

Caribbean: summary of legal status of corporal punishment of children
Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org), June 2007



Please note: The following information has been compiled from many sources, including reports to and by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed. We are very grateful to government officials, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions, and many individuals who have helped to provide and check information. Please let us know if you believe any of the information to be incorrect: info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

STATE	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence	As disciplinary measure	
Antigua & Barbuda	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Bahamas	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Barbados	NO	NO	NO	NO	SOME ¹
Belize	NO	NO	YES	SOME ²	SOME ³
Dominica	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Grenada	NO	NO	NO	NO	SOME ⁴
Guyana	NO	NO ⁵	NO	NO	NO ⁶
Haiti	NO ⁷	YES	YES	YES	YES
Jamaica	NO	SOME ⁸	YES	YES	YES
Saint Kitts & Nevis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Saint Lucia	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Suriname	NO	NO ⁹	YES	YES	NO ¹⁰
Trinidad & Tobago	NO	NO ¹¹	YES	NO	NO ¹²
Dependent territories, etc					
France – Guadeloupe	NO	[NO]	[YES]	[YES]	NO
France – Martinique	NO	[NO]	[YES]	[YES]	NO
Netherlands – Aruba	NO	NO	YES	NO ¹³	NO
Netherlands Antilles	NO	NO ¹⁴	YES	YES	NO
UK – Anguilla	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO ¹⁵
UK – Bermuda	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
UK – British Virgin Islands	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
UK – Cayman Islands	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
UK – Montserrat	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
UK – Turks & Caicos Islands	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
US Virgin Islands	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO

¹ Prohibited in state-arranged foster care and pre-school settings, and in day care centres and children’s residential centres run by Child Care Board, but lawful in private foster care

² Prohibited in “Youth Hostel” detention centre but lawful in prisons and by law enforcement officials

³ Prohibited in residential care facilities and in day care centres

⁴ Prohibited in child care homes by licensing requirements

⁵ Motion calling for prohibition pending before Parliament (February 2007)

⁶ Prohibited in childcare and childminding services in Children’s Bill, as at February 2005 not in force

⁷ Possibly prohibited by 2001 law, but no unequivocal confirmation

⁸ Prohibited in schools for children up to the age of 6 years

⁹ Prohibited by government directives

¹⁰ Prohibited in private and state institutions in draft Children’s Home Bill due for presentation early 2005

¹¹ Prohibited by 2000 Children (Amendment) Act, as at February 2007 not in force

¹² Prohibited in health care and psychiatric institutions by policy

¹³ Review of juvenile criminal law was due for completion in 2003

¹⁴ Prohibited by policy

¹⁵ As at April 2005, legislation was being drafted for day care centres