



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 126
Answered on 1 May, 2026
Fifth Meeting 2025-2026 Session – Third Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY**

**HON. JOSEPH X. HEW
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN NORTH**

TO

**HON. KATHERINE EBANKS-WILKS
MINISTER OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister say if there are currently any addiction rehabilitation facilities for females and minors?

ANSWER:

There are currently no active, dedicated residential addiction rehabilitation facilities in the Cayman Islands for females or for minors.

At present, residential addiction rehabilitation services are limited to adult males, primarily through the Caribbean Haven Residential Centre. Female residential services at Caribbean Haven were temporarily suspended in October 2025 due to insufficient staffing, which created limitations in delivering gender-appropriate services and raised safety concerns. As a result, there are currently no on-island residential addiction rehabilitation facilities dedicated to females, children, or adolescents.

By way of context, services at the Caribbean Haven Residential Centre had already been disrupted due to insufficient funding, which led to a decision by the former Director to suspend the female programme. This has contributed to the existing service gaps, which the Ministry is actively working to address.

The Ministry is working closely with the current Director of the Department of Counselling Services to reinstate female residential services at Caribbean Haven as quickly as possible and entails securing appropriate staffing, ensuring compliance with regulatory and safeguarding requirements, and confirming that services can be delivered safely and sustainably. Subject to operational readiness, the current Director of the Department of Counselling Services has advised that female residential rehabilitation services are expected to recommence within the next 12 weeks.

Addiction treatment in the Cayman Islands is delivered through a continuum of care led primarily by the Department of Counselling Services and supported by the Health Services Authority, alongside private and non governmental partners. Medical detoxification services are provided exclusively through the Health Services Authority's Medical Detox Unit, which serves as the sole medically supervised detox facility and the primary gateway into residential care. Residential rehabilitation itself is currently provided only to adults aged 18 and over and remains male focused.

For females and minors, services are presently delivered through outpatient and community based interventions. These include individual and group counselling, family based interventions, prevention programmes, and psychological and behavioural health services provided by the Department of Counselling Services, the Family Resource Centre, the Health Services Authority, and other clinical partners. In cases where clinical need exceeds local capacity—particularly for minors—treatment is accessed through established overseas referral pathways.

The Government recognises that these service arrangements present significant gaps, particularly the absence of residential rehabilitation for women and youth specific treatment options. As a result, work is currently underway to re establish residential rehabilitation services for women, including addressing staffing, operational, and sustainability requirements to ensure services can be delivered safely and effectively.

With respect to minors, the Ministry's approach remains focused on prevention, early intervention, and family centred care, consistent with international evidence indicating that residential treatment should be a last resort for young persons and used only where clinically indicated. At the same time, opportunities are being explored to strengthen intensive treatment pathways for high need cases, including potential pilot models and enhanced referral mechanisms.

In summary, in the weeks leading up to the reinstatement of residential services for females, both groups have access to a range of outpatient, family based, and, where necessary, overseas treatment services. The Government acknowledges the existing gaps, inherited challenges, and operational disruptions, and is actively working to strengthen and expand services to ensure more equitable and responsive addiction treatment across the population.