father he is: patient, present, and unwilling to let his children feel defeated.

Daniel also shows his character in the way he cares for me. When I went through a difficult pregnancy with our second child, I was placed on bed rest for nearly two months. Daniel rearranged his work schedule, cooked every meal, got Lily to school each morning, and somehow managed to keep the house in order. He never complained. Instead, he told me that taking care



of us was the most important job he had. It is easy to overlook moments like these, but they reveal the kind of man who shoulders responsibility with love and quiet determination.

Beyond our family, Daniel has shown himself to be a good neighbor and citizen. He organized a neighborhood food drive two years ago when a local shelter was struggling during the winter months. He went door to door with our kids, asking for donations, and ultimately filled the back of his truck with canned goods and blankets. It wasn't part of a larger program or publicity campaign—just Daniel seeing a need and rallying others to help. That small act demonstrated his natural instinct to serve.

I do not deny that Daniel now faces serious consequences. He understands this too, and we have spoken at length about how this chapter must become a turning point in his life. What I want you to know is that he is not alone. I will stand by him through this process, providing stability for our children and encouraging him to continue the work of personal growth and accountability. He has a family who loves him, who will hold him to his commitments, and who believes in his capacity to live up to his better nature.

Thank you for considering my perspective as his wife. I hope these examples help you see Daniel as the man I have known for more than a decade: a devoted husband, a loving father, and a person with the ability to learn from hardship and contribute meaningfully to those around him.

Respectfully,

Emily Hayes

[Contact Information]



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