

22 February 2017

Ban on female genital mutilation (FGM) in Sweden

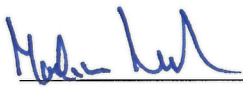
All children in Sweden are entitled to protection against violence and assault. This includes all forms of female genital mutilation (FGM), such as circumcision, piercing, burning, sewing up. All non-medical procedures on the genitalia are banned.

All children are entitled to the best possible health. During the procedure itself (mutilation, pricking, burning, sewing up), the girl is at risk of severe bleeding and pain, and she may be exposed to the risk of infection, e.g. a blood-borne infection. FGM is also traumatic for a child, and she is at risk of developing psychological problems. Not only that, children subjected to FGM are vulnerable to lifelong health problems. The most common one is that she is unable to urinate normally: it takes a long time and is painful. As the girl becomes older and starts having periods, blood that does not escape can cause a lot of pain. This can lead to headaches, stomach pain, backache and mood swings. In addition to this, a number of women who have undergone FGM develop sexual problems and difficulties having children of their own.

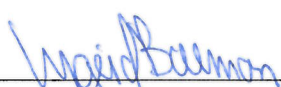
In Sweden, there is a special law, *the Act (1982:316) prohibiting female genital mutilation*, which prohibits all forms of FGM. It is illegal to perform, conspire in and – in some cases – promote FGM.

Swedish law states that guardians are responsible for protecting their child, including against FGM. If the child's guardians have not done enough to protect their child against FGM they may be convicted in a Swedish court, even if someone else performs the procedure, and even if it takes place outside Sweden.

If a child who lives in Sweden is subjected to FGM, irrespective of the country in which it takes place and who performs it, the guardians may be sentenced to imprisonment.




Martin Myrskog
Regional Director
Region Kronoberg



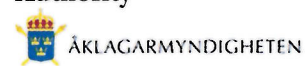
Ingrid Burman
Governor
County
Administrative Board



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Regional Police Chief
Police Authority



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Språk: Engelska