

Information to gather for a good referral: Female Genital Mutilation

It is important that any referral regarding FGM contains as much information as possible. This will help ensure that the referral is directed appropriately and a fully informed assessment is made.

As with any safeguarding concern, families should be kept informed if any referral is being made to social care unless doing so places the girl at risk. Please indicate if the family have been made aware of the referral or not.

Questions to ask - and pass on to social care as part of referral

- » Why is there a concern around FGM? (Explain exactly what has caused the concern e.g the family is taking only the female child on holiday.)
 - If the concern is regarding a holiday to an FGM practicing country, please include any information known about where the family is traveling to, including the region.
- » What conversation has already taken place with the family/woman/girl around FGM?
 - If known, what terminology do the family use for FGM?
- » If known, is anyone in the family a survivor of FGM?
 - If yes, please include the age when girl(s) may be cut and any women/girl(s) require emotional and/or health support.
- » If known, do the family believe FGM is a religious or cultural requirement?
- » Will the family require an interpreter?
 - If so, what language do the family speak?
- » If relevant, how were the family talking about FGM or 'cutting'? (e.g did they appear closed, nervous, open etc)
- » Are there any extended family members who reside with or visit the girl(s) often who may pose a risk as regards to FGM?
- » Are the family aware of the legal/physical/emotional consequences of FGM?
- » Are the girl(s) aware of what FGM/cutting is? Has anyone spoken to the girl(s) about this before?

Resources for professionals

- FGM Global Prevalence Map (<http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/world-fgm-prevalence-map/>)
- FGM Multi-agency Guidance (Home Office)
- National FGM Centre: 02084 987137

Resources for parents

- Statement opposing FGM
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation>)
- NSPCC FGM Helpline: 0800 028 3550