

# HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR



## WHAT IS A LTE?

A letter to the editor (LTE) is a letter sent to a newspaper publication about an issue of public concern. Elected officials also read LTEs to gauge what is important to the community and to voters.

## HOW LONG IS AN LTE?

A LTE is short- letters under 200 words have the best chance of being published. Each newspaper will have a different word limit, but shorter is better.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

Share your story, but you do not have to share intimate details of your loved one if you don't want to. Be clear about what change you want to occur. **We want oversight and accountability for the Alaska Department of Corrections to prevent more Alaskans from dying while incarcerated.**

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR LTE?

Submit in the newspaper closest to where you live

Anchorage- Anchorage Daily News

Mat-Su Valley- Mat-Su Frontiersman

Juneau- Juneau Empire

Kenai Peninsula- Peninsula Clarion

Fairbanks- Fairbanks Daily News Miner

Ketchikan- Ketchikan Daily News

Kodiak- Kodiak Daily Mirror

## SAMPLE LTE

Last year, my brother died while incarcerated at Anchorage Correctional Complex. He was in custody for a non-violent misdemeanor charge and had only been in custody for a few days when we got a devastating call that has forever changed our family. My brother was one of the dozens of Alaskans who died while in the custody of the Department of Corrections. And like many other families, we have struggled to get thorough answers as to what happened, and the conditions of his confinement before he died. Department of Corrections has a responsibility to keep people in custody safe and alive; it is utterly failing. Our leaders need to hold the department accountable and require transparency and oversight so deaths do not continue to happen. (125 words)