

1 What is Forced Marriage?

A 'Forced Marriage' is a marriage where one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Coercion (or duress) can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual or emotional pressure. Forced marriage is a criminal offence under Section 121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It's illegal in the UK to force someone to marry. You have the right to choose who you marry, when you marry or whether you want to get married or not.

Useful resources

www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage

<https://karmanirvana.org.uk/>

<https://safeguarding.network/content/safeguarding-resources/harmful-practices/forced-marriage/>

2 Forced marriage warning signs

Some signs that someone could soon be (or is already) a victim of forced marriage:

- running away from home
- self-harming or attempted suicide
- depression, or becoming worried or withdrawn
- poor performance at work, school or college or unexplained absence
- a surprise engagement to a stranger you've not heard of before
- a sudden holiday (some people are tricked into going abroad for a holiday or to see relatives) or not returning from a visit to another country
- no control over their own money



Forced Marriage

6 How to report concerns about a Forced Marriage



**Are you worried about someone?
Don't sit in silence!**

Please contact Family Connect on 01952 385385 or West Mercia Police via 101.

5 Who can apply for a FMPO?

- Any person at risk of forced marriage can make their own application
- A 'relevant 3rd party' – specified as the local authority
- Any person who is given leave of the court e.g. police, solicitors, charities, family members, friends.

For further information around how to apply for a FMPO please visit the gov.uk website

3 What you can do

Forced Marriage Prevention Order's (FMPO) enable courts to prevent forced marriages from going ahead and to protect those who have already been forced into marriage. Only specified courts can issue FMPO's.

FMPO's are similar to Non-Molestation Orders, but can be made against a wide range of people – they are not restricted to 'associated persons'.

4 Examples of FMPO Prohibitions/Restrictions/Requirements

- Prohibit the arranging or forcing of a marriage
- Prohibit travel or arranging flights
- Require the location of the victim to be disclosed to the court
- Require passports to be surrendered and prevent issue of travel documents
- Require child to attend school