

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools

# **Adult: Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing, Employment, Licenses, and Reentry**

Adult — Class Book · Section 7

Minister Destiny Marie Morgan  
Minister & Founder

## A Prayer Before You Begin

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Lord, bless this reader on their journey. Guard their health in body, mind, and spirit as they study. Open their heart to knowledge and their mind to understanding, and let what they learn here become light in their hands. Guide them to the places where they are needed — to help others, and to save lives, safely. Bless their steps, their work, and every life their learning will one day protect.

Amen.

— Minister Destiny Marie Morgan

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Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Adult: Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing, Employment, Licenses, and Reentry.

Published by Minister Destiny Marie Morgan, Minister & Founder.

Educational completion certificate only — not a state license, POST certification, or government credential.

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The lessons in this book are educational information, Massachusetts-first, and are not legal advice. If you have a real case, talk to a lawyer. Help lines: National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 · 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (call/text 988) · Childhelp 1-800-422-4453.

## How This Book Works

This book is one class of Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Adult: Section 7 — Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing, Employment, Licenses, and Reentry. It is the study book for this class's test. Everything the test asks is taught in this book, in plain language: the full lesson, Words to know, the stories to think through, the Try-this activity, and Resources to keep.

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools is a free school. The classes, the tests, and the certificates are free online at [destinymorganbooks.com](http://destinymorganbooks.com) — nothing about this class costs money. This book is the print edition, for people who want the class in their hands. You never need to buy a book to take a class or a test.

How to use this book: read the lesson, learn the Words to know, think through the stories, and do the activity. Try the word search for fun. Then take the Chapter Test at the back of the lesson — printed without answers marked. Score 80% or higher to complete the class and earn its certificate (the certificate page is in this book; write your name on it after you pass). The Answer Key is at the back of the book, for parents, teachers, and self-checking after you finish. Go at your own pace.

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## Before You Start

*This lesson is educational information, Massachusetts-first, and is not legal advice. Housing and employment rules vary by town, by housing program, and by case. If you face eviction, a job loss tied to your record, or a license decision, talk to a lawyer, legal aid, or a tenant advocate early — many first consultations are free.*

### Before you start

- **This school never asks your name.** Your progress and quiz answers stay on your own device. If you pass this section's quiz (80% or higher, retakes allowed, answers are not shown), you earn a downloadable certificate with a blank line — you write your own name on it after you save it.
- There is no shame in this room. Many people here are rebuilding after a case, a job loss, a move, or time away. A record or a hard season does not erase your worth, and it does not erase your rights. This section is about how housing and work actually work — on paper and in real life — so you can protect a home, keep a job, and plan a return that lasts.

# Section 7 — Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing, Employment, Licenses, and Reentry

## Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Adult

### The lesson

#### 1. Your lease is a contract — read it like one

A lease is not just permission to live somewhere. It is a written contract that binds you and your landlord, and most housing fights start with someone not knowing what they already signed.

In plain language, a typical Massachusetts lease or tenancy agreement covers:

1. **Who lives there.** Only the people named on the lease are lawful occupants. Letting someone stay long-term who is not on the lease can itself be a lease violation, even if that person has done nothing wrong.
2. **Rent, due date, and late fees.** When rent is due, how it must be paid, and what happens when it is late. Keep proof of every payment — a receipt, a cancelled check image, or a payment-app record with the date showing.
3. **What you must maintain.** Keeping the unit clean and safe, disposing of trash properly, not damaging the property beyond ordinary wear, and allowing lawful access for repairs with proper notice.
4. **What the landlord must maintain.** A safe, livable home — heat, hot water, working plumbing, a structure that is sound, and freedom from serious health hazards. This duty is often called the warranty of habitability, and it does not disappear because a tenant is behind on rent.
5. **Rules about guests, noise, smoking, and criminal activity.** Many leases allow eviction when a tenant or guest engages in criminal activity connected to the property, and some allow it even without a conviction.
6. **How the tenancy ends.** Notice periods, move-out condition, and what happens to a security deposit.

#### What to do:

1. Before you sign, read every page. If something is unclear, ask for it in writing before you sign, not after a problem starts.
2. Keep your signed lease, every notice, and every rent receipt in one folder — paper, photos on your phone, or both.
3. Put repair requests in writing with a date, even if you also called. A dated written request is evidence; a phone call you cannot prove is easy to dispute.

4. If you fall behind on rent, communicate early and in writing. Many landlords will work with a tenant who names a real payment date over a tenant who goes silent.
5. Never ignore a court paper or a notice to quit. A notice to quit is a warning step, not yet an eviction, but deadlines inside housing papers are short and missing one can lose a case you could have won.

**What NOT to do:** Do not stop paying rent entirely because a repair is unfinished without first getting legal advice — withholding rent in Massachusetts follows specific steps, and doing it wrong can become the reason for eviction. Do not move out and leave keys behind assuming the tenancy ended — rent can keep accruing until the tenancy is lawfully ended. Do not let anger turn a paperwork problem into a police problem at the management office; bring a calm advocate instead.

## **2. Public and subsidized housing — stricter rules, stronger process**

Public housing and voucher programs help thousands of Massachusetts families afford a home, and they come with rules a private lease does not have.

Key differences to understand:

- **The household is the unit.** As Section 1 taught, conduct by one household member — and in some cases a guest — can affect the whole household's tenancy. That includes drug-related criminal activity on or off the property under federal housing rules housing authorities must follow.
- **Income and household changes must be reported.** A new job, new hours, someone moving in or out — programs require prompt reporting. Failing to report can be treated as fraud even when the change started as an honest delay.
- **Recertification is not optional.** Annual paperwork, inspections, and interviews keep the subsidy in place. Missed recertification appointments are one of the most common — and most preventable — reasons families lose assistance.
- **You usually have a right to be heard.** Before termination, housing authorities generally must give written notice of the reasons and a chance for a hearing or informal review. That hearing is real protection, but only if you request it by the deadline in the letter.
- **Inspections matter.** A failed inspection for conditions within your control — blocked exits, a disabled smoke detector, severe housekeeping hazards — can start a compliance process. Fix what you can, photograph the fix, and keep the reinspection notice.

### **Step by step when a termination or eviction notice arrives:**

1. Read the letter the day it comes. Write the deadline date on a calendar and on the letter itself.
2. Request the hearing or review in writing before that deadline. Keep a copy with proof of delivery.

3. Gather your evidence: payment records, repair requests, proof of completed programs or services, letters of support, and any police or court papers that show a case status accurately.
4. Get help before the hearing — legal aid and tenant advocates handle these hearings every week and know what decision-makers need to see.
5. Show up early, dressed plainly and calmly, with your folder organized. Answer what is asked truthfully and briefly.

Red flags that your housing is at risk before any letter arrives: a manager asking for a meeting about "lease compliance," police activity at your unit, a household member arrested, repeated inspection failures, or falling behind on a repayment agreement. Any one of these is a signal to seek advice that week, not to wait for formal papers.

### 3. Employment and your record — what employers actually see

Section 1 introduced CORI. This section goes deeper on work, because for most families a job is the foundation housing stands on.

In Massachusetts, employers follow rules about when and how they may ask about criminal history. As a general principle, employers may not ask about criminal history on an initial written job application in most cases — a protection sometimes called "ban the box." Later in the process, many employers run a CORI check with your written acknowledgment, and you have rights in that process, including the right to know if information in a record is used against you and a chance to dispute errors.

Practical truths to plan around:

- **Records contain errors.** Wrong person, wrong outcome, a case listed as open that was dismissed years ago. You are allowed to obtain your own CORI and review it. Fixing an error before an employer sees it is one of the highest-value steps in reentry.
- **Sealing changes the answer.** When a record is sealed, most employers who run a standard CORI check do not see the sealed charges, and you may generally answer questions about sealed matters as though they did not occur — but certain sensitive employers and licensing bodies have broader access. Ask legal aid to confirm how sealing applies to the job you want.
- **Honesty within the rules wins.** Lying on an application is itself a reason to fire someone later, even when the underlying record would not have disqualified them. Answer exactly what is lawfully asked, no more and no less, and be ready to speak calmly about what has changed since.
- **Timing matters.** A dismissed case, a completed probation, completed classes, and steady time since the offense all tell a story employers and boards understand. Bring proof — certificates, completion letters, references — rather than asking them to take your word.

**What to do when a background check costs you a job:**

1. Ask what record was used and request a copy of what the employer received.
2. Compare it line by line with your own CORI. Circle anything wrong, outdated, or belonging to someone else.
3. Dispute errors through the proper channel in writing and keep proof you sent it.
4. Ask legal aid about sealing or correcting the record before you apply to the next ten jobs the same way.

#### **4. Licenses — the career door a record can close, and how people reopen it**

Many steady, well-paid Massachusetts jobs require a state license or certification: health care roles, childcare and education, security work, commercial driving, barbering and cosmetology, real estate, and the building trades, among others. Licensing boards often ask about criminal history separately from employers, and some have broader access to records, including sealed matters in certain sensitive fields.

Understand three things before you invest time or tuition:

1. **A record is not always an automatic no.** Boards commonly weigh the nature of the offense, how long ago it happened, its relevance to the duties of the license, and evidence of rehabilitation. A recent offense directly related to the work — for example, a financial crime for a role handling money — weighs far heavier than an old, unrelated matter.
2. **Answer the board exactly and completely.** On a license application, an incomplete or false answer is treated as dishonesty, which boards often punish more harshly than the original offense. When in doubt about how to answer, get advice before you submit.
3. **Prepare a rehabilitation packet.** Completion certificates, employment history since, references from employers, faith or community leaders, and treatment providers where relevant, a brief honest statement of what happened and what changed — this packet is how "a person with a record" becomes "an applicant with a history and a record of change."

If a board denies you, the decision letter explains appeal or reapplication rights and any waiting period. A denial with a path back is not the end; diarize the date, complete what the letter asks for, and keep your documentation growing in the meantime. Working unlicensed in a licensed field, by contrast, can create new criminal exposure and permanent disqualification — it is never the shortcut it looks like.

#### **5. Reentry — coming home and staying home**

Reentry means returning to housing, work, and family life after incarceration or after any long absence a case caused. The first weeks decide a great deal, and they are also when support is hardest to organize. Plan for them the way you would plan for a move — because that is what it is.

**Before release or return, where possible:**

1. Secure identification. A state ID, Social Security card, and birth certificate unlock jobs, benefits, banking, and housing applications. Replacing documents takes time, so start requests early.
2. Confirm where you will sleep the first night and the first month. If that address affects probation conditions, public housing rules, or a restraining order, confirm it is approved before you arrive.
3. List every condition you must follow — probation appointments, program enrollment deadlines, no-contact orders, treatment intake — with dates, addresses, and phone contacts in one notebook.
4. Arrange medication continuity and medical coverage reactivation. A gap in medication is a common, quiet cause of early crisis.

### **In the first month home:**

1. Make the first probation or supervision appointment your most protected date. Reschedule work, childcare, everything else around it.
2. Reconnect with benefits and coverage that were paused or terminated, and report the change of circumstances promptly and truthfully.
3. Apply for work steadily, and keep a log of applications — many supervision and benefits programs ask for it, and the log protects you.
4. Rebuild family trust with consistency, not speeches. Show up when you said you would. Pay what you agreed to pay, even if it is small. Trust after reentry is built from kept Tuesdays, not from big promises.
5. Tell your support people what helps and what tempts. Isolation is the enemy of reentry; a boring, structured, supported week is a victory.

Watch for these warning signs in yourself or a loved one: missed appointments starting to stack, old contacts reappearing with offers, sleep and mood collapsing, money disappearing without explanation, or talk that supervision "doesn't matter anyway." Each one is a reason to call a counselor, sponsor, faith leader, probation officer, or support line that week — early honesty is what keeps a slip from becoming a revocation.

Families supporting reentry need boundaries too. Love does not require lending money you cannot afford to lose, hiding violations, or allowing conduct in your home that risks your own lease. Section 2's housing rules apply: your home can be lost for a guest's or member's criminal activity. Supporting someone and endangering your household are not the same thing, and it is lawful and loving to say so plainly.

## **Words to know — Section 7**

- **Lease** — a written contract between tenant and landlord setting rent, occupants, duties, and rules for the tenancy.
- **Notice to quit** — a written warning step a landlord must generally give before starting an eviction case; it is not itself an eviction order.

- **Warranty of habitability** — the landlord's legal duty to keep a home safe and livable, including heat, water, and sound structure.
- **Recertification** — the periodic review of income and household makeup required to keep public or subsidized housing assistance.
- **CORI** — Criminal Offender Record Information: Massachusetts' criminal record system, used in many employment and licensing checks.
- **Sealing** — a legal process that limits who can access a record; certain sensitive employers and boards may still have broader access.
- **Licensing board** — the state body that grants, renews, and may deny or revoke a professional license.
- **Reentry** — the process of returning to housing, work, family, and community life after incarceration or a long case-related absence.
- **Rehabilitation packet** — organized proof of change — completions, work history, references, and an honest statement — used with employers and boards.
- **Probation conditions** — the rules a person under supervision must follow, such as appointments, programs, and no-contact orders.

## Myths vs facts — Section 7

- **Myth:** If a repair is not fixed, I can just stop paying rent and nothing can happen to me. **Fact:** Withholding rent in Massachusetts follows specific steps and doing it without advice can become grounds for eviction; dated written repair requests and legal guidance protect you far better.
- **Myth:** A notice to quit means I have already been evicted and must leave that day. **Fact:** A notice to quit is an early warning step; only a court can order an eviction, and responding by the deadlines in your papers is how you protect your home.
- **Myth:** Once I have a record, no employer or licensing board will ever consider me. **Fact:** Many employers and boards weigh the age and relevance of an offense and evidence of rehabilitation; sealing, accurate records, and a prepared packet change real outcomes.
- **Myth:** Helping a loved one reenter means I have to allow anything in my home. **Fact:** A household member's or guest's criminal activity can put the whole tenancy at risk, so clear house rules protect both the person returning and the family hosting them.

## Think it through — Section 7

Renee receives a letter from her housing authority saying her family's assistance is proposed for termination because her adult brother, who moved in two months ago without approval, was arrested, and his income was never reported. Renee says: *"He's my brother and he had nowhere to go. I didn't commit a crime — can they really end our housing?"*

**Walk it through:** (1) Two separate problems are stacked in one letter: an unapproved occupant and unreported household income. Both are program-rule violations by the leaseholder who allowed them, separate from whether the brother's criminal case ends in conviction. (2) The letter's deadline is the whole ballgame right now — Renee must request her hearing or review in writing before it passes, and keep proof she did. (3) At the hearing, honesty plus correction helps more than excuses: showing she now understands the reporting rules, presenting the brother's current living situation accurately, and documenting rent and household facts gives the decision-maker something to work with. (4) Going forward, compassion has to run through the paperwork: a family member in crisis can be helped with a referral, a couch for a night within guest rules, or help finding other housing — but moving someone in off the books risks the home everyone in the family depends on.

## One more real-life story — Section 7

James came home after serving time to his mother's apartment, a notebook of conditions, and no identification. His first application for a warehouse job ended when the background check returned a record showing a dismissed case as still open. Instead of giving up or lying on the next application, James obtained his own CORI, disputed the error in writing with proof of the dismissal, and attended a free legal aid clinic about sealing older eligible matters. With a corrected record, a completion certificate from his program inside, and a reference from a supervisor at his transitional job, his next application succeeded. **Takeaway:** reentry is paperwork plus persistence — the people who stay home are usually the people who fix the record, keep the appointments, and let steady weeks speak for them.

## Try this — Section 7

Build your housing-and-work folder this week:

- [ ] Find your lease or housing program papers; photograph every page and note your recertification date.
- [ ] Start a rent-proof file: receipts or payment records for the last three months in one place.
- [ ] Write down every household member officially on your lease — and note anyone staying who is not, with a plan to address it lawfully.
- [ ] Request a copy of your own CORI and read it for errors, outdated outcomes, or cases that are not yours.
- [ ] List any license you hold or want, and write the board's name beside it for future questions.
- [ ] Create a one-page conditions-and-dates sheet: every appointment, deadline, and reporting duty you currently have.

- [ ] Save the names of one legal aid organization and one tenant advocate resource in your phone before you ever need them.

## Resources to keep — Section 7

- **Emergency:** 911 — for immediate danger or a crime in progress.
- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** call or text 988 — 24/7 support for emotional distress.
- **Crisis Text Line:** text HOME to 741741 — support by text when talking is hard.
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-7233, or text START to 88788 — if housing pressure is tied to abuse at home.
- **Mass.gov:** named generally as the state's official site for housing, CORI, and licensing information.
- **Legal aid and tenant advocates:** named generally — free help with eviction defense, housing hearings, CORI sealing, and record errors; look for them early, not the week of a hearing.

## What you earned / what's next — Section 7

**Section 7 complete** (quiz score 80% or higher): You can explain a lease as a contract, describe why public housing holds the whole household accountable, correct and seal a record for work, prepare for a licensing board, and lay out the first month of a reentry plan that lasts.

## Word Search — Section 7

Find the words from this class's Words to know. Words run across, down, or diagonally.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | C | T | J | M | J | Z | J | Y | B | M | X | X |
| J | N | F | S | H | H | S | C | O | R | I | D | T |
| Z | O | O | E | G | Z | U | V | G | V | J | Z | P |
| P | T | Z | A | Z | R | Q | O | K | A | M | T | S |
| B | I | P | L | M | X | D | V | Q | K | I | A | H |
| M | C | X | I | W | R | T | J | I | M | M | U | V |
| L | E | V | N | S | Q | R | H | L | E | A | S | E |
| M | T | N | G | N | E | E | N | W | O | Z | Y | N |
| S | O | V | N | X | C | E | J | E | E | C | U | E |
| A | Q | M | H | J | K | N | E | P | C | A | W | Q |
| S | U | R | K | H | M | T | J | K | D | E | E | O |
| S | I | E | N | U | G | R | B | W | D | C | J | T |
| V | T | F | U | O | W | Y | N | X | A | Z | U | F |

Words to find: Lease · Noticetoquit · Cori · Sealing · Reentry

## Words to Remember — Say It in Your Own Words

Cover the Words to know page. For each word from this class, write what it means in your own words, the way you would explain it to a friend. Then check yourself against the lesson.

**Lease**

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**Notice to quit**

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**Warranty of habitability**

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**Recertification**

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**CORI**

---

**Sealing**

---

**Licensing board**

---

**Reentry**

---

**Rehabilitation packet**

---

**Probation conditions**

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## Chapter Test — Section 7

Answer every question. Score 80% or higher to complete this class and earn its certificate. The answers are in the Answer Key at the back of this book — for parents, teachers, and self-checking after you finish.

### 1. What is a lease, in the plain terms of this lesson?

- A. A receipt for the first month's rent only
- B. A verbal promise that can change at any time
- C. A written contract between tenant and landlord setting rent, occupants, duties, and rules
- D. A letter asking permission to move in

### 2. Renee's housing authority proposes terminating her family's assistance after her brother moved in unapproved and his income was not reported. What is her most urgent first step?

- A. Move her brother out and say nothing
- B. Wait for the criminal case to end
- C. Request the hearing or review in writing before the deadline in the letter, keeping proof
- D. Stop paying her portion of rent in protest

### 3. Why can one household member's conduct endanger a whole family's public housing?

- A. Because rent is recalculated per arrest
- B. Because programs treat the household as the unit, and a member's criminal activity or unreported changes can violate the tenancy for everyone
- C. Because landlords prefer it that way
- D. Only if the conduct happened on the property

### 4. What is the smartest way to make a repair request to a landlord?

- A. Call repeatedly until someone acts
- B. Mention it to a neighbor
- C. Stop paying rent without any paperwork
- D. Put it in writing with a date, and keep a copy — a dated request is evidence

### 5. In Massachusetts, what does 'ban the box' generally mean for job applications?

- A. Employers can never ask about records at any stage
- B. Employers generally may not ask about criminal history on an initial written application

- C. Applicants never need to answer questions truthfully
- D. Background checks are banned

**6. A background check returns a dismissed case listed as still open, costing James a job. What does this school teach?**

- A. Obtain your own CORI, dispute the error in writing with proof, and ask legal aid about sealing
- B. Accept it — records cannot be changed
- C. Lie on the next application to get past it
- D. Pay a stranger online to erase the record

**7. What is a rehabilitation packet for a licensing board?**

- A. A medical file
- B. A tuition receipt
- C. Organized proof of change — completions, work history, references, and an honest statement
- D. A letter asking the board to skip its rules

**8. Why is answering a licensing board incompletely especially dangerous?**

- A. Boards never check answers
- B. An incomplete or false answer is treated as dishonesty, which boards often punish more harshly than the original offense
- C. It only adds a small fee
- D. It delays graduation by a week

**9. Which is part of a solid first-month reentry plan?**

- A. Skip supervision appointments that conflict with work
- B. Avoid telling anyone where you are living
- C. Borrow money to celebrate
- D. Make the first supervision appointment the most protected date, reconnect benefits, apply for work steadily, and keep a log

**10. A notice to quit arrives. What is true?**

- A. You have already been evicted and must leave that day
- B. It is an eviction order from a judge
- C. Only a court can order an eviction — a notice to quit is an early warning step, and responding by deadlines protects your home
- D. You can ignore it if rent is partly paid

## Certificate — Section 7

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools

### **Certificate of Completion — Section 7: Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing, Employment, Licenses, and Reentry**

This certifies that

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Name (write your name here)

has completed

**Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Adult**

Section 7: Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing,  
Employment, Licenses, and Reentry

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by **Minister Destiny Marie Morgan**, Minister & Founder

*Congratulations. You know how to protect a home on paper and in practice,  
how to face a background check with the truth and a corrected record, and  
how to build a return that holds. A steady home and honest work are worth  
every careful step. — Minister Destiny Marie Morgan*

Educational completion certificate only — not a state license, POST certification, or government  
credential.

**Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Adult**

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## My Agenda — Class Tracker

Everything in this agenda is yours to write in. It stays in your book — nothing is collected.

| Step                                          | Done | Date | Score | Grade |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Week 1 — Study the lesson                     |      |      |       |       |
| Week 2 — Study + Words to know                |      |      |       |       |
| Week 3 — Stories + Try-this activity          |      |      |       |       |
| Week 4 — Chapter test (pass at 80% or higher) |      |      |       |       |

Letter grades: A 90–100 · B 80–89 · C 70–79 · D 60–69 · F below 60.

## My goals for this class

Write the goals you are working toward in this class — and for yourself.

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# My Weekly Planner

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Notes

## Resources to Keep

This class's resources, in one place. Keep this page.

- Emergency: 911 — for immediate danger or a crime in progress.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988 — 24/7 support for emotional distress.
- Crisis Text Line: text HOME to 741741 — support by text when talking is hard.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233, or text START to 88788 — if housing pressure is tied to abuse at home.
- Mass.gov: named generally as the state's official site for housing, CORI, and licensing information.
- Legal aid and tenant advocates: named generally — free help with eviction defense, housing hearings, CORI sealing, and record errors; look for them early, not the week of a hearing.

## Answer Key

For parents, teachers, and self-checking after you finish the chapter test.

### **Section 7 Test — Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing, Employment, Licenses, and Reentry**

1. A written contract between tenant and landlord setting rent, occupants, duties, and rules
2. Request the hearing or review in writing before the deadline in the letter, keeping proof
3. Because programs treat the household as the unit, and a member's criminal activity or unreported changes can violate the tenancy for everyone
4. Put it in writing with a date, and keep a copy — a dated request is evidence
5. Employers generally may not ask about criminal history on an initial written application
6. Obtain your own CORI, dispute the error in writing with proof, and ask legal aid about sealing
7. Organized proof of change — completions, work history, references, and an honest statement
8. An incomplete or false answer is treated as dishonesty, which boards often punish more harshly than the original offense
9. Make the first supervision appointment the most protected date, reconnect benefits, apply for work steadily, and keep a log
10. Only a court can order an eviction — a notice to quit is an early warning step, and responding by deadlines protects your home

## Sources & Credits

The lessons in this book were written for Minister Destiny Testimony Schools from public sources — official websites, public health and safety organizations, help lines, and the law itself. The sources each chapter was built from, and the help resources it points you to, are listed under that chapter's name, with credit, so you can check anything in this book and keep learning. Court opinions and laws are public documents that belong to everyone. Everything here is retold in the school's own plain words — nothing in this book is copied from anyone else's book.

### **Section 7 — Housing, Work and the Law: Leases, Public Housing, Employment, Licenses, and Reentry**

- Emergency: 911 — for immediate danger or a crime in progress.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988 — 24/7 support for emotional distress.
- Crisis Text Line: text HOME to 741741 — support by text when talking is hard.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233, or text START to 88788 — if housing pressure is tied to abuse at home.
- Mass.gov: named generally as the state's official site for housing, CORI, and licensing information.
- Legal aid and tenant advocates: named generally — free help with eviction defense, housing hearings, CORI sealing, and record errors; look for them early, not the week of a hearing.
- Help lines: National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 · 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (call/text 988) · Childhelp 1-800-422-4453.

The school itself is free: every class in this book, with its test and certificate, is free online at [destinymorganbooks.com](https://destinymorganbooks.com).

## About the Author

Minister Destiny Marie Morgan is an ordained Muslim minister. She was ordained on May 15, 2025, through the Universal Life Church, and she is registered clergy in Massachusetts.

Her ministry is advocacy — standing up to injustice and helping people, locally and internationally.

She is the founder of Minister Destiny Testimony Schools, a free school. She built it so people can learn for free what cost her years to learn — people who may not have jobs, good credit, or loans, and who deserve real knowledge anyway. Every class is free online, for every age, with no sign-up and nothing collected.

She is also the author of two testimony series — Chronicles of Destiny Morgan and The Chronicle Trials — her own story, in her own words. Those books are her testimony; these school books are her teaching.

Follow her Amazon Author Page to find every new book as it comes out.

The school is free online at [destinymorganbooks.com](https://destinymorganbooks.com).

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## From Minister Destiny

You finished this book — but the learning does not stop here. Keep your resources close, keep asking questions, and use what you now know to help the people around you. If this book helped you, pass it to someone who needs it. I built this school for you, and I am proud of you for showing up for yourself. — Minister Destiny Marie Morgan

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