



# Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 31

### 1 Offence of female genital mutilation

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if he excises, infibulates or otherwise mutilates the whole or any part of a girl's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris.
- (2) But no offence is committed by an approved person who performs—
  - (a) a surgical operation on a girl which is necessary for her physical or mental health, or
  - (b) a surgical operation on a girl who is in any stage of labour, or has just given birth, for purposes connected with the labour or birth.
- (3) The following are approved persons—
  - (a) in relation to an operation falling within subsection (2)(a), a registered medical practitioner,
  - (b) in relation to an operation falling within subsection (2)(b), a registered medical practitioner, a registered midwife or a person undergoing a course of training with a view to becoming such a practitioner or midwife.
- (4) There is also no offence committed by a person who—
  - (a) performs a surgical operation falling within subsection (2)(a) or (b) outside the United Kingdom, and
  - (b) in relation to such an operation exercises functions corresponding to those of an approved person.
- (5) For the purpose of determining whether an operation is necessary for the mental health of a girl it is immaterial whether she or any other person believes that the operation is required as a matter of custom or ritual.

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#### Commencement Information

**II** S. 1 in force at 3.3.2004 by [S.I. 2004/286](#), [art. 2](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, Section 1.