

By Mr. Berry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 698) of Frederick E. Berry, Michael LoPresti, Jr., Karen A. McLaughlin, Thomas P. Walsh, William R. Keating, John F. Parker, Joseph K. Mackey, Daniel E. Bosley and Patrick F. Landers III for legislation relative to attendance at juvenile court proceedings. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Eight.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ATTENDANCE AT JUVENILE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

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 65 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1984 Official Edition is hereby amended by
3 striking out the last two sentences in paragraph one and inserting
4 in place thereof the following sentences: — The court shall exclude
5 the general public from the room. Only persons who have a direct
6 interest in the case shall be admitted, except the victim who is
7 admitted has the right to invite to the session any person or his
8 or her choice, so long as that person is not a minor. Such person
9 accompanying the victim shall not be permitted to participate in
10 any formal proceedings of the court. In addition, a duly licensed
11 attorney, who has filed a written appearance with the court on
12 behalf of a victim, shall be admitted, whether or not the victim
13 is admitted, but such attorney shall not be permitted to participate
14 in any formal proceedings of the court. A complaint under section
15 sixty-three may be heard in such juvenile session.

1 SECTION 2. Section 3 of Chapter 258B of the General Laws
2 as, appearing in the 1984 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after subsection (k) the following subsections: —

4 (1) For victims, the right to invite to any juvenile court
5 proceeding at which the victim is present any person of the victim's
6 choice, so long as that person is not a minor, provided that such

7 person shall not be permitted to participate in any formal
8 proceedings of the court.

9 (m) For victims, the right to have a duly appointed attorney,
10 who has filed a written appearance with a juvenile court on behalf
11 of a victim, admitted to juvenile court proceedings, whether or
12 not the victim is admitted, provided that such attorney shall not
13 be permitted to participate in any formal proceedings of the court.