



Mandatory Reporting of FGM

Effective from 31st October 2015

The mandatory reporting duty requires certain professionals **to report to the police any known cases of FGM in girls aged under 18** which they identify in the course of their professional work.

Who does the duty apply to?

The duty to report cases applies to teachers and registered health and social care professionals. However, if you know that another professional has already made a report, there is no duty to make a second report.

What is a “known case”?

A case may be visually identified or verbally disclosed.

Visual identification will generally be made in the course of another examination or while carrying out another task. There is no requirement for an examination to discover whether FGM has been carried out, nor for a full clinical diagnosis of FGM before a report is made.

Verbal disclosure occurs when a girl discloses to you that FGM has been carried out on her. The duty does not apply when another person – for example a parent, guardian or sibling – discloses that FGM has been carried out on a girl. However normal child protection procedures will still apply.

The victim must be aged under 18 at the time of the disclosure – there is no duty to report cases in which an adult reports that FGM was carried out on her while she was still a child. However this may still be a crime that should be reported.

How quickly must I make the report?

The report should be made as soon as possible - it is generally best practice for reports to be made by the close of the next working day. However there may be exceptional circumstances that justify a longer timeframe. The legal requirement is that the report must be made within a maximum timeframe of one month, and the expectation is that all reports will be made much sooner than this.

How do I make a report to the police?

Reports may be made orally or in writing - It is recommended that they are made orally by telephoning 101.

Before you make the report you should inform the girl and/or her parents of what you intend to do and why, unless you believe that this would put the child or another person at risk of serious harm.

When you contact the police –

- State clearly that you are making a report under the FGM mandatory reporting duty.
- Give the girl's details (name, age/date of birth and address).
- Give your name and professional contact details (work address, telephone number and email address), and the contact details for your organisation's designated safeguarding lead.
- State what safeguarding actions you, and your organisation, have taken or intend to take.

The police call handler will give you a call reference number. Write down this number and keep it.

In all cases, record your actions in accordance with the policy of your agency/service

What will the police do?

The call handler will refer the report to the relevant team in the police force. They will contact you to ask for more information and to discuss the situation in more detail.

The police will initiate a multi-agency response in line with local procedures. Depending on your role and the specific circumstances of the case, you may be required to contribute to this response.

What do I do if I have concerns about a child but the duty does not apply?

If the duty does not apply (i.e. there is neither visual identification or verbal disclosure) there may still be a need to report concerns about a child under the [Interagency Child Protection Procedures](#).

More information and guidance is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information>

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This chart demonstrates how the mandatory reporting duty fits within existing processes. It is not intended to be an exhaustive guide.

