



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 40
Answered on 2 October 2026
Second Meeting 2026-2027 Session – Third Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

HON. KENNETH V. BRYAN
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN CENTRAL

TO

THE HON. ISAAC RANKINE
MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister say whether the Cayman Islands Government has requested, or intends to request, that the United Kingdom extend the scope of the 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance to the Cayman Islands, so as to establish reciprocal enforcement mechanisms with major foreign jurisdictions, including the United States?

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker, to date, the Cayman Islands Government has not engaged with the United Kingdom on the possibility of extending the application of the Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (“the 2007 Hague Convention”) to the Cayman Islands.

For clarity, as a British Overseas Territory, the Cayman Islands does not ordinarily become a party to an international treaty, therefore, the United Kingdom is responsible for extending the territorial application of treaties to the Overseas Territories

Mister Speaker, although the Government generally recognises the potential value of the 2007 Hague Convention in facilitating the international cooperation in the recognition and enforcement of child support obligations, including in relation to jurisdictions such as the United States, this is not an area

we are prioritising right now. At present the Ministry's focus of supporting children and families rest in the work that has been done to amend the Maintenance Act (1996 Revision). Mister Speaker, in December 2024 the Parliament passed the Maintenance (Amendment) Act, 2024 which streamlined the process within the Cayman Islands legislative framework and also included removing the current age limit of 14 for maintenance orders. This age limit is not reflective of the maintenance needs of children of families and the Maintenance (Amendment) Act, 2024 on commencement gives the Courts the ability to impose the term limit for maintenance orders.

The amendments to the Status of Children Act (Amendment), Act 2026 passed in June 2026 this year provided a streamlined process for the confirmation of parentage, specifically paternity, which is a key component of the maintenance process where paternity is in question.

In addition to the above, Mister Speaker, we are also working on the Children (Amendment) Act, 2024 regulations which includes care planning which will bring better regulatory support to the way in which the Government supports children and families, for the purpose of this Question Mister Speaker, I will share that the relevant Regulation is the Children (Planning, Placement and Review) Regulation and this guides the manner in which the Department of Children and Family Services provides intervention and support services for families with children. These care plans can include specific goals and objectives for parents designed to strengthen the familial bond and family unit, especially for the child.

Although this is not currently part of our schedule of policy work under the Children's subject area, I did ask my policy team to do a high-level preliminary review of this Convention. I have been advised that there are currently 55 countries ratified to the Convention and the United Kingdom ratified to the Convention on 1 August 2014.

Furthermore, the team highlighted that ratification would likely have to consider the establishment of a Central Authority which would require amendments to existing legislation or a brand-new legislation in entirety to manage international maintenance arrangements specifically. Mister Speaker, it goes without saying that all these measures would have significant resource and budget implications.

Therefore, Mister Speaker, any consideration by the Government to ratify to the 2007 Hague Convention will require careful planning and could not be rushed or managed as an 'add-on' policy initiative.