



Model FGM Legislation:

- A. Any person:
1. who knowingly circumcises, excises, or infibulates, in whole or in part, the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of a female under 18 years of age; or
 2. who is a parent, guardian, or has immediate custody or control of a female under 18 years of age and knowingly consents to or permits the circumcision, excision, or infibulation, in whole or in part, of the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of such female; or
 3. who knowingly removes or causes or permits the removal of a female under 18 years of age from this state for the purpose of circumcising, excising, or infibulating, in whole or in part, the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of such female
- shall be guilty of female genital mutilation.
- B. It is not a defense to female genital mutilation that the conduct described in section A is required as a matter of religion, custom, ritual or standard practice, or that the individual on whom it is performed or the individual's parent or guardian consented to the procedure.
- C. A surgical procedure is not a violation of section A if the procedure is:
1. necessary to the health of the person on whom it is performed and is performed by a person licensed in the place of its performance as a medical practitioner; or
 2. performed on a person in labor or who has just given birth and is performed for medical purposes connected with that labor or birth by a person licensed in the place it is performed as a medical practitioner, midwife, or person in training to become such a practitioner or midwife.
- D. The Public Health Commissioner shall
1. develop and administer a program of education, prevention and outreach activities, focusing on new immigrant populations that commonly practice female genital mutilation, to inform members of those communities of the health risks and emotional trauma inflicted by the practice of female genital mutilation and informing those communities and the medical community of the criminal penalties for committing female genital mutilation.
 2. develop and disseminate information regarding female genital mutilation and the criminal penalties for committing female genital mutilation to health care providers, teachers, and law enforcement personnel.