

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support are evidence the offender will have a network of friends and family to love, help and support them when they are released.

### THEY SHOW:

1. Someone who knows the individual and cares.
2. That he has a support group waiting for him.
3. This support group can be family, friends, and community.
4. The good side of the inmate, which helps offset the negative criminal record.

### WHO WRITES SUPPORT LETTERS:

1. Family members, friends and loved ones
2. Members of the community such as neighbors, co-workers, church members and ministers.
3. People who may not necessarily know the offender, but know the family of the offender and would like to offer support while the individual readjusts into the community.
4. People with influence in the community who are willing to write offering their support for the offender based on their position in the community.

### WHAT TO SAY IN THE LETTERS:

1. State offender name and inmate number (if applicable).
2. State your name, address and phone number.
3. State your relationship with the offender and the length of time you have known them.
4. Your belief that despite the offender's bad choices they are a good person and the reason you feel this way.
5. Your belief that the individual will not re-offend.
6. Your willingness to support the offender by offering advice, encouragement and helping them readjust to the community.

### WHERE TO SEND THE SUPPORT LETTERS:

1. All letters should be **addressed** to The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, "Dear Members of the Board:"
2. All letters should be **mailed** to Tommy A. Thomas, Esq., P.O. Box 88, Irmo, SC 29063 or e-mailed to [Jackie@paroleme.com](mailto:Jackie@paroleme.com).