

## 1. What is Forced Marriage?

A 'Forced Marriage' is a marriage where one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it.

Coercion (or duress) can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual or emotional pressure

Forced marriage is a criminal offence under Section 121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

## 2. What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

'FGM' comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. (World Health Organisation definition)

FGM is a crime under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (amended by Serious Crime Act 2015)

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/procedures/6-22-wirral-honour-based-violence-forced-marriage-protocol/>

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/procedures/6-21-female-genital-mutilation/>

## 3. Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO)

FMPO's enable courts to prevent forced marriages from going ahead and to protect those who have already been forced into marriage. Only specified courts can issue FMPO's – including Liverpool Family Court.

Similar to Non-Molestation Order, but it can be made against a wide range of people. – it is not restricted to 'associated persons'

## 4. Examples of FMPO Prohibitions/ Restrictions/ Requirements (not exhaustive)

- Prohibit the arranging or forcing of a marriage
- Prohibit travel or arranging flights
- Require the location of the victim to be disclosed to the court
- Require passports to be surrendered & prevent issue of travel documents
  - Require child to attend school
  - Prohibit harassment of victim

## 5. Who can apply for a FMPO

- Any person at risk of forced marriage can make their own application
- A 'relevant 3rd party' – specified as the local authority
- Any person who is given leave of the court e.g. police, solicitors, charities, family members, friends
- the court

Forms and advice:  
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-forced-marriage-protection-order>

## 6. Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order (FGMPO)

Civil order, issued by designated family court – includes Liverpool Family Court

For the purposes of:

- Protecting a child/adult against the commission of FGM
- Protecting a girl against whom such an offence has been committed

Can contain such prohibitions or requirements, as appropriate

**'You may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and thus only have one chance to save a life.'**

In an emergency always call 999

# 7 Minute Briefing

## *Forced Marriage and FGM protection Orders*

## 7. Applying for a FGMPO

- Legislation mirrors FMPO legislation
- Where girl is under 18, safeguarding procedures apply and the local authority would ordinarily take the lead
- Ensure risk to siblings is considered – they can be protected on the same order

Forms and advice:  
<https://www.gov.uk/female-genital-mutilation-protection-order>