

HOUSE No. 1458

By Miss Garry of Dracut, petition of Colleen M. Garry for legislation to prohibit court ordered visitation rights to persons convicted of criminal offenses against minors. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT PROHIBITING COURT ORDERED VISITATION RIGHTS TO PERSONS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST A MINOR.

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 28 of Chapter 208 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding
3 the following paragraph:—

4 No court shall make an order providing visitation rights to a
5 parent who has been convicted of sexual abuse and/or other crimes
6 against children including but not limited to one or more of the
7 following: Ch. 265, sections 13B, 13H, 13J, 22, 22A, 23, 24, 24B,
8 26, 26A, 27A, Chapter 272, sections 1, 2, 4, 4A, 4B, 16, 17, 28,
9 29A, 29B, 35, 35A, unless such child is of suitable age and assents
10 to such order and a guardian ad litem finds the visitation is in the
11 best interest of the child.

1 SECTION 2. Section 37 of Chapter 209 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding
3 the following paragraph:—

4 No court shall make an order providing visitation rights to a
5 parent who has been convicted of sexual abuse and/or other crimes
6 against children including but not limited to one or more of the
7 following: Ch. 265, sections 13B, 13H, 13J, 22, 22A, 23, 24, 24B,
8 26, 26A, 27A, Chapter 272, sections 1, 2, 4, 4A, 4B, 16, 17, 28,
9 29A, 29B, 35, 35A, unless such child is of suitable age and assents
10 to such order and a guardian ad litem finds the visitation is in the
11 best interest of the child.