

Information to parents

About female genital mutilation (FGM)

All children in Sweden are entitled to protection against violence and assault

This includes all forms of female genital mutilation (FGM), such as infibulation, sunna, circumcision, pricking, burning, sewing up. All non-medical procedures on the genitalia are banned. All children are entitled to the best possible health.

Risks and problems

During the procedure itself (mutilation, piercing, burning, sewing up), your daughter is at risk of severe bleeding and pain, and she may be exposed to the risk of infection, e.g. a blood-borne infection. FGM is also traumatic for a child, and your daughter is at risk of developing psychological problems.

Not only that, if you subject your daughter to FGM she will have lifelong health problems. The most common one is that she is unable to urinate normally: it takes a long time and is painful. As she becomes older and starts having periods, blood that does not escape can cause a lot of pain. This can lead to headaches, stomach pain, backache and mood swings. In addition to this, a number of women who have undergone FGM develop sexual problems and difficulties having children of their own.

As parents, it is your responsibility

You are the most important people to your daughter, and it is your responsibility to protect her from FGM. It is illegal not only to perform the procedure, but also to conspire in and promote FGM. You are responsible even if someone else performs the procedure, and even if it takes place outside Sweden. You must do everything you can to protect your child from FGM. The penalty for parents whose daughters have been subjected to FGM is a term of imprisonment of 2–10 years.

Help is available if you are experiencing pressure

Some parents experience pressure from family and relatives to subject their daughters to FGM. To help you explain that FGM is banned in Sweden, we have produced a document that explains the ban on FGM. You can take it with you whenever you meet people who will try to persuade you, so that they understand that you, as parents, risk ending up in prison if you do not protect your daughter from FGM.

Engelska

More information is available at: www.hedersfortryck.se