



FGM/C Safeguarding Pathway

For Social Workers, Frontline Service Providers & Mental Health Professionals

An adult or child discloses that they have undergone female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C)

Refer to the FGM/C Risk Assessment and Intervention Tool
Communicate to your client your responsibilities to report abuse and confidentiality limits

Individual is under 18

- a) Follow your Duty to Report protocol on cases of child sexual abuse.
- b) Contact Child Protection Services. Check your province for the age at which Child Protection Services needs to be contacted. Child Protection Services will initiate a multi-agency safeguarding response.
- c) If FGM/C happened in Canada Child Protection Services must contact law enforcement. This is now a criminal investigation.
- d) Ensure a referral for a paediatric appointment and physical examination are made.

Individual is over 18

Is there an immediate threat or danger to the individual's physical/ mental health or life?

Yes

- a) Create a safety plan with the client
- b) Call law enforcement if necessary
- c) Determine if there is a connection to forced marriage. If Yes, refer to appropriate resources.
<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/forced-marriage>

No

Do they have any female children or siblings at risk of FGM/C?

Yes

- a) Complete FGM/C Risk Assessment & Intervention Tool if possible **OR**
- b) Share information with multi-agency partners to initiate Duty to Report response.

No

- a) Provide or refer client to mental health support
- b) Encourage your client to connect with their doctor to obtain medical support
- c) Connect them to End FGM Canada Network for additional vetted FGM/C resources www.endfgm.ca

FOR ALL CLIENTS

- a) Continue clear communication with the individual/ family; constantly informing them of what responses are being taken and why
- b) Document all discussions and actions with the individual /family
- c) Explain FGM/C is illegal in Canada and the possible legal consequences

If a girl appears to have been recently cut or you believe she is at imminent risk, act immediately.

Call Child Protection Services and/or 911

REMEMBER: Mandatory reporting is only one part of safeguarding against FGM/C and other abuse.



FGM/C Safeguarding Pathway

For Social Workers, Frontline Service Providers & Mental Health Professionals

An adult or child discloses that they are at risk of female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C)

Refer to the FGM/C Risk Assessment and Intervention Tool
Communicate to your client your responsibilities to report abuse and confidentiality limits

Individual is under 18

- Follow your Duty to Report protocol on cases of child sexual abuse.
- Contact Child Protection Services. Check your province for the age at which Child Protection Services needs to be contacted. Child Protection Services will initiate a multi-agency safeguarding response.
- If within the scope of your role and age-appropriate create a safety plan with the child/ youth.

Individual is over 18

Is there an immediate threat or danger to the individual's physical/ mental health or life?

Yes

- Create a safety plan with the client
- Call law enforcement if necessary
- Determine if there is a connection to forced marriage. If Yes, refer to appropriate resources.
<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/forced-marriage>

No

Do they have any female children or siblings at risk of FGM/C?

Yes

- Complete FGM/C Risk Assessment & Intervention Tool if possible **OR**
- Share information with multi-agency partners to initiate Duty to Report response.

No

- Provide or refer client to mental health support
- Connect them to End FGM Canada Network for additional vetted FGM/C resources www.endfgm.ca

FOR ALL CLIENTS

- Continue clear communication with the individual/ family; constantly informing them of what responses are being taken and why
- Document all discussions and actions with the individual /family
- Explain FGM/C is illegal in Canada and the possible legal consequences
- Discuss the adverse and long-term physical and mental consequences of FGM/C

If a girl appears to have been recently cut or you believe she is at imminent risk, act immediately.

Call Child Protection Services and/or 911

REMEMBER: Mandatory reporting is only one part of safeguarding against FGM/C and other abuse.