



Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985

1985 CHAPTER 38

2 Saving for necessary surgical operations.

- (1) Subsection (1)(a) of section 1 shall not render unlawful the performance of a surgical operation if that operation—
- (a) is necessary for the physical or mental health of the person on whom it is performed and is performed by a registered medical practitioner; or
 - (b) is performed on a person who is in any stage of labour or has just given birth and is so performed for purposes connected with that labour or birth by—
 - (i) a registered medical practitioner or a registered midwife; or
 - (ii) a person undergoing a course of training with a view to becoming a registered medical practitioner or a registered midwife.
- (2) In determining for the purposes of this section whether an operation is necessary for the mental health of a person, no account shall be taken of the effect on that person of any belief on the part of that or any other person that the operation is required as a matter of custom or ritual.