

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools

Youth: Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System

Youth — Class Book · Month 10

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 — Youth: Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System.

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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The lessons in this book are educational information, written in plain language. If you or someone you know is in danger, call 911. Help lines: 988 (call or text) · Crisis Text Line (text HOME to 741741) · Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-422-4453.

How This Book Works

This book is one class of Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Youth: Month 10 — Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System. 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.

Contents

A Prayer Before You Begin	2
Copyright	3
How This Book Works	4
Contents	5
Before You Start	6
Month 10 — Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System	7
My Agenda — Class Tracker	21
Resources to Keep	23
Answer Key	24
Sources & Credits	25
About the Author	26

Before You Start

Before you start

- **This space is private.** Nobody sees your answers. Nothing you read or answer here is sent anywhere — your progress stays on your own device.
- **We never ask your name.** Not here, not on the certificate. If you earn a certificate, you download it first and write your own name on it after.
- **How you pass this month:** Take the Month 10 test at the end and score 80% or higher to earn this month's certificate. You can retake it as many times as you need.
- **Information only, not legal advice.** This lesson explains words and general ideas, Massachusetts-first. It does not state amounts for any fine or fee, because those depend on the law, the case, and the court — your lawyer and the court paperwork are the sources for your own case.
- **If you are in danger right now:** call **911**. You can also call or text **988**, or text **HOME to 741741** for the Crisis Text Line, any time, day or night.

Month 10 — Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Youth

The lesson

1. What a charge actually is

A charge is a written claim by the state that a person broke a specific law. Read that sentence again, because two ideas inside it protect you. First, a charge is a claim, not a conclusion — being charged is not the same as being found responsible after the process runs. Second, a charge points to a specific law, which means the state has to connect real evidence to that law's requirements. Vague trouble is not a charge; paperwork that names an alleged act and a law is.

Charges have levels of seriousness. In general terms, less serious offenses carry lighter possible consequences, and more serious offenses — especially those involving harm to a person — carry heavier ones. The same act can also be looked at differently depending on age, which is why young people are in juvenile court in the first place. You may hear adults argue about what the right charge should have been. That argument is normal in the system, and it is one of the main jobs a lawyer does: testing whether the charge fits the evidence and the law.

Never guess what a charge means from its nickname on the street or in a song. Names that sound casual can describe serious allegations, and names that sound terrifying can cover conduct you would not expect. Ask your lawyer to translate your exact charge into plain sentences: What does the state say I did? What would they have to prove? What are the possible outcomes if they prove it?

2. The path from charge to outcome — key words in order

Cases have a life cycle, and each stage has its own vocabulary. After a charge comes arraignment, where it is formally read, as Month 9 explained. Then come pre-trial steps, where evidence is exchanged and lawyers file motions — written requests asking the judge to decide a legal question, such as whether certain evidence can be used. A case may be continued, which simply means postponed to a later date, something that happens often and is not, by itself, good or bad news.

An outcome is called a disposition in juvenile court. A case can be dismissed, meaning it ends without a finding. A young person may admit to facts in some cases, or a case may proceed to trial, where the state must prove the allegation and a judge decides. A finding of delinquency is the juvenile system's determination that the allegation was established. Each of these words — dismissed, admitted, trial, delinquent — carries different consequences for records, money, school, and home, so never treat them as interchangeable.

A warrant deserves its own paragraph because it frightens people out of proportion to its fixability. A warrant is a court order connected, commonly, to a missed court date or an unmet obligation. The danger is real — a warrant can lead to being taken into custody when encountered — but the remedy starts with contact, not hiding: a caregiver and lawyer contacting the court promptly to address it. Hiding converts a paperwork problem into a pattern of avoidance.

3. Fines, fees, and costs — three different buckets of money

Adults often mash all court money into one word, but there are distinct buckets, and knowing which bucket you are looking at changes your options. A fine is a sum of money ordered as a penalty for an offense. Court fees and costs are charges connected to running the case or to specific services and programs the court orders. Surcharges and assessments are additional amounts that may be added by law on top of other sums in some matters. This lesson intentionally gives no amounts: amounts are set by law and by the individual case, they change over time, and any number printed in a general lesson could be wrong for you and mislead your family.

Juvenile cases handle money differently from adult cases in a number of ways, and a caregiver may be drawn into payment questions in ways that surprise families. That is why the paperwork matters so much. For every money item connected to a case, a family should be able to answer: What is this charge called? Who is ordered to pay it? By when? What happens if it is not paid on time? Who do we call to ask for more time or a different arrangement?

If paying would mean missing rent, utilities, or food, do not just stop paying and stop calling. Contact the court or probation as instructed on the paperwork, explain the hardship before the deadline, and ask — through a lawyer where possible — what options exist, such as a payment schedule or a review of the obligation. Courts deal with hardship requests constantly. Silence reads as refusal; an early, documented request reads as responsibility, and the two are treated very differently.

4. Restitution — money with a different purpose

Restitution is not a fine, even though both involve money leaving your household. Restitution is meant to repay a specific person or business for a specific loss the court finds was caused — for example, property that was damaged or taken. Because it is tied to a victim's loss, judges take unpaid restitution seriously, and completing it is often part of showing that repair actually happened.

Restitution is also where documentation protects everyone. Amounts should come from proof of loss, not from a guess in a hallway conversation. Payments should always be made the way the court directs, never as informal cash handed to the other party, and every receipt should be kept in the case folder from Month 9. If a loss amount seems wrong — an item valued far above its real worth, or damage that existed before — that is a lawyer question to raise through the process, not an argument to have with the victim

directly. Direct contact outside the court's structure can violate conditions and create a second problem on top of the first.

When restitution is finished, get written confirmation and keep it. Months later, a single paper proving completion can end a dispute in one minute that memory alone would argue about for an hour.

5. Records — what is kept, who can see it, and what "sealed" means

A record is the system's memory of a case: the charge, the court events, and the outcome. Young people hear two opposite myths about juvenile records — that they vanish automatically at eighteen like they never existed, or that they follow you identically to an adult record forever. The truth, in general terms, sits between those stories. Juvenile records are treated with more protection and less public access than adult records, and Massachusetts law provides ways, in many circumstances, for records to be sealed after certain waiting periods and conditions are met. But sealing is generally something that must be applied for and granted — not a switch that flips itself on a birthday.

Because the details depend on the type of case and its outcome, families should ask a lawyer or a legal-aid clinic a direct question once a case is closed: "What can be done about this record, and when?" Keep the disposition paperwork forever somewhere safe at home; you cannot easily prove an outcome years later without it, and proving an outcome is often the whole point.

School is a separate record world. Your school keeps its own files about attendance and discipline, governed by different rules from court records. A court outcome does not automatically rewrite a school record, and a school action does not decide a court case. When adults in the two systems need to communicate, they do so within rules about what can be shared — and you and your caregiver can ask, plainly, what has been shared and why.

6. Consequences beyond the courtroom — school, home, activities, future

The sentence or disposition is only one layer of consequence, and for many young people it is not even the heaviest layer. At school, a case can overlap with suspension, loss of a team or club position, or a changed daily schedule, because schools apply their own rules to safety and conduct. At home, consequences include tighter supervision, lost trust that must be re-earned in small increments, and stress on caregivers who are juggling court dates, work, and money at the same time.

Looking forward, certain applications in adult life — for jobs, housing, licenses, or programs — ask questions about history, and the correct answer depends on what actually happened in the case, what the record's current status is, and what the question legally asks. Never guess on such a form and never let a friend fill it in for you. A wrong answer given casually can cause more damage than the original case. Legal-aid clinics exist precisely to answer, "How do I answer this question truthfully and lawfully?" for people without money for a lawyer.

None of this is written to frighten you. It is written so that choices made in a hallway in ten seconds are weighed with the full picture visible. When a friend proposes something risky, the vocabulary of this lesson is a tool: name the likely charge in your head, name the buckets of money, name the school and home fallout — and watch how the "fun" drains out of the plan.

7. Probation conditions, violations, and how small slips grow

Probation conditions are the written rules of a community disposition or release: attend school, keep a curfew, report to a probation officer, complete a program, stay away from a listed person or place, commit no new offenses. Think of conditions as the actual contract of the case. The original charge decided whether you entered the system; the conditions decide whether you exit it on schedule.

A violation is a claim that a condition was broken. Not every violation leads to the harshest response — probation officers and judges can respond with warnings, added supports, or adjusted conditions — but every hidden violation tends to be discovered at the worst moment, usually with a new incident attached. The pattern professionals respect is the opposite: early honesty, delivered through the channels your lawyer advises, with a concrete correction already started, such as a missed check-in rescheduled and attended before the hearing about it.

Families can make conditions survivable. Post them where everyone can see them. Build the week's driving, meals, and activities around curfew and check-ins instead of treating them as surprises. If a condition is genuinely impossible as written — a program time that collides with the only bus, a rule that conflicts with a medical appointment — raise it promptly through the lawyer or probation officer and ask for a modification in writing. Working conditions get adjusted; ignored conditions get violated.

8. Speaking the system's language without fear

The vocabulary of courts is old, formal, and — once translated — mostly ordinary. Judges, lawyers, and probation officers use these words all day, and they do not expect a young person to arrive fluent. What they respect is a young person who asks for translation rather than nodding along. Keep these moves ready: "Can you explain that word in plain language?" "Can I have that date and that condition in writing?" "Who do I call if I cannot do what is written here?" Each question is allowed. Each one prevents a misunderstanding that could otherwise be counted against you.

Bring that same translation habit home. Caregivers often leave court more confused than the young person, because they were focused on worry instead of words. A family that sits down the same evening, folder open, and walks through each term and date together starts the next morning as a team instead of as three people carrying three different versions of the case.

Words to know — Month 10

- **Charge** — the written claim that a person broke a specific law; an allegation, not a final finding.
- **Fine** — money ordered as a penalty for an offense.
- **Fees and costs** — charges connected to the case process or to court-ordered services and programs.
- **Restitution** — money ordered to repay a specific victim for a specific loss caused by the offense.
- **Disposition** — the juvenile court's decision about consequences and services after a case is resolved.
- **Dismissed** — a case ended by the court without a finding.
- **Warrant** — a court order, often connected to a missed date or unmet obligation, that can lead to being taken into custody.
- **Sealing** — a legal process that limits who can access a record; it generally must be requested and granted.
- **Violation** — a claim that a condition of probation or release was broken.
- **Motion** — a written request asking a judge to decide a legal question in a case.

Myths vs facts — Month 10

- **Myth:** A fine and restitution are the same thing. **Fact:** A fine is a penalty to the court; restitution repays a specific victim for a specific loss.
- **Myth:** Juvenile records automatically disappear completely on your eighteenth birthday. **Fact:** Juvenile records have extra protections, but sealing generally must be requested and granted; ask a lawyer about your case.
- **Myth:** If you cannot pay what the court ordered, the smart move is to ignore it until it goes away. **Fact:** Contacting the court or probation before the deadline to explain hardship and ask about options is treated very differently from silence.
- **Myth:** Being charged means you have already been found delinquent. **Fact:** A charge is an allegation the state must prove through the court process.

What would you do? — Month 10

The situation: Your case has ended with probation, a program, and two kinds of money ordered — a payment to the court and restitution for a store window you broke. Your caregiver, stressed, says: "Money is money, just hand the store owner cash when we see him, and skip the court payment this month; they'll never notice." You are not sure, but she sounds confident.

Walk it through:

1. Sort the money into this lesson's buckets: restitution repays a specific loss; the court payment is a separate obligation with its own deadline.
2. Spot the risks in the suggestion: cash to the owner leaves no official proof of repayment, approaching the owner may violate your conditions, and skipping the court payment in silence can become a violation.
3. Propose the documented route instead: pay exactly as the court paperwork directs, keep every receipt in the case folder, and get written confirmation when restitution is complete.
4. Address the real problem underneath — money is tight this month — by contacting probation or the court before the deadline, with your caregiver, to explain and ask what options exist.
5. If you are unsure who is right, make the call that protects the record: ask your lawyer before changing any payment the court ordered.

One more real-life story — Month 10

Devon finished his community disposition believing he was "done with court." He threw his papers into a drawer and stopped thinking about them. A year later, an application for a youth program asked a question about past court involvement, and Devon froze — he did not know whether his case had been dismissed or found delinquent, whether anything was still owed, or how to answer truthfully. He almost left the application blank, which would have cost him the program and might have looked like hiding something. Instead, his school counselor connected the family with a legal-aid clinic, which reviewed his disposition paperwork — his grandmother had kept her own copies — confirmed the outcome and that his obligations were complete, and explained how to answer that exact question accurately for his record's status.

The lesson: Your paperwork is part of your future. Keep the disposition, keep the receipts, and when a form asks about your history, get the wording explained by a professional instead of guessing.

Try this — Month 10

Build a one-page "case words" glossary of your own, even if you have never had a case.

- Copy each word from this month's list and rewrite its definition in your own plain words, from memory, then check yourself against the lesson.
- Add a money map: three boxes labeled Fine, Fees/Costs, and Restitution, with one sentence under each about who receives it and why.
- Write the three translation questions from this lesson at the bottom: asking for a word in plain language, asking for a date in writing, and asking who to call.
- Keep the page in a folder at home — the same folder habit this track teaches for any important paperwork.

Resources to keep — Month 10

- Emergency: **911**
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call or text **988**
- Crisis Text Line: text **HOME** to **741741**
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: **1-800-422-4453**
- SAMHSA National Helpline: **1-800-662-4357**
- A trusted adult, your school counselor or nurse, and your local library can help you find legal-aid information. This lesson is information only, not legal advice.

What you earned / what's next — Month 10

Month 10 complete (test score 80% or higher): You can explain a charge in plain language, sort fines, fees, and restitution into their proper buckets, describe records and sealing without the myths, and use the vocabulary of the system to ask sharp, protective questions.

What's next: Month 11 — Medical and Mental-Health Facilities — What a Stay Is Like, Your Rights: what happens at intake, who you will meet, your rights inside, and how discharge and going home actually work.

Word Search — Month 10

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

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

Words to find: Charge · Fine · Feesandcosts · Restitution · Disposition · Dismissed · Warrant
· Sealing

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.

Charge

Fine

Fees and costs

Restitution

Disposition

Dismissed

Warrant

Sealing

Violation

Motion

Check Yourself — Practice Questions

These are practice questions, not the test. Write your answers in your own words. Everything you need is in this book's lesson.

1. Explain in your own words what “Charge” means, and give one example from real life.

2. Explain in your own words what “Fine” means, and give one example from real life.

3. Explain in your own words what “Fees and costs” means, and give one example from real life.

4. Explain in your own words what “Restitution” means, and give one example from real life.

5. The lesson has a part called “The lesson.” Write the most important thing it teaches, in your own words.

6. The lesson has a part called “Myths vs facts — Month 10.” Write the most important thing it teaches, in your own words.

7. The lesson has a part called “What would you do? — Month 10.” Write the most important thing it teaches, in your own words.

8. Think about the stories in this class. Pick one, and write what you would do — and why.

Chapter Test — Month 10

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 charge?

- A. A final finding that someone is delinquent
- B. A written claim by the state that a person broke a specific law — an allegation, not a conclusion
- C. A fine that must be paid immediately
- D. A nickname for any school trouble

2. Why does this lesson give NO amounts for fines or fees?

- A. Because amounts depend on the law and the individual case and change over time, so a general number could mislead
- B. Because court never charges young people money
- C. Because amounts are secret from families
- D. Because money is never part of a disposition

3. How is restitution different from a fine?

- A. Restitution is paid to the court as a penalty
- B. A fine repays a specific victim
- C. Restitution repays a specific person or business for a specific loss the court finds was caused
- D. There is no difference at all

4. If paying a court obligation would mean missing rent or food, what does the lesson advise?

- A. Stop paying and stop calling, and hope it goes away
- B. Borrow cash and hand it to the victim directly
- C. Ignore the paperwork until a warrant arrives
- D. Contact the court or probation before the deadline, explain the hardship, and ask what options exist

5. What is the truth about juvenile records, between the two myths?

- A. They vanish automatically and completely at eighteen
- B. They are treated with more protection than adult records, but sealing generally must be requested and granted
- C. They are identical to adult records forever

D. Anyone can view them online

6. What is a warrant, in the lesson's plain language?

A. A permission slip to miss court

B. A type of restitution

C. A court order, commonly connected to a missed date or unmet obligation, that can lead to being taken into custody

D. A school absence note

7. What should you do when a condition of probation seems impossible as written?

A. Raise it promptly through your lawyer or probation officer and ask for a modification in writing

B. Ignore it until it becomes a violation

C. Ask a friend to follow it for you

D. Break it quietly if your reason is good

8. Why should restitution payments be made exactly as the court directs, with receipts kept?

A. So friends can see you paid

B. Because the victim prefers cash

C. Receipts are not needed if you remember paying

D. Informal cash leaves no official proof, and written confirmation can end later disputes quickly

9. On a future application that asks about your history, what does the lesson advise?

A. Guess, and let a friend fill it in

B. Get the question explained by a lawyer or legal-aid clinic for your record's actual status, rather than guessing

C. Leave it blank — blank is always safest

D. Always answer as if you had an adult record

10. What is a motion?

A. A request to change schools

B. A payment plan for a fine

C. A written request asking a judge to decide a legal question in a case

D. A probation check-in

Certificate — Month 10

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools

Certificate of Completion — Month 10: Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System

This certifies that

Name (write your name here)

has completed

Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Youth

Month 10: Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the
System

Date completed: _____

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

Educational completion certificate only — not a state license, POST certification, or government
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Minister Destiny Testimony Schools — Youth

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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
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988
- Crisis Text Line: text HOME to 741741
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453
- SAMHSA National Helpline: 1-800-662-4357
- A trusted adult, your school counselor or nurse, and your local library can help you find legal-aid information. This lesson is information only, not legal advice.

Answer Key

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

Month 10 Test — Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System

1. A written claim by the state that a person broke a specific law — an allegation, not a conclusion
2. Because amounts depend on the law and the individual case and change over time, so a general number could mislead
3. Restitution repays a specific person or business for a specific loss the court finds was caused
4. Contact the court or probation before the deadline, explain the hardship, and ask what options exist
5. They are treated with more protection than adult records, but sealing generally must be requested and granted
6. A court order, commonly connected to a missed date or unmet obligation, that can lead to being taken into custody
7. Raise it promptly through your lawyer or probation officer and ask for a modification in writing
8. Informal cash leaves no official proof, and written confirmation can end later disputes quickly
9. Get the question explained by a lawyer or legal-aid clinic for your record's actual status, rather than guessing
10. A written request asking a judge to decide a legal question in a case

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.

Month 10 — Charges, Fines, and Consequences — and the Vocabulary of the System

- Emergency: 911
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- A trusted adult, your school counselor or nurse, and your local library can help you find legal-aid information. This lesson is information only, not legal advice.
- If you are in danger right now: call 911. You can also call or text 988, or text HOME to 741741 for the Crisis Text Line, any time, day or night.

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.

Contact: ministerdestinymariemorgan@gmail.com

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 — Youth
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