

## Health ministry uncovers illegal surrogacy clinic in same-sex couple case



Fanis Makrides / 6 March 2025

The Health Ministry has uncovered illegal activities surrounding the case of a British same-sex couple who reportedly obtained twin boys through a fertility clinic claiming to operate from Limassol.

Health Minister Michalis Damianos told philenews that an official complaint was filed with police yesterday afternoon regarding the medical centre in question.

The Ministry has never licensed the clinic in question, Damianos explained, adding that services advertised by the facility violate current legislation, as the law does not permit surrogacy arrangements for same-sex couples.

The minister further said that the factors in question also make any related advertising illegal under current regulatory frameworks.

Ministry officials conducted an on-site inspection on Monday, revealing that no physical establishment exists at the Limassol address near the public garden where the centre claims to maintain its headquarters.

In a parallel investigation, the Ministry of Interior confirmed yesterday that no birth registration had been filed for the twin boys with the Limassol district administration.

According to sources familiar with the matter, Police began examining the case yesterday morning, prior to the Health Ministry's formal complaint. An investigation is now underway to determine the full scope of potential legal violations.

The case, which has garnered international media attention, involves 33-year-old Damian and 36-year-old Pasan Fernando from St Albans in the United Kingdom.

The couple reportedly spent \$107,000 to have twins via a surrogate mother in Cyprus.

Their twin boys, River and Liko, were born on January 3, 2025 on the island. The couple has cited delays in obtaining passports for the children, allegedly due to complications with the British Home Office, "preventing them from <u>returning home</u>".

Philenews had noted that "World Center Of Baby," which presents itself as providing fertility solutions, states on its website that it relocated its headquarters from Ukraine to Limassol in 2023, though this claim now appears to be in question following the ministry's investigation.