

17 Short Street
Southport Qld 4215
Tel: 07 5527 0020

16 July 2016

The Presiding Magistrate
Magistrates Court of Queensland
Southport

Your Honour,

Re: Reference for Joe Citizen

I have known Joe Citizen for a period of 21 years, as he is the son of my life-long friend Jessica Citizen. During this time, I have watched him grow up, finish his schooling and look for work. When Joe was younger, he would stay over occasionally at our place as he was friends with my son. Of late, he has helped me with odd chores in the garden as my health is failing and my children live interstate.

I am a 63 year old retired school teacher. Before retiring due to health reasons, I worked as an English teacher in local High Schools for 35 years.

I am aware of the drug charges that Joe has before the Court. I have had the opportunity to discuss these charges with him and he has expressed to me his remorse and shame. He explained to me that the charges arise from his drug use and that he intends to stop using drugs. Joe has enrolled himself in a course to support him to be drug free and has been diligent in attending his sessions.

Joe has had complicated upbringing due to his parents divorcing when he was 10 years old and his father moving overseas. Following the divorce, Joe had no contact from his father. In order to support her children, his mother had to obtain full time work, leaving Joe to look after his siblings before and after school. Joe left school following completion of Grade 10 in order to pursue an electrical apprenticeship. He was made redundant from this position a year later following the economic downturn and despite his best efforts, was only able to secure casual employment as a labourer in the years following. He was devastated to lose his apprenticeship and I noticed he was less confident and more depressed as a result. He tells me that this is when he started using drugs.

In May 2016, Joe obtained employment through an agency that will fast-track his apprenticeship to completion. He tells me that he hopes to become qualified as an electrician and one day run his own business.

I am available to discuss this reference on the above telephone number.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Doe