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Crypto license in the Cayman Islands

From CryptoLicenseWiki, the free encyclopedia of crypto licenses · Last updated 28 November 2026

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Crypto license in the Cayman Islands



Flag

Regulator	Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) [1]
License	Registration or licence as a virtual asset service provider (VASP) [1]
Legal basis	Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act [1]
Minimum capital	Not confirmed
Application fee	Not confirmed
Decision time	Not confirmed
Travel Rule	Required [1]
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed
Compensation scheme	None
Cross-border passport	No
Licensed firms	See the CIMA register [1]
Public register	CIMA search for regulated entities

In short: Registration or licence as a virtual asset service provider (VASP) from the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA). [1] Minimum capital: Not confirmed. Travel Rule: required. [1] Compensation if the firm fails: none. As of November 2026.

The **Cayman Islands** regulates virtual asset service providers under the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act, supervised by the **Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA)**. Most VASPs register; custody services and trading platforms need a licence.

License types

The license used by crypto businesses in the Cayman Islands: Registration or licence as a virtual asset service provider (VASP). [1] **Legal basis: Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act.** [1]

- **VASP registration** – for most virtual asset services
- **VASP licence** – for virtual asset custody services and trading platforms

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in the Cayman Islands (2026): Not confirmed.

Application fee: Not confirmed.

Capital is only the regulatory floor. Staff, audit, compliance, security and technology usually cost more than the capital itself.

Application process

Decision time: Not confirmed. The usual steps are:

1. Apply to CIMA with the business plan, ownership, governance and AML/CFT documents.
2. Meet any conditions before starting operations.

Substance and governance

Not confirmed.

Client protection

What the rules in the Cayman Islands require, as of November 2026. See Client protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Protection	Rule in the Cayman Islands
Travel Rule	Required. [1]
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed.
Custody	Not confirmed.
Compensation if the firm fails	None.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

Registered and licensed VASPs are listed by CIMA. [1]

> The public register is the only current source of who holds a license.

How to verify a license

1. Find the exact legal name and license number of the entity you would contract with, usually in the website footer or the client agreement.
2. Search for it on the regulator's own register: CIMA search for regulated entities .
3. Check that the website address and contact details on the register match the site you are using, to rule out an impostor site.
4. Check which group entity your account would be opened with: crypto brands often run several entities under different regulators.

Frequently asked questions

Is Cayman VASP registration a license?

Registration is the lighter tier. Custody services and trading platforms need a full licence.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the CIMA or a qualified adviser before applying. Where we could not confirm a figure from an official source, this article says so.

See also

- Crypto licenses compared
- Crypto license in the United States
- Crypto license in Canada
- Crypto license in Bermuda
- Crypto license in the Bahamas
- How to verify a crypto business's license
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the regulator, the law or another public body.

1. Official Cayman Islands Monetary Authority . CIMA. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://cryptolicensewiki.com/crypto-license/cayman-islands/
Version: last updated 28 November 2026. Check the online version for later changes.

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