

**708.16 Female genital mutilation.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in [subsection 2](#), a person who knowingly circumcises, excises, or infibulates, in whole or in part, the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of a minor commits a class “D” felony.

2. A surgical procedure is not a violation of [subsection 1](#) if the procedure is performed by a medical professional who holds a current license in this state necessary to perform the surgical procedure under any of the following circumstances:

a. When necessary to protect the health of the minor on whom the procedure is performed.  
b. When performed on a minor who is in labor or who has just given birth and is performed for medical purposes connected with that labor or birth.

3. In determining whether a surgical procedure performed pursuant to [subsection 2](#), paragraph “a”, is a violation of [subsection 1](#), consideration shall not be given to any belief the minor or any other person holds that the surgical procedure is required based on custom or ritual.

4. A person who knowingly transports a minor within or outside of this state for the purpose of performing a procedure that would be a violation of [subsection 1](#) if the procedure occurred in this state, commits a class “D” felony.

**[2019 Acts, ch 47, §1](#)**

Required education campaign to increase awareness and to develop educational programming for physicians; [2019 Acts, ch 47, §2, 3](#)