



Cayman Islands Government  
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CAYMAN ISLANDS

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**Cayman Islands Government**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, GENDER & HOUSING**

28 May 2013

Mr. Richard Coles  
Chairman  
Human Rights Commission  
P.O. Box 391  
Grand Cayman KY1-1106

Dear Mr. Coles,

Thank you for your letter, dated 21 May 2013, inquiring on the current status of the Adoption of Children Bill, 2013 ("the Bill"). Please be advised that the Bill was passed in the Legislative Assembly on 25 March 2013 and is currently awaiting the Governor's assent and gazettal notices to be finalised. The Ministry anticipates this being concluded over the next 3-4 weeks. Once this has occurred the Law will be readily available for the public to obtain a copy, and we will ensure that a complimentary copy is passed onto the Human Rights Commission.

During our public consultation phase, which included input from the general public, non-profit organisations, including your organisation and elected officials, several committee stage amendments were made. Some of the major amendments included areas such as: changes in definitions of marriage and sex; changes in time periods to clarify that the period mentioned is working days; clause allowing the Board to consider a prospective applicant who is eighteen to adopt in special circumstances; and a clause ensuring that even the Grand Court cannot allow adoption by a single applicant who is known to have an attraction to children, be it a heterosexual or homosexual attraction. There were other minor typographical changes made, however, these were very minor and would not change the scope and nature of the Bill.

The Ministry believes that the final Bill is enabling legislation that will ensure the Cayman Islands is adhering to best practices in adoption matters and ensuring the best possible outcomes for adopted children, their birth families and adoptive families.

Thank you for your continued interest in adoption matters in the Cayman Islands, and we look forward to your continued support during the implementation of this critical legislation which clearly sets out the roles, duties and responsibilities of all parties involved.

Please feel free to contact our office at 244-2424 should there be any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorine B. Whittaker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dorine B. Whittaker  
Chief Officer of Community Affairs, Gender & Housing

cc: Hon. Attorney General, Portfolio of Legal Affairs  
Alicia (Jen) Dixon, Director, Department of Children & Family Services