



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Policy and Practice Guidance 2026

What is FGM?

What are the signs?

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South West Child Protection Procedures

South Gloucestershire Child Protection Procedures can be found on the South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP) [website](#). **Female Genital Mutilation procedures are available [here](#).** This three page guidance document must be read alongside the SWCPP procedure.

What is FGM?

FGM is an illegal procedure where the female genital organs are deliberately cut, injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain, and there may be immediate and/or long-term health consequences, including pain and infection, mental health problems, difficulties in childbirth and/or death.

A female child is born to a woman who has undergone FGM.
A woman / family believe FGM is integral to cultural or religious identity.

The girl talks about a 'special procedure/ceremony' that is going to take place.

A girl talks about a long holiday to her country of origin

There are many more signs - [click here](#)

What are the signs?

When should I be worried?

If you think a girl is at risk or you believe FGM might already have happened

If an older sibling has already undergone FGM

Do not be afraid to ask about FGM, using appropriate and sensitive language. If professionals do not give a girl the opportunity to talk about FGM, it can be very difficult for her to bring this up herself.

Who do I contact?

There is a [mandatory duty](#) to report FGM in children under 18

Contact the ART Team **01454 866000**

Make a report to Avon & Somerset Police [here](#)

If you suspect a child may be in immediate danger, you should dial [999](#) immediately

Full Guidance is available on the South West Child Protection Procedures [here](#)

[Integrate UK](#) is a local organisation for girls age 12-24

[The Girl Generation](#) working to protect girls and young women who are at risk from FGM

Star Clinic details for professionals [here](#)

For FGM in Adult Women [The Rose Clinic](#)

[FGM Network](#)

National FGM Centre [Assessment Tool](#)

TRAINING: Tackling FGM: A Compassionate Approach to working with our communities - [click here to book](#)

**Where can I
get more
information?**

This Quick Guide has been produced by the [South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership](#)
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