

## 1 What is FGM?

'FGM' comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non medical reasons. (World Health Organisation definition) FGM is a crime under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (amended by Serious Crime Act 2015). FGM carries a penalty of up to 14 years in prison.

## 6 How to report FGM

If you suspect a person of carrying out FGM, or think someone you know has been a victim, or may be soon contact 101.

**Please note** – if you are a regulated professional, such as a health worker, social worker or teacher, you are required by law to report any 'known' cases of FGM directly to the police. 'Known' means that you have either visually identified that FGM has been carried out, or you have had direct verbal disclosure from the child affected.

## 5 Who can apply for a FGMPO

- The person who has had or is at risk of FGM;
- a local authority; or
- any other person with the permission of the court (for example, the police, a teacher, a charity or a family member).

For further information around how to apply for a FGMPO please visit the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)

## 2 Signs of FGM

There are a number of indicators a girl could have been subjected to FGM. Examples can be:

- significant changes in behaviour
- absenteeism from school, particularly after a trip to an FGM practising country
- spending long periods of time out of the classroom
- spending longer than usual going to the toilet or avoiding going to the toilet
- discomfort when sitting down
- avoiding physical exercise
- frequent menstrual or urinary infections



# Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

## 4 What can you do

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders (FGMPOs) offer a legal means to protect and safeguard victims and potential victims of FGM. FGMPOs are granted by a court and are unique to each case. They contain conditions to protect a victim or potential victim from FGM. This could include, surrendering a passport to prevent the person at risk from being taken abroad for FGM or requirements that no one arranges for FGM to be performed on the person being protected.

## 3 Types of FGM

FGM is classified into four main types:

**Type 1:** partial or total removal of the clitoris or clitoral hood.

**Type 2:** partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minor.

**Type 3:** narrowing of the vaginal opening by creating a covering seal, formed by cutting and sewing over the outer labia.

**Type 4:** all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, for example pricking, piercing, incising, scraping, stretching or cauterising the genital area.

FGM can have severe consequences psychologically, emotionally and medically. It can include extreme pain, shock, infection, haemorrhage, infertility, incontinence, HIV, urinary tract infections, menstrual obstruction, and death. There are no health benefits to FGM. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal genital tissue, and interferes with the natural functions of women's bodies for the rest of their lives.