



# Forced Marriage

## Policy and Practice Guidance 2026

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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](#). **Forced Marriage procedures are available [here](#)**. This two page guidance document must be read alongside the SWCPP procedure.

### **What is Forced Marriage?**

In a forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage and some elements of duress are involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. Forced Marriage is an abuse of human rights and, where a child is involved, an abuse of the rights of the child.

Increased likelihood of domestic abuse and sexual abuse.  
Coercive and controlling methods to control the victim.  
Women men and younger members of the family can be involved in perpetrating the abuse, there can be instances of child trafficking, false imprisonment and threats to kill. Victims may be taken abroad under the pretext of a family holiday or wedding.

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

## What are the risks?

## Forced Marriage Protection Order

Anyone threatened with forced marriage or forced to marry against their will can apply for [Forced Marriage Protection Order](#). Third parties, such as relatives, friends, voluntary workers and police officers, can also apply for a protection order with the leave of the court. Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is a criminal offence. Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison. Disobeying a Forced Marriage Protection Order can result in a sentence of up to 5 years in prison.

## Who do I contact?

Attempts to discuss with the family could increase the risk for the child.

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](#)

[Contact the Forced Marriage Unit](#)  
[Forced Marriage Survivors handbook](#)  
[Government Guidance on Forced Marriage](#)  
[Forced Marriage Service](#)  
[Karma Nirvana](#)  
[Our Girl](#)

## Where can I get more information?

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