

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1277**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Michael A. Costello*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to parent-child privilege.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michael A. Costello</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>	<i>1/16/2013</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1277**

---

---

By Mr. Costello of Newburyport, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1277) of Michael A. Costello relative to parent-child privilege in delinquency or youthful offender proceedings. The Judiciary.

---

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 420 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 2010  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the Fourth clause, and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following:-

4           Fourth, in a proceeding before an inquest, grand jury, trial of indictment or complaint, or  
5 any other criminal, delinquency or youthful offender proceeding where the victim in such  
6 proceeding is not a family member and does not reside in the family household, neither the  
7 parent nor minor child shall testify against the other without the other’s permission. For the  
8 purpose of this clause the term, “parent”, shall mean the biological or adoptive parent,  
9 stepparent, foster parent, or legal guardian of a child. In cases where the victim is a family  
10 member and resides in said household, the parent shall not testify as to any communication with  
11 such child that was for the purpose of seeking advice regarding the child’s legal rights and  
12 decision making