

Worksheet for Letter About Good Moral Character

1. Name of Applicant
2. Your Name
3. Current Address
4. When and where did you first meet the applicant?
5. How did you first meet the applicant?
6. I am the applicant's _____ (i.e. visitor volunteer through X program affiliated with Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)).
7. Things I know about the applicant that show his/her good moral character or behavior:
 - a. Spends a lot of time with his/her family. Example of this from your experience:
 - b. Responsible works. Example from your experience:
 - c. Helps people in need. Example from your experience
 - d. Strong commitment to his/her faith. Example from your experience:
 - e. Takes good care of home. Example from your experience
 - f. Kids are good in school. Example from your experience
 - g. Makes sacrifices for childrens and family. Example form your experience:
 - h. Children are well cared for. Example from your experience:
8. Words to describe the applicant:
 - a. Honest
 - b. Kind
 - c. Responsible
 - d. Hard-working
 - e. Generous
 - f. Polite
 - g. Gracious
 - h. Respectful
 - i. Capable
 - j. Charitable
 - k. Reliable
 - l. Loyal
 - m. Smart
 - n. Devoted

Your signature

For further support in writing an affidavit for a person in immigration detention, please contact Christina Fialho at CFialho@endisolation.org.

DATE
Your Name, Title
Address

Re: Bond hearing, Name of Applicant, A#

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is YOUR NAME. I began visiting APPLICANT in MONTH YEAR as a member of the VISITATION PROGRAM. VISITATION PROGRAM is a member of Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) and operates a community visitation program at DETENTION FACILITY to provide a connection to the outside world for people in immigration detention.

Paragraph #1: From the first moment I met APPLICANT, I was struck by X QUALITY. *[Discuss what your relationship with APPLICANT means to you and how APPLICANT is a valuable member of the community. Share specific stories about good things he has done for you -- this is harder if you only have known him in detention, but you can speak to his demeanor here.]* Example: I didn't realize what kind of an effect visiting someone in immigration detention would have on me, but since I met APPLICANT, I find myself thinking about him and realizing that he has so much to offer that is being wasted. I think about him, wonder how he can sit there all day long, day after day. He could be contributing so much. He has helped me to appreciate my own life and my own privileges. From my dozen or so visits with him, I know he will be an asset to any community. As far as I know, he has had exemplary behavior in detention. We always have good conversations when I visit. He enjoys hearing about my family, about our adventures. He would like to travel around the world some day, to get to know people from other countries. He has become friends with a Vietnamese man in detention, for example. He likes to fish and has told me stories of previous fishing trips. He really wants to make the world a better place. I can tell he appreciates my visits. Since his own family is unable to visit, I have become "his family away from home."

Paragraph #2: He has a good sense of humor. *[Discuss another positive quality]* Example: When asked how he was doing once when two of us were visiting him, he said "Well, I've got two visitors so I'm doing pretty good right now."

Paragraph #3: I see the VISITATION PROGRAM being a support to him when he gets released. *[Discuss what, if anything, you and your visitation program can do to make sure APPLICANT will attend hearings and comply with orders. What you can offer to ensure that his return to non-detained living is smooth and comfortable (e.g., help him enroll in classes or find a job)]*

Paragraph #4: I hope you will release APPLICANT from immigration detention so that he has a better chance of finding an attorney to properly represent him before this Court. As you know, APPLICANT is representing himself pro se before the Court. In 2010, the Study Group on Immigrant Representation, convened by Judge Robert Katzmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, together with the Vera Institute of Justice began a two-year Study of the immigrant representation crisis in New York. The Study found 97 percent of detainees without lawyers lost their cases, while 74 percent of immigrants who were not detained and had counsel succeeded. APPLICANT and VISITATION PROGRAM have worked tirelessly to find APPLICANT a pro bono lawyer. [EXPLAIN WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.] Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful, which is not surprising, as 84 percent of people in immigration detention are not represented. It is likely that if APPLICANT were released from immigration detention and allowed to fight his case on the outside, he would be able to find an attorney. In the meantime, APPLICANT has tried his very best to [appeal his case, request a bond hearing].

Paragraph 5: Conclusion or anything else you would like to say.

I swear, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name:

Phone:

January 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [redacted] I am a Licensed Master Social Worker currently employed at [redacted] I have known the applicant, NAME, for over 15 years. We first met in 1993 when I was working as a Community Liaison at [redacted], where her children attended. At the time NAME was living with her husband in an extremely violent, volatile, abusive situation. NAME was married for a total of 18 years. On many occasions I visited NAME in her home during which time she disclosed to me the extent of the abuse she endured. During my visits NAME's home was always clean and well cared for.

While employed at [redacted] I also observed, first-hand, the care and attention NAME gave to her children as they were growing up. I witnessed her make every effort to attend her children's school conferences and to be involved in their education. She provided excellent care to them. NAME also participated in our Parents as Teachers program with her youngest son.

In subsequent years I have had the opportunity to see NAME at community events and through my work at [redacted]. I know NAME attends church regularly and is dedicated to her church family. She demonstrates a very strong commitment to her faith.

It has been my pleasure to know NAME for over 15 years. I have always found her to be very honest, kind, hard-working, gracious, respectful and loyal. She overcame tremendous odds in her separation from a violent and controlling husband. She has my unmitigated admiration and praise.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

(Church's letterhead)

Saint Peter

Address

Phone number

Date: _____

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to inform you that xxxxxxxxxxxxxx is a good member of this community who has attended mass at this church since 2001.

Mr. xxxxx (or your husband when he was residing in the U.S.) not only attends services at this church, but selflessly contributes to the maintenance of the facilities where our church is located since the beginning of 2005. Ms. xxxxx has helped this church performing maintenance services to our green areas (landscape and gardens), repairs to anything needed, such as broken windows or damaged doors, or walls, and painting or retouches to walls as needed. In addition, Ms. xxxxx is always willing to offer her help in church events.

Ms. xxxxx has been of great help to our church and to this community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at the address or telephone number above.

Very truly yours,

Priest / or person authorized to sign

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of (name of individual in deportation proceedings) who lives at (address), in the (name of neighborhood) community. She is married to (spouse's name) and has four U.S. citizen children, (child's name), (child's name), (child's name), and (child's name).

She arrived here in (name of community) in March of 2003. She has been a regular and vital member of (name of Parish) since that time. She assists regularly with Sunday School, sings in the church choir, and provides leadership for our annual women's retreat. In addition to her involvement in our parish, (name) takes an active role in her children's schools, volunteering as a tutor in the after-school program, and chaperoning school field trips.

As (name's) priest, I have known her to be a faithful and dedicated community leader, who has made positive contributions not only to her spouse's and children's lives, but also to the parish, the local schools, and to the community. She has provided diligent, peaceful, and fruitful leadership here for many people, and her deportation would be a devastating loss for her family and community. I ask that you please consider utilizing discretion in her case to allow (name) to continue to help her family, church, and community to thrive.

Sincerely,

Fr. (Name of Priest)

Director of Hispanic Ministries, (Name of Parish)