

19<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

To the Presiding Magistrate

Melbourne Magistrates' Court

Your Honour

**Re: Character reference for David Campbell**

I have known David Campbell for a period of four years. I met him at work and we developed a friendship through our mutual interest in medieval history. We worked together for a two year period and since then have maintained contact on a fortnightly basis.

I provide this reference in full knowledge of David's charge of theft of property by deception. David told me, when he was arrested, of his offence and we discussed it regularly whilst he was waiting for his charge sheets, then frequently since he received his summons. He has expressed to me his shame and remorse at his thoughtless and immature behaviour.

The nature of the offences are surprising as I have always found David Campbell to be a reliable and trustworthy person. By way of example, when I went overseas with my family for 3 months I left my house keys with David. He attended my house regularly to feed my fish, mow the lawns, clear the mail and so on. He would also update me weekly via email as to matters. I found him entirely dependable and was much relieved by his presence.

I am aware that David had a troubled childhood and believe his experiences contributed to his behaviour. David comes from a broken family and was raised without a father figure. His mother was often absent from the home, having to work long hours to support the family, leaving David alone taking care of his younger brother and without a guiding adult influence. He relied heavily on his mother when she was present and suffered a huge blow when she died, shortly prior to the commission of these offences, of cancer. David was overwhelmed with grief at his mother's passing and I am aware that he has been seeking grief counselling over the last few months to help him deal with his grief. He seems happier since counselling commenced.

Approximately six months ago David commenced a relationship with a woman I know, Kate James. Kate and David met through me and have been dedicated to each other since meeting. I believe that this relationship has affected David in a positive way, restoring his integrity and belief in family life, and distracting him from his own sadness. David and Kate have moved in together in the last 6 weeks and Kate tells me David contributes to her mortgage and pays an agreed percentage of bills, groceries and house upkeep. It is evident from his behaviour that David has adopted a more mature outlook on life and his future.

I share in David's dismay and embarrassment regarding the commission of these offences and am confident that he will take responsibility for his actions, and move on to continue with his now positive and happy outlook. I am confident he will not reoffend.

I can be contacted on the above number should the Court require any further information.

Sincerely,

Juliette Donoghue  
Nurse Therapist