



FGM/C Safeguarding Pathway

For Educators within the Kindergarten to Grade 12 School System

A student discloses that they have undergone female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C)
OR

A student 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 the student your responsibilities to report abuse and confidentiality limits

Student is under 18 or vulnerable adult

a) Follow your Duty to Report protocol for 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.

Student is over 18

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

Yes

No

a) Follow your Duty to Report protocol.
b) Connect the student with the school counsellor to assess the threat.
c) Call law enforcement if necessary.
d) If needed create a safety plan with the student.
e) Determine if there is a connection to forced marriage. If Yes, refer to appropriate resources.
<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/forced-marriage>

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

Yes

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

No

a) Connect the student with the school counsellor for mental health and resource support
b) If needed, create a safety plan with the student
c) Connect them to End FGM Canada Network for additional vetted FGM/C resources. www.endfgm.ca

FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Continue clear communication with the student; constantly informing them of what responses are being taken and why
- Document all discussions and actions with the student
- Explain FGM/C is illegal in Canada.

If a student 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.