

CIRCULAR



Title
Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition Act of 2024
Number
CIR-25-02
Effective Date
May 9, 2025
Expiration Date
May 9, 2027

The purpose of this circular is to inform members of the [Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition Act of 2024](#), which prohibits the practice of female genital mutilation, a procedure performed with no medical purpose.

ESTABLISHES A NEW OFFENSE: FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Definition	<p>“Female genital mutilation” means “any procedure performed for non-medical reasons that involves partial or total removal of, or other injury to, the external female genitalia, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) A clitoridectomy or the partial or total removal of the clitoris, prepuce, or clitoral hood;(B) Excision or the partial or total removal (with or without excision of the clitoris) of the labia minora;(C) Infibulation or the narrowing of the vaginal opening (with or without excision of the clitoris); or(D) Other procedures that are harmful to the external female genitalia, including pricking, piercing, incising, scraping, or cauterizing the genital area.”
Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Knowingly performs female genital mutilation on any person;2. Is a parent or guardian of, or has immediate custody or control of, a person under the age of 18 and knowingly consents to, aids, permits, or otherwise facilitates female genital mutilation of such person; or3. Knowingly removes or facilitates the removal of a person under the age of 18 from the District for the purpose of facilitating female genital mutilation of that person; provided that female genital mutilation is an offense in the territory to which the person is removed.
Need to Know	<p>The following actions shall <u>not</u> be considered violations of the female genital mutilation law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A lawful medical procedure or surgery performed by a licensed medical professional that is:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Necessary to protect the physical health of the patient; or○ Part of a gender reassignment procedure requested by the person on whom the surgery is performed.• Piercing by consent of an adult, conducted by a body artist as that term is defined at DC Official Code § 47-2809.01(3).

Penalty	<p>The following actions are <u>not</u> a legal defense to the female genital mutilation law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religion, custom, ritual, or other standard practice; or• Consent of the individual, parent, or guardian, other than as specified in the exceptions/exemptions outlined above. <p>10 years, \$25,000, or both.</p> <p>Victims may also bring a civil action (subject to actual, compensatory, and punitive damages).</p>
Reference	DC Official Code § 22-1431

AMENDS AN EXISTING DEFINITION: NEGLECTED CHILD

Definition	For purposes of adjudication and processing of juveniles under Title 16 of the District of Columbia Code, the definition of “neglected child” is expanded to include a child “who has been subjected to, or is in imminent danger of being subjected to, female genital mutilation.”
Reference	DC Official Code § 16-2301(9)

While this circular will expire on May 9, 2027, changes made to the DC Official Code as described in this circular will be permanent until such time as they are amended.



Pamela A. Smith
Chief of Police