



STATE OF NIGERIA

2017, LAW NO. 6

A Law to prohibit the act of Female Genital Mutilation in Imo State and for other related matters.

*Long Title*

BE IT ENACTED by the Imo State House of Assembly of Nigeria as follows –

*Enactment*

1. This Law may be cited as the Imo State Female Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law 2017.

*Citation*

2. In this law, unless the context otherwise requires:-

*Interpretation*

“adult female” means any female who is up to 18 years of age and above;

“commissioner” means the Commissioner in charge of health matters in the State:

“Female genital mutilation includes –

- (a) Clitoridectomy which involves the removal of the prepuce of the hood of the clitoris itself and the posterior,
- (b) Excision which involves the removal of the clitoris along with parts of the labia minora or all of it;
- (c) Infibulations otherwise known as “pharonic circumcision” which involves the removal of the clitoris, the labia minora and the adjacent media part of the labia majora in their anterior two-thirds, whether or not the two sides of the vulva are stitched together or merely an opening of the size of a pin head to allow for the flow of urine and menstrual blood;
- (d) Introcision, including “gishiri cuts”;
- (e) “Angurya cut”, that is, scraping or cutting of the vagina;
- (f) Pricking, piercing or incising of the clitoris or labia,
- (g) “Stretching of the clitoris or labia”;
- (h) Cauterization, that is, searing of the clitoris, labia and

vagina with hot iron or caustic, in order to make same insensitive;

- (i) Introduction of corrosive substances and herbs in the vagina, in order to desensitize it; and
- (j) Other forms of female genital mutilation.

"Law Enforcement Agencies" include the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Imo State Civil Guards, etc;

"State" means Imo State of Nigeria.

3. As from the commencement of this law Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is prohibited, any custom or tradition notwithstanding.

*Prohibition*

- 4.(1) Any person who knowingly separates or surgically alters the normal healthy functioning genital tissue/organ of a female, circumcises, pricks, pierces, cuts or infibulates the whole or any part of the labia majora or minora of a female or performs any other form of Female Genital Mutilation as described in Section 2 of this Law is guilty of an offence.

*Offences  
and  
penalties*

- (2) Any adult female who willingly submits herself for the performance of Female Genital Mutilation as described in Section 2 and subsection (1) of this Section is guilty of the offence of the Female Genital Mutilation.
- (3) No person shall assault or cause another to suffer a disability or discrimination on the ground that such a person refused to undergo the act of Female Genital Mutilation.
- (4) Any person who violates the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this Section shall be deemed to have committed the offence of Female Genital Mutilation and shall be liable on conviction, to imprisonment for fourteen (14) years or a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand



naira (N250,000.00) or to both such term of imprisonment and fine

- (5) Any person who violates the provisions of-sub-section (3) of this Section is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for three (3) years or a fine of One hundred thousand naira (N100,000.00) or to both such term of imprisonment and fine.
- (6) Any person who aids and abets the performance of Female Genital Mutilation is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction, to imprisonment for seven (7) years or to a fine of one hundred and fifty thousand naira (N150,000.00) or to both such term of imprisonment and fine.
5. It shall not be a defence to any offence committed under this Law that the victim consented to have Female Genital Mutilation performed on her or that the victim's parents or legal guardians consented to the practice. *Consent not defence*
6. Any person who does anything for the purpose of removing from the State, a person who is ordinarily resident in the State and performs the act of Female Genital Mutilation on such person is guilty of the offence of Female Genital Mutilation and shall be liable as provided in Subsection (1) of Section 4 of this Law. *Commission of the offence outside the state*
7. Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Law may be arrested without warrant by any of the Law Enforcement Agencies and may be charged to court if found culpable after investigation. *Power to arrest without warrant*
- 8.(1) Pursuant to the provisions of this Law, the Commissioner in charge of Health matters in the State in collaboration with – *Information and education*
- (a) the Ministries responsible for Women Affairs/Social Development and Information; and

- (b) International Donor Agencies and other Non Governmental Organizations.

Shall initiate and carry out educative and preventive outreach programs in Communities that traditionally perform Female Genital Mutilation for the purpose of informing members of those Communities, the health risks and complications associated with the performance of Female Genital Mutilation as well as bringing the provisions of this Law to their notice.

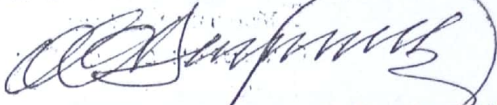
- (2) The Ministry in charge of Health matters in the State shall –

- (a) compile a data of victims of Female Genital Mutilation in the State especially those under the age of eighteen (18) years;
- (b) ensure that the risks and complications associated with the practice of Female Genital Mutilation form part of the curricular of the State owned Medical Schools, Schools of Nursing and other Schools offering Health related courses in the State.

9. Section 25 of the Child Rights Law No.6 of 2004 is repealed.

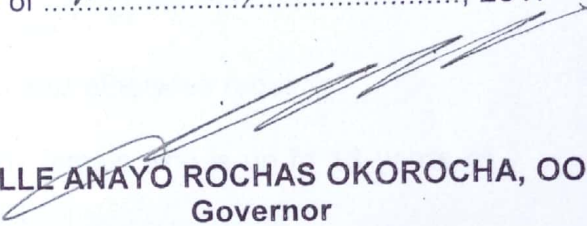
*Repeal of  
Section 25  
of Law  
No 6 of  
2004*

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has been passed by the House of Assembly and found by me to be a true and correct printed copy of the said Bill.

  
**BARR. CHRISTOPHER O. DURU**  
Clerk of the House of Assembly  
Imo State of Nigeria

Assented to by me this 30TH day of MARCH, 2017



  
**OWELLE ANAYO ROCHAS OKOROCHA, OON**  
Governor  
Imo State of Nigeria

Assent withheld by me this ..... day of ....., 2017

**OWELLE ANAYO ROCHAS OKOROCHA, OON**  
Governor  
Imo State of Nigeria

Passed again by the Imo House of Assembly by two-thirds majority this .....  
Day of ....., 2017.



**RT. HON. IHIM IHEANACHO CELESTINE**  
Speaker  
Imo State House of Assembly