

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools

Law Enforcement: Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances

Law Enforcement — Class Book · Section 8

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 — Law Enforcement: Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances.

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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This book is not an emergency service and does not replace 911. In an emergency, call 911 (or your local emergency number) if you can do so safely. In a mental-health crisis, call or text 988 (U.S.).

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This is community-designed training — Minister Destiny's program, built from lived experience in the neighborhoods being policed. It is not agency policy and does not replace your department's training, general orders, or the law. Where this program proposes new approaches, they are taught and labeled as proposals.

How This Book Works

This book is one class of Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Law Enforcement: Section 8 — Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances. 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 — 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

A note on what this school is: this is community-designed training — Minister Destiny's program, built from lived experience in the neighborhoods being policed. It is not agency policy and does not replace your department's training, general orders, or the law. Where this program proposes new approaches, they are taught and labeled as proposals. Nothing here is legal advice.

Before you start

- This school never collects your name. Progress and quiz answers stay on your device; pass the section quiz (80% or higher, retakes allowed) and your certificate downloads with a blank name line to fill in after saving. Answers are not shown.
- A domestic call is rarely one incident and rarely one story told the same way twice. By the time you knock, the household may have lived through months or years of fear, control, apologies, and broken promises — and the people inside may disagree completely about whether you should be there at all. This section teaches you to protect safety first without humiliating anyone, to hear the person who is most at risk even when they are not the loudest or the first to speak, and to leave a family with clearer options than they had before you arrived. You will not solve a family's life in one visit. You can change whether the next call comes sooner, and whether it comes in time.

Section 8 — Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Law Enforcement

The lesson

1. What domestic violence is — pattern, power, and stress are not the same thing

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used to control a partner or family member. It can include physical harm, threats, sexual coercion, destroying property, controlling money, isolating a person from family and friends, monitoring phones and movements, threatening children or pets, and using immigration status, disability, faith, or a record as leverage. A single loud argument between equals is not the same as a pattern of control, and telling the difference matters for safety and for the law.

Families under stress are a wider group. Job loss, eviction pressure, illness, addiction, a new baby, caring for a parent with dementia, a child in crisis — stress can fill a home until ordinary conflict spills into shouting, slammed doors, and neighbors calling. Stress does not excuse harm, and harm does not disappear because stress explains it. Your task is to hold both truths: respond firmly to danger and crime as the law and your orders require, and respond humanely to the pressure around it so the family can accept help.

Watch for **coercive control** — the quiet pattern underneath many “quiet now” scenes:

- One person answers every question, holds all documents and money, or will not leave the other alone with you.
- The other person checks that person's face before answering, apologizes repeatedly, or minimizes injuries in a frightened way.
- A partner tracks location constantly, controls transportation, or has damaged phones so help cannot be called.
- Children position themselves between adults, translate adult conflict, or go silent in a practiced way.

None of these observations alone proves a crime. Together they tell you to slow down, separate people for private conversation where your training and policy allow, and take the less powerful person's account seriously even if they later hesitate to cooperate. Hesitation is common. It can come from fear, financial dependence, love, shame, faith or family pressure, concern for children, or prior experiences where calling did not help. It is not proof that nothing happened.

2. Arriving and making the scene safe — step by step

Domestic calls are among the most unpredictable calls in policing. Follow your department training, tactics, and orders first. This school adds a communication and family-safety sequence that fits inside that frame:

1. **Listen before you knock if you safely can.** Voices, crying, silence after noise, sounds of struggle — what you hear in the first seconds is evidence and safety information. Note it factually.
2. **Announce clearly and give a moment.** State who you are and why you are there in plain language. A household in panic needs to know the knock is police, not the return of a person who left threatening harm.
3. **Control space without crowding.** Separate parties for interviews where policy and safety allow, ideally out of each other's hearing. Keep exits in mind for everyone, including yourself. Do not interview a possible victim in front of the person they may fear.
4. **Attend to injuries and children early.** Ask about injuries even when none are obvious. Ask whether anyone needs an ambulance. Notice where children are, who is holding them, and whether they are hurt, ill, or alone in another room.
5. **Use names and calm, short sentences.** “I am here to make sure everyone is safe tonight. I will speak with each of you separately. Medical help is available.” Avoid profanity, sarcasm, and threats used as shortcuts — Section 3 taught why they escalate homes already at the edge.
6. **Slow down decisions that do not have to be instant.** Arrests, removals, and referrals follow law and policy. Explanations, resource offers, and safety planning deserve the extra two minutes that make them usable.
7. **Before you leave, state the plan.** Who is staying, who is leaving if anyone, what happens next in general terms, how to call back, and what to do if the situation reignites. Uncertainty after police leave is its own danger.

What to expect in real life: the home may go quiet the moment you enter. Quiet is not the same as safe. People may recant, argue with each other about calling, direct anger at you, or beg you not to document injuries. Children may cling or hide. A person who harmed someone may be calm, polite, and highly organized in explaining why the frightened person is “unstable.” Presentation is information, not a verdict. Document what each person said in their own words, what you observed, and what you did — separately.

3. Talking with a person who may be a victim — without taking their choices away

How you ask determines what you learn. A person who has been controlled all day does not open up because an officer demands a full account in a doorway. Where safety and policy allow a private conversation, this school teaches:

- **Start with safety and belief in the process, not pressure for an outcome.** “I take what happened here seriously. I want to understand what you need to be safe tonight.” Do not promise an arrest, a removal, a court result, or confidentiality you cannot keep — your reporting and legal duties have limits, and honesty about them builds more trust than a promise you break.
- **Ask open, concrete questions.** “Tell me what happened before we were called.” “Has anything like this happened before?” “Are you hurt anywhere?” “Is there anything in the home you are afraid will be used to hurt someone?” “Who else lives here, and where are the children?”
- **Ask about strangulation, weapons, threats to kill, and escalating control directly and calmly,** and treat reports of them as serious safety information for medical referral and documentation under your policy. A person may minimize because they are in shock or because they fear the consequences of telling. Record their words exactly.
- **Offer medical care even when injuries look minor.** Some injuries worsen or are not visible. Let medical staff assess. If the person declines, note the offer and the decline without arguing.
- **Do not conduct couples counseling on scene.** Do not ask a frightened person to “work it out” face to face with the person they fear, do not carry messages that pressure them to forgive, and do not share their safety plan or new location with the other party.
- **Name options, not orders, where choice exists.** Protective orders, shelter, advocacy, medical care, and follow-up reporting can be explained in general terms with referral to the resources in this section and your department's victim-services process. Legal specifics belong to courts and advocates; your gift on scene is a clear, unhurried explanation and a written resource the person can keep where it is safe to keep it.

If the person chooses not to leave, not to seek care, or not to support a case, you may feel the visit failed. It did not, if you documented carefully, enforced the law as required, reduced immediate danger, and left a door open. Many people use help on the second, third, or fifth contact. Each respectful contact makes that later use more likely.

4. Children, elders, and others in the home

A domestic call exposes everyone in the household, not only the two adults at the center of the report.

Children: Get down to eye level if you speak with them, keep questions brief and focused on immediate safety and well-being, and follow your training and legal duties for child-safety concerns. Do not ask a child to choose sides, carry messages, or describe adult sexual matters. Notice basics: supervision, injuries, whether a very young child was left alone, whether a child intervened. If you have concerns that meet reporting thresholds, follow Massachusetts reporting duties and department policy exactly — this lesson does

not replace that training. For immediate child-safety guidance, Childhelp, 1-800-422-4453, is listed in Resources. A child who watched violence may show no tears at all; flat calm is a common stress response, not evidence a child was unaffected.

Elders and adults who depend on care: Ask who provides care, medication, mobility help, and money management. A caregiver who is also the source of fear leaves a dependent adult with no safe way to call. Speak with the dependent adult alone where possible, at their pace, and watch for untreated needs, confusion, or fear of a specific person.

People who use substances or live with mental illness may be victims, witnesses, or the person accused — sometimes more than one of those in the same household history. Do not let a diagnosis or intoxication erase a person's account. Assess each person's safety and conduct on the facts of this call, get medical help where signs require it (Sections 7 and 9), and document carefully.

Pets matter more than reports often admit. Threats to animals are a known control tactic, and some people delay leaving because no shelter plan includes a beloved pet. Ask whether animals are hurt or threatened, note it, and include it in referrals to advocates, who may know local options. Do not promise a placement you cannot arrange.

5. Leaving the family safer — documentation, referrals, and follow-through

The last five minutes decide much of the value of the call. This school's closing checklist:

- 1. Separate facts from interpretations in your report.** Injuries described and photographed only as policy authorizes; statements in quotation where possible; children and others present named; prior-pattern information labeled as reported, not established, unless verified through proper channels.
- 2. Complete required notifications and referrals** under department policy — victim advocates, child or elder services where thresholds are met, and supervisory review where required.
- 3. Give resources in a form that is safe to take.** A small card or written number may be safer than a loud announcement in front of the other party. Offer the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-7233, or text START to 88788, and RAINN, 1-800-656-4673, where sexual harm is involved. Ask privately: “Is it safe for you to keep this, or is there a safer way to reach help?” A phone that is monitored makes a saved hotline number a risk; advocates can safety-plan around that.
- 4. Make a concrete tonight-plan.** Where will each person sleep? Who has the children? How will medication, keys, documents, and a charged phone be handled? Who is the neighbor, relative, or friend who can be called? Vague advice to “stay safe” helps no one at 3 a.m.
- 5. Explain how to call again — and mean it.** “If shouting starts again, if he returns after being told to leave under a court order, if you feel unsafe — call 911. You will not be wasting our time.” Families who were told that sincerely, by an officer who treated

them with respect, call earlier. Earlier calls save lives.

What NOT to do: Do not take sides based on who called first, who is calmer, or who owns or rents the home. Do not threaten to arrest everyone or remove children as a way to force calm if that is not the lawful, intended action. Do not leave a written resource where the person who caused harm controls access to it without asking about safety. Do not discuss one party's private disclosures with the other. Do not depart the moment voices drop if injuries, weapons, court orders, or child-safety questions remain unresolved under your duties.

Words to know — Section 8

- **Domestic violence** — a pattern of harmful behavior used to control a partner or family member, which can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or technological.
- **Coercive control** — ongoing tactics — isolation, monitoring, threats, and control of money, movement, or communication — that strip a person's freedom even without a new physical assault.
- **Victim / survivor** — terms for a person harmed by abuse; “survivor” is preferred by many advocates, and officers should follow the person's own language where possible.
- **Safety plan** — a practical, personal plan for staying safer: safe rooms and exits, trusted contacts, essentials ready, code words, and how to call for help.
- **Protective order** — a court order that can require a person to stay away, have no contact, or follow other conditions; specifics and enforcement follow the court and the law.
- **Strangulation** — pressure to the neck that impedes breathing or blood flow; a serious reported act that requires careful medical referral and documentation under policy.
- **Advocate** — a trained support person, often with a hotline or agency, who helps a victim with safety planning, options, and connections to services.
- **Lethality risk** — factors that raise concern that abuse could become fatal, such as escalating threats, weapons, strangulation, and attempts to leave.
- **Separation risk** — the well-recognized danger period when a person tries to leave or has recently left a controlling partner.

Myths vs facts — Section 8

- **Myth:** If it were really that bad, the victim would just leave. **Fact:** Leaving is often the most dangerous time, and control over money, housing, children, documents, and transportation can make leaving a process that needs planning and support — not a single brave moment.
- **Myth:** The calmer person at the door is the truthful one. **Fact:** Calm and distress are both common responses to crisis. Facts, injuries, statements, and patterns —

documented separately — are more reliable than presentation.

- **Myth:** A victim who recants means nothing happened. **Fact:** Recanting is common under fear, pressure, dependence, and shock. Your careful documentation of the first account and the scene still matters.
- **Myth:** Domestic calls are private family business police should exit quickly. **Fact:** Homes are where victims and children are least able to call for help. A thorough, lawful, respectful response is core public-safety work.

Think it through — Section 8

The situation: Neighbors report shouting and a child crying in the apartment below. At the door, a man answers quickly, smiling, and says the family was “just watching a game.” Behind him you see a woman holding a toddler. She has a reddened cheek, will not look at you, and says “I’m fine” each time the man glances at her. A phone with a cracked screen lies on the floor. The man holds both sets of keys and keeps answering questions directed to her. The toddler is quiet and grips the woman's shirt.

Walk it through:

1. **Your first read is pattern, not performance.** A man controlling answers, keys, and eye contact, a woman minimizing injury while checking his face, and a broken phone together justify slowing down and separating the conversation — they do not, by themselves, conclude your investigation.
2. **Separate within policy and safety.** Speak with the woman out of the man's hearing, with the toddler kept comfortable. Speak with the man separately with a partner officer if available. Do not let either interview be monitored by the other.
3. **Ask her directly and privately.** What happened to her cheek? What happened to the phone? Has she been hurt or threatened before? Is she afraid of anything tonight? Does she want medical care? Her answers, pauses, and exact words are documented; a private setting is what makes honest answers possible.
4. **Attend to the child without interrogating.** Observe the toddler's condition, ask the caregiver about immediate needs, and follow child-safety duties under law and policy. The child's grip and silence are observations, not conclusions.
5. **Decide and explain by facts and law.** Enforcement, medical referral, and service referrals follow what you found and your orders — not who performed better at the door. Before leaving, give her resources privately and ask whether keeping them is safe, and make sure she hears how to reach 911 again without the man's permission.
6. **Write it so the next reader sees clearly.** Statements separated by person, injuries described factually, the cracked phone and key control noted as observed, offers of help and responses recorded. That report may protect this family months from now.

One more real-life story — Section 8

An officer returns to a house she visited twice before. This time no one is injured. A grandmother has moved in after a fall, the couple's work hours were cut, and their teenage son has been sleeping on a friend's couch to escape nightly shouting. The wife meets the officer on the porch and says, embarrassed, “Nothing happened. I don't know why the neighbor called. We're just... underwater.”

Instead of treating the absence of a new assault as an absence of work, the officer confirms no one is hurt, asks privately whether either partner feels unsafe tonight, and spends three minutes on concrete help: the son's whereabouts confirmed by phone, a plan for the grandmother's morning medication, and the hotline number given to the wife with the question, “Is it safe to keep this in your coat pocket?” She documents a stress call with no new offense found, notes the referrals offered, and tells both partners how to call before shouting becomes something worse.

Takeaway: Not every family call ends in enforcement, and that is not failure. Assisting a family under stress — safely, privately, and with usable next steps — is part of the same mission: fewer injuries, earlier calls, and children who learn that help can arrive without humiliation.

Try this — Section 8

Rehearse the private-conversation opener until it sounds natural, then practice the closing checklist:

Opener: “I want to speak with you alone for a few minutes so you can talk freely. I take safety in this home seriously. Are you hurt anywhere, and is there anything you are afraid will happen tonight?”

- Parties separated for private conversation where policy and safety allow
- Injuries asked about and medical care offered
- Children, elders, and dependent adults located and their immediate needs checked
- Each person's account documented in their own words, separate from your conclusions
- Resources offered privately, with a safety check: “Is it safe to keep this?”
- Tonight-plan stated before leaving: sleeping arrangements, children, essentials, how to call 911 again

Resources to keep — Section 8

- **Emergency:** 911 — for immediate danger, injuries, or a person returning in violation of a court order.
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-7233 / text START to 88788 — confidential support, safety planning, and local referrals, day or night.
- **RAINN (sexual assault):** 1-800-656-4673 — confidential support for sexual harm.

- **Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline:** 1-800-422-4453 — guidance when a child's safety is a concern.
- **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:** Call or text 988 — for any household member in emotional crisis.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741 — silent, text-based help when speaking aloud is unsafe.
- **On scene:** Your department's crisis-intervention team, victim advocates through your department's process, a co-response clinician if your department has one, and the local hospital for medical assessment.

What you earned / what's next — Section 8

Section 8 complete (quiz score 80% or higher): You can distinguish a pattern of coercive control from ordinary stress, run a safer separated response on a domestic call, speak privately with a person who may be a victim without pressuring or promising what you cannot deliver, attend to children and dependent adults in the home, and close with documentation and resources a family can actually use.

Word Search — Section 8

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

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

Words to find: Safetyplan · Strangulation · Advocate · Lethalityrisk

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.

Domestic violence

Coercive control

Victim / survivor

Safety plan

Protective order

Strangulation

Advocate

Lethality risk

Separation risk

Chapter Test — Section 8

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 coercive control?

- A. Ongoing tactics — isolation, monitoring, threats, and control of money, movement, or communication — that strip a person's freedom
- B. Any argument between partners
- C. A single instance of shouting
- D. A victim's decision to stay in a relationship

2. A victim later recants an account of abuse. This school teaches:

- A. It proves nothing happened
- B. It means the first officer exaggerated
- C. It is common under fear, pressure, dependence, and shock — careful documentation of the first account and scene still matters
- D. It closes the case permanently

3. On a domestic call, one party is calm and organized while the other is frightened and minimizing. How should you weigh this?

- A. The louder person
- B. Presentation is information, not a verdict — document each person's words, observations, and actions separately
- C. Whoever owns or rents the home
- D. Whoever is calmer is truthful

4. Which approach fits talking with a person who may be a victim?

- A. Promise her an arrest and a court outcome
- B. Ask her to work it out face to face with him now
- C. Share her safety plan with both parties so everyone is informed
- D. Start with safety, ask open and concrete questions privately, offer medical care, and promise nothing you cannot deliver

5. In the worked scenario, a man answers every question for his partner, holds both sets of keys, and a cracked phone lies on the floor. The school's read is:

- A. That he was just watching a game
- B. Pattern observations — controlling answers, keys, and eye contact; a minimized injury; a broken phone — justify slowing down and separating the conversation

- C. That the toddler's silence proves abuse
- D. Nothing — the home was quiet when you entered

6. Before leaving written resources with a victim whose phone may be monitored, what should you do?

- A. Ask privately: “Is it safe for you to keep this, or is there a safer way to reach help?”
- B. Announce the hotline number loudly to the whole home
- C. Leave the card with the other party to pass along
- D. Save the number into the victim's phone yourself

7. How should children be handled during a domestic call?

- A. Ask them to choose which parent is telling the truth
- B. Have them interpret for their parents
- C. Keep questions brief and focused on immediate safety, follow child-safety duties, and never make a child carry messages or sides
- D. Interview them in detail about adult sexual matters

8. A child who watched violence sits flat and tearless. This school teaches that flat calm is:

- A. A definite sign the child was unaffected
- B. A common stress response — an observation, not evidence the child was unaffected
- C. A reason to question the child at length
- D. Proof the call was exaggerated

9. What is the National Domestic Violence Hotline as listed in this course?

- A. 1-800-422-4453
- B. 1-800-662-4357
- C. 1-800-222-1222
- D. 1-800-799-7233, or text START to 88788

10. Why does this school reject the myth “if it were that bad, the victim would just leave”?

- A. It can be the most dangerous time, and control over money, housing, children, and documents makes leaving a process needing planning and support
- B. Because victims usually do not mean it
- C. Because shelters are always full
- D. Because police cannot help once someone leaves

Certificate — Section 8

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools

Certificate of Completion — Section 8: Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances

This certifies that

Name (write your name here)

has completed

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Law Enforcement

Section 8: Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances

Date completed: _____

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

Congratulations. You have learned to enter a family's worst hour with steadiness — to listen for the quiet pattern under the noise, to protect the person with the least power in the room, and to leave behind a plan instead of only a warning. Families remember that, and they call sooner because of it. —

Minister Destiny Marie Morgan

School completion and rank are school achievements only. It is not a law-enforcement rank, title, or credential, and it does not certify you for any duty.

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

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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.

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, injuries, or a person returning in violation of a court order.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 / text START to 88788 — confidential support, safety planning, and local referrals, day or night.
- RAINN (sexual assault): 1-800-656-4673 — confidential support for sexual harm.
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453 — guidance when a child's safety is a concern.
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988 — for any household member in emotional crisis.
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 — silent, text-based help when speaking aloud is unsafe.
- On scene: Your department's crisis-intervention team, victim advocates through your department's process, a co-response clinician if your department has one, and the local hospital for medical assessment.

Answer Key

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

Section 8 Test — Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances

1. Ongoing tactics — isolation, monitoring, threats, and control of money, movement, or communication — that strip a person's freedom
2. It is common under fear, pressure, dependence, and shock — careful documentation of the first account and scene still matters
3. Presentation is information, not a verdict — document each person's words, observations, and actions separately
4. Start with safety, ask open and concrete questions privately, offer medical care, and promise nothing you cannot deliver
5. Pattern observations — controlling answers, keys, and eye contact; a minimized injury; a broken phone — justify slowing down and separating the conversation
6. Ask privately: “Is it safe for you to keep this, or is there a safer way to reach help?”
7. Keep questions brief and focused on immediate safety, follow child-safety duties, and never make a child carry messages or sides
8. A common stress response — an observation, not evidence the child was unaffected
9. 1-800-799-7233, or text START to 88788
10. It can be the most dangerous time, and control over money, housing, children, and documents makes leaving a process needing planning and support

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 8 — Domestic Violence and Families Under Stress: Assisting Families Safely in All Circumstances

- Emergency: 911 — for immediate danger, injuries, or a person returning in violation of a court order.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 / text START to 88788 — confidential support, safety planning, and local referrals, day or night.
- RAINN (sexual assault): 1-800-656-4673 — confidential support for sexual harm.
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453 — guidance when a child's safety is a concern.
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988 — for any household member in emotional crisis.
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 — silent, text-based help when speaking aloud is unsafe.
- On scene: Your department's crisis-intervention team, victim advocates through your department's process, a co-response clinician if your department has one, and the local hospital for medical assessment.
- Give resources in a form that is safe to take. A small card or written number may be safer than a loud announcement in front of the other party. Offer the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-7233, or text START to 88788, and RAINN, 1-800-656-4673, where sexual harm is involved. Ask privately: “Is it safe for you to keep this, or is there a safer way to reach help?” A phone that is monitored makes a saved hotline number a risk; advocates can safety-plan around that.

The school itself is free: every class in this book, with its test and certificate, is free online at 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.

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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

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Law Enforcement
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