



# FGM Mandatory reporting duty – What you need to do

**Strengthening Safeguarding – from 31 October 2015**

## What does it mean for me?

Phone the police non-emergency crime number, 101, if a girl under 18 you treat

- a) Tells you she has had FGM (female genital mutilation)
- b) Has signs which appear to show she has had FGM.

## When?

As soon as possible; normally by close of the next working day. Longer timeframes are allowed under exceptional circumstances but always discuss with your local safeguarding lead.

## Can someone else do this?

**No.** This is a personal duty; the professional who identifies FGM/receives the disclosure must report.

## Why?

FGM is child abuse and a crime. Health professionals have a responsibility to care for and protect girls.

## What if I don't do this?

If you do not comply, your professional regulator may consider the circumstances under the existing 'Fitness to Practise' proceedings.

NSPCC FGM helpline: 0800 028 3550 [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

**Quick guide for professionals: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare>**