

FGM/C refers to cutting and other procedures that injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It may be called “female circumcision” in certain parts of the world. The practice has no health benefits and can lead to a range of physical and mental health problems.

What are the Health Effects of FGM/C?

Immediate effects may include:

- blood loss
- severe pain
- death

Long-term health problems may include:

- urinary infections
- fistula
- infertility
- painful menstruation or sexual intercourse
- potential increase in the risk of HIV/AIDS infection
- increased risk to mother and baby during childbirth
- negative psychological effects: fearful, embarrassed, traumatized

Call 1-800-994-9662 for available resources if:

You believe you are at risk of FGM/C,

You have undergone FGM/C,

You have questions about FGM/C,

You have information about someone who is performing FGM/C in the United States, or

You know of someone who may be at risk of FGM/C here or outside the United States.

For more information visit:

www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/female-genital-mutilation-or-cutting-fgmc



**U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services**



Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting FGM/C



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

A girl or woman who has undergone FGM/C is *not* at fault. She has *not* violated any U.S. laws by undergoing the procedure.

Eligibility for travel to or for immigration benefits from the United States is not negatively affected by the fact that a person has undergone FGM/C. Additionally, you may be eligible for certain immigration relief if you have undergone FGM/C or fear you are at risk of FGM/C.



The U.S. Government opposes FGM/C.

The U.S. Government opposes FGM/C, no matter the type, degree, or severity, and no matter what the motivation for performing it. The U.S. Government understands that FGM/C may be carried out in accordance with traditional beliefs and as part of adulthood initiation rites. Nevertheless, the U.S. Government considers FGM/C to be a serious human rights abuse, and a form of gender-based violence and child abuse.

The United States is committed to ending FGM/C.

Ending FGM/C is part of the U.S. Government's efforts to protect the health and well-being of, and advance the rights of, women and girls globally. The U.S. Government is working in the United States and in other countries to help educate people about the serious, damaging effects of FGM/C on women and girls.

It is against U.S. law to perform FGM/C on a girl under the age of 18, or to send or attempt to send her outside the United States so FGM/C can be performed.

Violation of the law is punishable by up to 5 years in prison, fines, or both. There is no exception for performing FGM/C because of tradition or culture. Cutting and other procedures that injure the female genital organs of a girl under 18 are prohibited under U.S. law. Additionally, anyone who performs FGM/C on a woman 18 years old or older without her consent may be charged with a crime under other laws.

Violating the law against FGM/C can have immigration consequences.

Performing or assisting in FGM/C, even without a criminal conviction, may have significant immigration consequences, including making one inadmissible to or removable from the United States, as well as ineligible for some immigration benefits.

If you believe you are at risk of FGM/C or have undergone FGM/C, have questions about FGM/C, have information about someone who is performing FGM/C in the United States, or know of someone who may be at risk of having the procedure done here or outside the United States, please contact this number for additional information about available resources: **1-800-994-9662**