

HOUSE No. 1570

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to parent child privilege..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 20 of Chapter 233 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the fourth paragraph the following
3 paragraph:-

4 Fifth, except in any proceeding where an unemancipated minor child is alleged to have
5 committed a crime against a family member, a parent of such unemancipated child shall not be
6 compelled to testify in any proceeding against the unemancipated minor child. A child, upon the
7 showing that the parent posses exculpatory evidence, may compel the parent to testify. For
8 purposes of this clause, the term “parent” shall mean the natural or adoptive mother or father or
9 stepparent of said unemancipated minor child, provided such relationship existed at the time of
10 the event in question.