

Potential health consequences of FGM

FGM has NO medical benefits. Health consequences can include severe pain; excessive bleeding, infections, UTI's, fever, shock and even death.

Often, women who are able to make the link between their experience of FGM and their on-going physical or psychological problems may be less likely to support or carry out FGM on their own daughters. This may also be the case for women who are involved in or supportive of FGM advocacy work. Some women may not be able to identify any health consequence at all.

For an expansion on the health consequences please see Appendix 1

The Law and FGM

- The Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985 (FGM made illegal)
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (Broadened the reach of the previous FGM Act, By making it illegal to undertake FGM abroad. Carrying a sentence of up to 14 years in prison)
- Serious Crime Act 2015 (Introduction of FGM Protection Orders, Mandatory Reporting Duty and parental liability, closing loophole on girls who are habitually resident and anonymity of victims/ survivors.)
- You can download an simple infographic summarising the UK law at www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/fgm/fgm-resources.

For an expansion on FGM legislation to support your assessment to support your assessment, please see Appendix 2.

Citizenship Considerations

FGM affects many women and girls from all over the world, from many nationalities, cultures and religions; whether a British citizen or a person subject to immigration control. If you are working with a girl or woman subject to citizenship or immigration controls and you are unsure of their rights and entitlements in the UK, please seek further advice from your Children's Services legal department, immigration solicitors or via the Refugee Council. Regardless of whether a girl is a citizen or not, all professionals involved in their lives, have a duty to protect.

FGM is Child Abuse

We all have a duty under the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004 to promote the welfare and safeguarding of girls and women at risk of significant harm or who have suffered significant harm.