

# *Molly Mormon Standards on Trial*

**A Mock Trial putting the standards of the youth of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as found in *For the Strength of Youth* booklet on trial.**

The case is the State of Cool versus Miss Molly Mormon Standards. It is a mock criminal case charging Miss Molly Mormon Standards with the two “criminal” counts. Both counts are in violation of the rules of the State of Cool.



The prosecuting lawyer, Ms Cool brings witnesses to testify against Miss Molly Mormon Standards including; Ms Prom Queen, Ms Candy Samples and Ms Ava Tar. The defense attorney Ms. P. Progress brings to the stand witnesses defending the accused. The witnesses include: Miss Humility Anne Modesty, Miss Integrity Virtue Wisdom and Miss Divine Nature. Arguments are made for and against standards as found in the booklet *For the Strength of Youth* of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The LDS Church first published "For the Strength of Youth" in 1965. Subsequent editions were published in 1966, two in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1990, 2001, and most recently in 2011 (10th edition).

The first edition of the pamphlet *For the Strength of Youth* had 16 pages, while the tenth edition has 44 pages. Regarding the latest updated, Young Women general president Elaine S. Dalton said, "The standards have not changed, but times have changed.... For the Strength of Youth has been revised to address the issues youth face today—to teach them the doctrine behind the standards and the promised blessings of obedience." This is a Mock trial waging the “cool” standards of today against the “timeless” standards as found in the LDS booklet *For the Strength of Youth*.



# *Molly Mormon Standards on Trial*

Set: This play takes place in the courtroom where there is a typical courtroom laid out with a judge at a table as well as tables for the defendants and prosecutors and chairs for the witnesses and spectators.

Characters:

Molly Mormon Standards:

Defense attorney, Ms P. Progress:

Prosecuting attorney, Ms Cool:

The Judge:

Bailiff:

Court Reporter:

Clerk:

Jurors:

Jury Forman: one of the jury members

Witnesses:

    Prom Queen:

    Candy Samples:

    Ava Tar:

    Miss Humility Anne Modesty:

    Miss Integrity Virtue Wisdom:

    Miss Divine Nature:

**Bailiff:** *Please Rise. (Wait for everyone to rise--the Judge enters the courtroom.) The Court of Kansas City First Ward Judicial District is now in session, the Honorable Judge Bishop presiding. Please be seated.*

**Judge:** *I call this court to order. [Pounds desk with gavel]. Ladies of the jury, today's case is the State of Cool versus Miss Molly Mormon Standards. This is a criminal case charging Miss Molly Mormon Standards with one count of deference to modesty and a second count of intolerance to trend with popular culture. Both counts are in violation of the rules of the State of Cool.*

*Miss Molly Mormon Standards denies the criminal charges and denies that she has broken any laws. She contends she is in accordance with rules that are as old as mankind. It will be your duty to decide if Miss Molly Mormon Standards is guilty of the crimes. Is the prosecution ready?*

**Prosecutor:** *Yes, Your Honor.*

**Judge:** *Is the defense ready?*

**Defense Attorney:** *Ready, Your Honor.*

**Judge:** *Will the clerk please swear in the jury?*

**Clerk:** *[Clerk walk over to where the jury is seated and stands in front of the jury.] Will the jury please stand and raise your right hand [Wait for everyone to stand.] Do each of you swear that you will fairly try the case before this court, and that you will return a true verdict according to the evidence and the instructions of the court so help you God? Please say, “I do”. [Wait for jurors to say, “I do.”] You may be seated.*

**Judge:** *Prosecutor Ms. Cool you may precede with your opening statement.*

**Prosecutor:** *[Walks to the front addresses the judge and then the jury.]*

*“Your Honor, members of the jury, my name is Ms. Cool and I am representing the State in prosecuting Miss Molly Mormon Standards in this case.*

- I intend to prove Miss Standards is in breech of proper conduct and her actions are in breech of today’s social acceptance AND social norms. Miss Standards has broken all social rules by not adapting to the norms, which our society holds and deems to be acceptable. In all societies there are rules a group uses for appropriate values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors. These rules are both explicit and implicit. Society sets these rules--and Miss Standards has broken ALL the rules. She is charged with a count of deference to modesty and a second count of intolerance to trend with popular culture. Failure to abide by the rules of a society should result in severe punishment.*
- These are the facts of the case: Ms. Standards refuses to comply. She refuses to comply in her actions, her dating behavior, in her speech and, yes, even in the way she dresses. She has broken these rules not just one time but breaks the rules on a daily basis, with no remorse and shows no attempt at compliance.*
- Today you will be presented with evidence and will hear testimony from my witnesses, which will leave no doubt in your mind of the guilt of Ms. Standards.*

- *Please find the defendant, Miss Molly Mormon Standards guilty on all counts.*

**Judge:** *Thank you, Ms. Cool. Ms. Progress, for the defense, is you ready? It is Ms. P. Progress correct?*

**Defense Attorney:** *Yes, your honor. We are here today to show that just because Miss Molly Mormon Standards is not adhering to the social norms her actions are not wrong nor are they criminal. Quite the contrary, Miss Standards is standing up for what is right. Miss Molly Mormon Standards has stood for her beliefs and should not be charged in violation with the rules of the State of Cool. Even the State of Cool allows the freedom of choice.*

**Judge:** *What does the P. in your name stand for Ms. Progress?*

**Public Defender:** *It's Personal, your honor, Ms. Personal Progress.*

**Judge:** *Oh, I see. (Pause) You may precede Ms. Personal Progress.*

**Defense Attorney:** **[Stand up and talk to the jury.]** *Your honor and Ladies of the jury, my name is Ms. Personal Progress. I have the great privilege to represent Ms. Molly Mormon Standards. Under the law my client is presumed innocent until proven guilty. During this trial, you will hear evidence about Miss Standards and as members of the jury; you must find my client innocent of the charges against her. I will prove that not only is she innocent but she is acting within her rights. Miss Standards has the right to choose even if it goes against the social norm and as long as her choice does not put others in harm. And I will prove that Miss Standards choices are less harmful than the social norms of the State of Cool.*

*Putting Miss Standards on trial will only bring a better understanding of the principles, doctrines and beliefs of Ms. Standards. I intend to defend the position of Ms. Standards and debunk misinformation. You will see her actions were not breaking the rules and standards of social norms but in effect represent the opportunity we have to represent the freedom of choice that we all hold sacred. Miss Molly Mormon Standards is representing standards that will hold for all eternity, not just for today's social norm. I refer you to Moses 4:3-4. Thank you.*

**Judge:** *Thank you Ms. P. Progress. Jury, you have heard the opening statements. We may now proceed with the trial. The prosecution may call their first witness.*

**Prosecutor:** *Thank you Your Honor. The State of Cool calls their first witness Prom Queen.*

**Judge:** *Would Prom Queen please come to the stand?*

*[Bailiff takes the witness to the witness stand.]*

**Judge:** *The clerk will swear in the witness.*

**Clerk:** *Please remain standing. Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?*

**Prom Queen:** *I do.*

**Clerk:** *Please state your first and last name.*

**Prom Queen:** *Prom Queen.*

**Clerk:** *Please be seated.*

**Court Reporter:** *Please spell your last name for the record.*

**Prom Queen:** *Q-U-E-E-N*

**Prosecutor:** *[Stands up.] Prom, where do you go to school?*

**Prom Queen:** *Any High School.*

**Prosecutor:** *Do you know the defendant, Ms. Standards?*

**Prom Queen:** *Yes, I do.*

**Prosecutor:** *Have you ever seen her break the social norms?*

**Prom Queen:** *Oh yes, absolutely.*

**Prosecutor:** *Can you give us an example?*

**Prom Queen:** *Yes, but I can do better than that. I took a picture of her at prom.*

**Prosecutor:** *Is this the picture? [Holds up a picture.]*

**Prom Queen:** *Yes.*

**Prosecutor:** *I would like to enter this photograph as Exhibit 1. [Gives the picture to the clerk of the court] [Turns back to the witness.] Continue Ms. Queen.*

**Prom Queen:** *The picture proves she violated social rules. As you can see the prom dress she wore was against all the rules of popularity. It was not strapless, it was not backless, it was not low-cut ... [then very dramatically] it had sleeves. There wasn't even a slit up the side to show off some thigh. And worse yet, it was not fitted properly--it was not form fitting.*

*Why Ms. Standards has a tiny waist and everyone knows it is a crime not to show that off. The dress was "soooo" not with it. No one wears dresses like that anymore.*

**Prosecutor:** *Is this the first time you have seen Ms. Standards dress in such a way?*

**Prom Queen:** *Since I have sworn to tell the whole truth, I must admit that I have never seen Ms. Standards wear anything that is tight, sheer or revealing in any other manner. She avoids short shorts, short skirts, shirts that show some stomach, and clothing that is off the shoulders or low-cut in the front or the back. It is as if she is afraid to show some skin. She acts like being modest is cool, and that is soooo not popular.*

**Prosecutor:** *Just one more question Ms. Queen. Does Ms. Standards have any tattoos or any body piercings?*

**Defense:** *Objection, badgering the witness.*

**Judge:** *Overruled, you may answer Ms. Queen.*

**Prom Queen:** *None that I have ever seen. Would you like to see my tramp stamp?*

**Prosecutor:** *No need Ms. Queen. Thank you, I have no further questions.*

**Judge:** *Thank you Ms Cool. Does the defense have any questions for this witness?*

**Defense Attorney:** *Not at this time, Your Honor.*

**Judge:** *This witness is now excused. You may step down Ms. Queen. [Wait for the witness to leave the stand.] Ms. Cool you may call your next witness.*

**Prosecutor:** *The State of Cool calls their witness Ms. Candy Samples.*

**Judge:** *Would the witness Ms. Candy Samples please take the stand.*

*[Bailiff takes the witness to the witness stand.]*

**Judge:** *The clerk will swear in the witness.*

**Clerk:** *Please remain standing. Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?*

**Candy Samples:** *I do.*

**Clerk:** *Please state your first and last name.*

**Candy Samples:** *Candy Samples.*

**Clerk:** *You may be seated.*

**Court Reporter:** *Please spell your last name for the record.*

**Candy Samples:** *S-A-M-P-L-E-S*

**Prosecutor:** *Would you tell the courtroom how you know Ms. Standards?*

**Candy Samples:** *We go to the same school. We are in the same grade and have several classes together. I have known Molly Mormon Standards since grade school. We were friends in grade school.*

**Prosecutor:** *Are you friends now?*

**Candy Samples:** *We are not as close as we used to be. Her parents are very strict and always were very strict. She is not allowed to do the things we all want to do. And this goes way back. When all my friends and myself would go and hang out at the mall Molly's parents would never let her go and just hang out. They acted like it was a crime or something. She was too busy. She always had lessons, or homework, or church activities. There was always some excuse. As time went on she just didn't involve herself in the things we were all doing. We got tired of inviting her. It is hard to be friends with someone that doesn't do anything you want to do.*

**Prosecutor:** *Were boys included in these activities?*

**Candy Samples:** *Of course.*

**Prosecutor:** *Ms. Samples, at what age did you start dating?*

**Candy Samples:** *I started dating at 12 years old.*

**Defense:** *Objection, irrelevant.*

**Judge:** *Overruled, the normal age one can begin dating versus Miss Standards' dating age is extremely important.*

**Prosecutor:** *Was 12 the typical age for everyone you knew?*

**Candy Samples:** *Well yes, some of my friends started a little earlier and some a little later, everyone that is except Molly. She could not start dating until she was 16 year old. That just wasn't done at our school. She seemed to think that she did not have to conform to our social rules and morays. This was just how it was done at our school. It didn't seem to matter that boys wanted to date her before she was 16.*

*We even studied this at school. In our social studies class we learned that for a group of people to live in peaceful existence rules and expectations for*

*the group are necessary and everyone has to follow those rules. Molly seems to think she does not have to live by the rules of our social group. That is just unacceptable. It upsets the balance of the group.*

**Prosecutor:** *Do you know what the national standards are in regards to dating, at what age do people start dating in our country?*

**Candy Samples:** *Do you mean a real date?*

**Prosecutor:** *Yes*

**Candy Samples:** *I think the average age is 13.*

**Defense:** *Objection, speculation.*

**Prosecutor:** *Were there others besides Molly that waited to date?*

**Candy Samples:** *Not if they were normal.*

**Prosecutor:** *How many boyfriends have you had Candy?*

**Candy Samples:** *That is a hard question. The new thing is not to have a steady boyfriend ... you know ... a committed relationship. That is just not done anymore. Now everyone just hooks up with someone. It is so much easier than having a serious relationship, so much freer if you know what I mean. No commitment is in.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Objection, cumulative. I don't think we need to explore it further. Additional details are not needed.*

**Judge:** *Sustained.*

**Prosecutor:** *No further questions.*

**Judge:** *Does the defense have any questions?*

**Defense Attorney:** *Yes your Honor. [Approaches the witness.] Was it common knowledge that Miss Standards would not date until she was 16.*

**Candy Samples:** *Of course, everyone knew. She did not keep it a secret.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Did she have any dates after she turned 16?*

**Candy Samples:** *Of course. I was surprised, but boys couldn't wait to ask her out after she was 16.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Did Molly's waiting until she was 16 years old cause any civil unrest at your school?*

**Candy Samples:** *What?*

**Defense Attorney:** *Did it cause any riots at your school because Molly did not date until she was 16?*

**Candy Samples:** *Not unless you call the stampede of boys asking her for a date after she turned 16 a riot.*

**Defense Attorney:** *No further questions.*

**Judge:** *Thank you Miss Samples, you may step down. [Wait for the witness to leave the stand.] Ms. Cool, does the prosecution have another witness?*

**Prosecutor:** *Yes. Your Honor. We call to the stand Miss Ava Tar.*

*[Bailiff takes the witness to the witness stand.]*

*[Ava Tar is very busy texting and looking at her phone]*

**Judge:** *The clerk will swear in the witness.*

**Clerk:** *Please remain standing. Ms Tar! [Ava Tar is too busy texting to even pay attention.] Ms Ava Tar! [Ava Tar finally looks up.] Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?*

**Ava Tar:** *I do. Wait let me send a tweet on this...oh wait, no let me send an Instagram.*

**Clerk:** *Please state your first and last name.*

**Ava Tar:** *Ava Tar.*

**Clerk:** *Please be seated.*

**Court Reporter:** *Please spell your last name for the record.*

**Ava Tar:** *T-A-R.....#InCourt! [Jumps up by the judge to get a selfie with judge.]Let me get a selfie of us judge!*

**Judge:** *Bailiff please remove Miss Tar's cell phone from her.*

*[bailiff gives sideways look to Ava Tar and takes her phone]*

**Ava Tar:** *#bailiff is taking my phone away...!*

**Prosecutor:** *Do you know Miss Standards?*

**Ava Tar:** *I do. We used to spend a lot of time together, but not so much lately. I am pretty busy in my other life.*

**Prosecutor:** *Your other life, Miss Tar?*

**Ava Tar:** *Oh I have another life, it is incredible. I spend every evening playing in the virtual world of Second Life. My cyberspace persona is perfect! In Second Life, I have a husband, we own two dogs, pay a mortgage together and spend hours in our cyberspace world shopping at the mall and taking long motorcycle rides. I have very little time to talk to people in real life because I am too busy in cyberspace.*

**Defense:** *Objection, irrelevant.*

**Judge:** *Overruled, how much time Miss Ava Tar spends online is indeed relevant to the case.*

**Ava Tar:** *I wish I could spend all day everyday in Second Life. All the tangible stuff falls away. It is like my body does not exist. I have no skin, no hair, and no bones. There is no outdoors, no social life, and no weather. There is only the computer screen and the phone and my chair. I forget about all my worries.*

**Prosecutor:** *Do you do anything else?*

**Ava Tar:** *Of course, when I am not doing Second Life I am catching up on Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, Vine, Reddit, texting friends, playing Candyland ad other games online, downloading apps and surfing the net for interesting things ... you know “interesting” things like pictures of cats and videos of sneezing baby pandas. I am so popular and so awesome I want everyone on the Internet to know how wonderful I am all the time. I am so busy I don’t have to worry about my real life. And of course when I get together with my offline friends we talk about Second Life, what’s on Facebook, Instagram, texting or gaming. This is how we socialize!*

**Prosecutor:** *Why are you not friends with Miss Standards anymore?*

**Ava Tar:** *Well, she has never said technology is wrong or evil, but she might as well have said it. She says she doesn’t have time to spend on Facebook or texting. Oh, she does have a Facebook page and owns a cell phone. But she has said she can’t spend that much time on the Internet. At her home the computer is in the kitchen. You don’t have privacy in the kitchen. I have even heard her say grades are just too important right now. Can you imagine? Letting people know she is worried about grades!*

**Prosecutor:** *Do you have a boyfriend Miss Ava Tar, one outside of the virtual world of Second Life?*

**Ava Tar:** *Well I did, but I got mad and broke up with him when he shared certain pictures I sent to him. Everyone does it, but that does not mean you share those kinds of pictures with everyone. I do have some standards you know. But I am not crazy like Miss Standards...Miss Prissy who would never send those kind of pictures to a boyfriend, of course she will never have a steady boyfriend cuz’ she didn’t even date until she was 16. When she does date it always seem to include a group of other kids...not popular ones mind you. And not only does she not fit in but also she misses out on a lot of things because she won’t do these things, like a steady boyfriend or sending “certain” pictures to her boyfriend. It is hard for her to socialize with us because she is never up on things. Just look at her--she doesn’t even try to fit in ... look at the way she dresses!*

**Prosecutor:** *No more questions.*

**Judge:** *Does the defense have any questions?*

**Defense Attorney:** *No your honor.*

**Judge:** *Thank you Miss Samples, you may step down. [Wait for the witness to leave the stand.] Ms. Cool, does the prosecution have another witness?*

**Prosecutor:** *We have no more witnesses Your Honor. The Prosecution rests its case.*

**Judge:** *Thank Ms. Cool. Ms Progress, do you wish to call your first witness?*

**Defense Attorney:** *Yes, Your Honor, the defense would like to call our first witness Miss H. A. Modesty.*

**Judge:** *Would Miss Modesty please come to the stand.*

*[Bailiff takes the witness to the witness stand.]*

**Judge:** *The clerk will swear in the witness.*

**Clerk:** *Please remain standing. Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?*

**Miss Modesty:** *I do.*

**Clerk:** *Please state your first and last name.*

**Miss Modesty:** *Humility Anne Modesty.*

**Clerk:** *Please be seated.*

**Court Reporter:** *Please spell your last name for the record.*

**Miss Modesty:** *M-O-D-E-S-T-Y*

**Defense Attorney:** *Miss Modesty do you know the defendant Molly Mormon Standards?*

**Miss Modesty:** *Yes, I do.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Have you seen her breaking social rules?*

**Miss Modesty:** *If you mean the latest “in” social rules, then yes. But we are teenagers. These rules change almost every day. The “in” social norm one day changes and is “out” the next day and something else is the new rule. These are not eternal rules. In fact they are hardly weekly rules. Miss Standards represents an eternal rule, something that is old as time itself. Why the rules Miss Standards follow are the very rules that were taught to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden as found in Genesis 3:21. Like Adam and Eve, Miss Standards and myself have been taught that our bodies are formed in the likeness of God and are therefore sacred. Our bodies are the temples of our spirits. Plus, our bodies are the means by which we can bring souls to earth as the gifts they are. When we understand the missions our bodies help us fulfill, we protect and honor them by how we dress.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Thank you Miss Modesty. I would like to have entered in the record, I Corinthians 6:19.*

**Judge:** *Let the record show I Corinthians 6:19 has been entered as Exhibit 2. Clerk would you read it for the record?*

**Clerk:** *For the record, “know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”*

**Judge:** *Thank you Ms Progress. Ms Cool would the prosecution like to question this witness?*

**Prosecutor:** *Yes, your honor. (Walks to the front) Miss Modesty, are you even aware what the standards of today entail?*

**Miss Modesty:** *Of course, today you can see short shorts, miniskirts, tight clothing, shirts that show the stomach. It isn’t unusual to see clothing that doesn’t cover the shoulders, is cut low front or back or both, tight pants, tight shirts, excessively baggy clothing, wrinkled apparel and even unkempt hair. One can see all kinds of extreme clothing, hairstyles and appearance.*

**Prosecutor:** *Doesn’t this represent the modern “with it” person?*

**Miss Modesty:** *The way one dresses does represent the person. Modesty is at the center of being pure and chaste, both in thought and deed. Thus, because it guides and influences our thoughts, behavior, and decisions, modesty is at the core of our character. Our clothing is more than just covering for our bodies; it reflects who we are and what we want to be, both here in mortality and in the eternities that follow.*

**Prosecutor:** *No more questions.*

**Judge:** *Thank you Ms Cool, you may return to your seat. [Wait for the witness to leave the stand.] Ms Progress, would the defense call their next witness?*

**Defense Attorney:** *I would like to call Miss I. V. Wisdom to the stand.*

**Judge:** *Would Miss Modesty please come to the stand.*

*[Bailiff takes the witness to the witness stand.]*

**Judge:** *The clerk will swear in the witness.*

**Clerk:** *Please remain standing. Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?*

**Miss Wisdom:** *I do.*

**Clerk:** *Please state your first and last name.*

**Miss Wisdom:** *Integrity Virtue Wisdom*

**Clerk:** *Please be seated.*

**Court Reporter:** *Please spell your last name for the record.*

**Miss Wisdom:** *W-I-S-D-O-M*

**Defense Attorney:** *Your name is Integrity Virtue Wisdom but you go by the initials I.V. correct?*

**Miss Wisdom:** *Yes, please call me Ivy.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Ivy, you know the defendant Miss Standards, do you not?*

**Miss Wisdom:** *Yes, I do. We are good friends.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Do you consider her not dating until she is 16 a violation of social rules and conduct?*

**Miss Wisdom:** *Well, it has been said that history turns on small hinges, and so do people's lives. Small decisions can determine destiny. We are at an age where very small decisions can determine the outcome of our lives. The small decisions we make now determine our destiny. That is why it is worthwhile to set a course and to be at least partly ready when the moment of decision comes. Although, and I am sure Miss Standards agrees, we do not plan to marry for years and years--we have too many exciting things ahead of us in our lives before we make that decision--it isn't wrong to set the course today that will lead to a happy marriage. You marry a person you date. So it is important to only date the type of person you want to marry.*

**Defense Attorney:** *So you know the man you want to marry now?*

**Miss Wisdom:** *No, I don't know who I'll marry--but I know it will be the right person, in the right place, at the right time, by the right authority.*

**Defense Attorney:** *No further questions. Your Honor, for the record I enter the evidence found in Moroni 9:9.*

**Judge:** *Let the record show Moroni 9:9 has been entered as Exhibit 3. Clerk would you read it for the record?*

**Clerk:** *For the record, "For behold, many of the daughters of the Lamanites have they taken prisoners; and after depriving them of that which was most dear and precious above all things, which is chastity and virtue—*

**Judge:** *Thank you Ms Progress. Does the prosecution have any questions for the witness at this time?*

**Prosecutor:** *Yes, your honor we do. Miss Wisdom, aren't you afraid of what others may think?*

**Miss Wisdom:** *A more important question is, "What does it do for me?" It isn't what others may think, but what will I think of myself? I want to look in the mirror and be proud of the person I see. I like the person I see in the mirror.*

**Prosecutor:** *No further questions.*

**Judge:** *Does the defense have any more witnesses?*

**Defense Attorney:** *Yes, Your Honor we do. We would like to call Miss Divine Nature to the stand.*

**Judge:** *Would Miss Modesty please come to the stand.*

*[Bailiff takes the witness to the witness stand.]*

**Judge:** *The clerk will swear in the witness.*

**Clerk:** *Please remain standing. Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?*

**Miss Nature:** *I do.*

**Clerk:** *Please state your first and last name.*

**Miss Nature:** *Divine Nature*

**Clerk:** *Please be seated.*

**Court Reporter:** *Please spell your last name for the record.*

**Miss Nature:** *N-A-T-U-R-E*

**Defense Attorney:** *How long have you known Miss Standards?*

**Miss Nature:** *We have been close friends for years.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Does Miss Standards believe in the use of technology?*

**Miss Nature:** *Oh yes, she is quite the expert when it comes to all technology whether it be computers or the Internet or whatever. She understands how tech works and can fix almost any computer problem. But she believes technology should always be put to good use. She doesn't believe in becoming so immersed and engrossed in pixels, texting, ear buds, tweeting, online social networking, and potentially addictive uses of media and the Internet that she fails to recognize the importance and richness of person-to-person communication.*

**Defense Attorney:** *You seem to know her well.*

**Miss Nature:** *Oh, we have worked on many projects together. As of late we have spent a lot of time together helping each other prepare for college by studying for the SAT. We have talked how the world has changed and how it is so different for us than it was for our parents. If we are not careful it would be so easy for our generation to allow these things, meaning technology and all the things connected with it, to dull our senses and be spiritually destructive influences.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Miss Nature, do you have a Facebook page?*

**Miss Nature:** *Oh yes, I do. But I spend minimal time updating it. I do check to see how my friends are doing, but only after my homework is done.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Thank you, Miss Divine Nature. No more questions. I would like the record to show D&C 88:67-68.*

**Judge:** *Let the record show D&C 88:67-68 has been entered as Exhibit 4. Clerk would you read it for the record?*

**Clerk:** *For the record, "67 And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things.*

*68 Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face*

*unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.”*

**Judge:** *Thank you Ms Progress. Does the prosecution have any questions for Miss Nature?*

**Prosecutor:** *Yes, we do your honor. Do you own a cell phone Miss Nature?*

**Miss Nature:** *Yes.*

**Prosecutor:** *Do you text your friends?*

**Miss Nature:** *Of course. But if my friends are around I prefer to go talk to them in person. I have a Twitter account. I even pin things on my boards on Pinterest. You act like I don't like technology. I do like it, technology is fantastic. But I believe, like Miss Standards, it should be used for good. The purpose of technology is not to be mind numbing or degrading to the physical body. We should not miss the warmth of face-to-face communication. We should not lose the full range of physical capacity and experience.*

*Do you realize how important non-verbal communication is in conveying meaning? A wink, a smile, a nod, a wave ... how can you really send these things by text? Emojis, or Receiving a “smile” in the form of punctuation :), don't go as far as real smiles from friends.*

**Prosecutor:** *Thank you, no more questions.*

**Judge:** *The witness is excused. Thank you Miss Nature. You may step down. [Wait a moment.] Does the defense have any more witnesses?*

**Defense Attorney:** *No, your honor.*

**Judge:** *Does the defense rest?*

**Defense Attorney: (stands up)** *Yes, Your Honor.*

**Judge:** *Members of the jury, an attorney for each party will now make a closing argument. The attorney's arguments are not evidence; they are only*

*a possible interpretation of the evidence presented during the trial. It is up to you to decide what happened.*

**Prosecutor:** *Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Miss Molly Mormon Standards is on trial today because she has broken all the rules. Society needs rules to function. We need a code of conduct and she does not follow these rules. She admits she is guilty; she doesn't seem to think she has to conform to the code. Molly Mormon is guilty.*

*Groups aggregate information leading to better decisions than could have been made by a single member of the group. All the more reason why one should follow the actions of the group. When a person follows the crowd there is the wisdom of that crowd. The crowd will filter out wildly inaccurate answers and tap into an evolutionary truth that our brains have evolved to work optimally in a communal setting.*

*One of the most powerful influences on young people today is their need to belong, to fit in and to be accepted by those they consider to be their peers.*

*Research shows that the need to belong is growing as our culture fragments into smaller and smaller pieces and divorce fractures family units. Teenagers need to feel as if they belong. And as the witnesses stated, Miss Molly Mormon Standards went against all of these rules, cultural norms and influences. With the evidence presented today, you have no choice you must find her guilty.*

**Defense Attorney:** *Under the affect of peer pressure many people find themselves following the crowd even if they don't think they are doing the right thing. Using the reasoning of the prosecution any mob action is justified since one should follow the actions of the mob or any vigilante group. Just because the actions of a group of people are in accordance with each other does not necessarily mean the actions of that group are lawful and correct. Gangs commit crimes. Vigilante groups act unlawfully on their own accord. People tend to follow the crowd when they are not sure about the direction they should take.*

*Miss Molly Mormon Standards knows the direction she wants to take and that direction is not the same as the other teens in her crowd. She has her own set of standards and values and, fortunately, in this country we are free to choose and act upon these choices as long as they do not hurt another*

*person. Her choices are harmful to no one, nor do they impinge upon the freedoms of others. Her actions not only follow the laws of the land but also follow eternal laws and guidelines.*

*We all have our agency--the ability to choose right from wrong and to act for ourselves. We are each responsible for the choices we make. While we are free to choose our course of action, we cannot choose the consequences. Consequences follow as a natural result of the choices made. Miss Standards knows who she is and knows what she wants. She knows where she wants to go. And she is free to make these choices.*

*There is no law that says she must follow the crowd, even if they are her peers. There is no law that says she must follow other people's choices even if they seem to be the consensus of the group and she is a part of that group.*

*We have heard many witnesses today. Some testified Miss Molly Mormon Standards is not in compliance with today's norms and ideals. That is true; we do not deny it. But we have also heard witnesses testify why Miss Molly Mormon Standards has made the choices she has made. You must find her not guilty because she is free to choose her standards. She follows standards that are eternally true. Thank you!*

**Prosecutor:** *The witnesses you have heard today have all testified that Miss Molly Mormon Standards has broken the rules of conformity, the rules of society and the rules of her peers. She was charged with one count of deference to modesty. We have proven that true. She was also charged with a second count of intolerance to trend with popular culture. Again we have proved that to be true. The defense has given no proof otherwise. You must find her guilty. Thank you!*

**Judge:** *I must now instruct the jury. Members of the jury, you have heard all the evidence. It is your duty to decide whether the Prosecutor has proven its case against Miss Molly Mormon Standards. Please accompany the Bailiff to the jury room, complete your deliberations and return to the courtroom with your verdict. Remember that your verdict must be unanimous.*

*The jury may now retire to consider its verdict. You have a few minutes to decide the case. Bailiff please show the jury into the jury room.*

**Jury leaves. [wait a few minutes].**

**Judge:** *Bailiff would you show the jury into the courtroom.*

**Jury returns.**

**Judge:** *Has the jury reached its verdict?*

**Jury Foreman:** *We have your Honor.*

**They hand the verdict to the clerk, who hands it to the Judge.**

**Judge:** *The jury finds Miss Molly Mormon Standards ... not guilty! Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, is this your verdict as presented and read, the verdict of each of you, so say?*

**Each member of the Jury answers one by one:** *Yes, Your Honor.*

**Judge:** *I would like to thank the members of the jury for their service today. Miss Molly Mormon Standards you have been found not guilty by a jury of your peers. You are free to go.*

*I would like to make a few comments.*

*The Lord wants you to desire with all your heart to keep these standards and live by the gospel truths found in the scriptures. As you do this, you will see beyond the moment, and you will see your bright and wonderful future filled with great opportunities and responsibilities. You will be willing to work hard and endure long, and you will have an optimistic outlook on life. You will see that your life's road will lead you to the House of the Lord first and then to serve a full-time mission, representing the Savior wherever He will send you. After your mission you will organize and plan your life based on the same standards. Therefore, in your mind's eye you will see yourself entering the House of the Lord for an eternal marriage and family. Your priorities in life will change to match the priorities given to us by the Savior. And God will bless you and open the eyes of your understanding so you can see the end from the beginning.*

*If you follow and live the standards set forth in this small book (hold up For*

the Strength of Youth booklet), “For the Strength of Youth”, you will find it will make you feel good about yourself. Write these standards in your heart and mind, and live accordingly. Compare each of those standards with where you are today. Listen to the Spirit, who will teach you what you need to do to become more like Jesus. If you recognize a need for change, make the change; don’t procrastinate. Use true repentance and the gift and power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ to clear up those things that are keeping you from reaching your true potential. If this process appears tough, hang in there; it is worth it. The Lord has a promise for you as He had for the Prophet Joseph: “Know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good” (D&C 122:7). **(Pounds desk with gavel)** Court is adjourned.

# EXHIBIT 1:



EXHIBIT 2:

I Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not  
that your body is the  
temple of the Holy  
Ghost which is in  
you, which ye have of  
God, and ye are not  
your own?

## EXHIBIT 3:

### Moroni 9:9

“For behold, many of the daughters of the Lamanites have they taken prisoners; and after depriving them of that which was most dear and precious above all things, which is chastity and virtue.”

EXHIBIT 4:

D&C 88:67-68

“67 And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things.

68 Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.”



*The Jury of Kansas City First Ward  
Judicial District finds Miss Molly  
Mormon Standards NOT GUILTY!*