# Character references

## Children’s Court

**Address the letter to:** The Presiding Magistrate of the Children’s Court

The person writing the reference must know you are at Court for the charges.

Put the **date** on it.

These are **some suggestions** for the types of things a reference can include and are the types of things the Magistrate will be interested in:

1. How does the person writing the reference know you?
2. How long has the person writing the reference known you?
3. What does this person think of you? For example:
* what kind of person do they think you are
* something about your family and your background
* if you do activities, extra things at school, help your family out
* anything you may do to help out the community.
1. What does the person writing the reference think about you being charged? For example:
* surprised
* worried
* disappointed
* are they going to help you try and sort things out?
1. Why does the person writing the reference think that? It is because:

For example:

* you don’t normally get into trouble or do this sort of thing
* they don’t think you are the type of person who is dishonest or angry (depends on what the charges are about)
* have been on the right track recently.
1. What does the person writing the reference think that YOU think about the charges? Do they think you:

For example:

* are sorry
* are embarrassed
* wish you hadn’t done it
* are unlikely to do it again.

The person writing the reference should write their job/position or relationship to you on the letter and sign it.

**These are only suggestions to help you and the person writing your reference.**

**The person writing your reference is free to write whatever s/he would like to.**