

Safeguarding Newsletter

4th February 2019

Female Genital Mutilation

FGM: Mother guilty of genital mutilation of daughter (BBC)

A woman who mutilated her three-year-old daughter became the first person in the UK to be found guilty of female genital mutilation (FGM) last Friday (01/02/2019).

The 37-year-old mother from east London wept in the dock as she was convicted after a trial at the Old Bailey.

Spells and curses intended to deter police and social workers from investigating were found at the Ugandan woman's home, the trial heard. Her 43-year-old partner was acquitted by the jury.

Prosecutors said the mother "coached" her daughter "to lie to the police so she wouldn't get caught". The defendants, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, denied FGM and an alternative charge of failing to protect a girl from risk of genital mutilation. The mother was remanded into custody to be sentenced on 8th March 2019.

I am indebted to Penny Patterson, Senior Inspector Safeguarding, London Borough of Havering who sent me a Briefing on FGM to share with you.

Penny's FGM Briefing can be downloaded here:

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Female-Genital-Mutilation-Penny-Patterson-February-2019.pdf>

The National FGM Centre

<http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/knowledge-hub-resources/>



Pens Meadow School Safeguarding Policy states that:

Any teacher who discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out **on a pupil under 18 must immediately report this to the police, personally.** This is a statutory duty, and teachers will face disciplinary sanctions for failing to meet it.

The duty above does not apply in cases where a pupil is *at risk* of FGM or FGM is suspected but is not known to have been carried out. Staff should not examine pupils.

Any other member of staff who discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out **on a pupil under 18 must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.**

Any member of staff who suspects a pupil is at risk of FGM discovers that a pupil age 18 or over appears to have been a victim of FGM, must speak to the DSL and follow our local safeguarding procedures.

See School's Safeguarding Policy for further information.