

CHAPTER 47
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
S.F. 346

AN ACT creating the criminal offense of female genital mutilation and providing penalties.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. NEW SECTION. **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.

Sec. 2. EDUCATION CAMPAIGN — HEALTH RISKS, PROHIBITION, CRIMINAL PENALTIES — FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION. The crime victims assistance division of the office of the attorney general, in collaboration with community insiders and culturally specific victims services programs, shall initiate an education campaign to increase awareness regarding the health risks of, the prohibitions against, and the criminal penalties associated with female genital mutilation as specified in this Act.

Sec. 3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING — FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION. The university of Iowa hospitals and clinics shall develop educational programming including protocols for physicians to provide safe health care and treatment to women who are victims of female genital mutilation.

Approved May 1, 2019