

Female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation is prohibited by law in Sweden (1982:316).

The law reads:

1 § Surgical incisions in the external female genitalia for the purpose of excising the organs or causing other permanent changes to them (genital mutilation) shall not be performed, regardless of whether or not consent has been given for the procedure (Act 1998:407 Prohibiting the Genital Mutilation (“Circumcision”) of Women).

2 § Persons who violate the law pursuant to 1 § shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of four years. If the crime caused danger to life, serious illness, or otherwise entailed extraordinarily heedless behavior, it shall be considered a gross offense. Persons convicted of a gross offense shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of no less than two years and no more than ten years. Persons convicted of attempt, preparation, and conspiracy to commit such crime, as well as failure to report such crime, shall be sentenced to penalty pursuant to chapter 23 of the Swedish Criminal Code (Act 1998:407).

3 § Persons who have committed a crime pursuant to this law shall also be sentenced by a Swedish court even if the second chapter, sections 2 or 3 of the Swedish Criminal Code are inapplicable.