## Genogram <br> Explanation

A genogram (or family tree) helps to provide a readily accessible picture of current family relationships over at least three generations. It provides information about key family members and shows how the child(ren) sit within the complex dynamics of their families. It can help social workers:-

- know who is in the family.
- explore family dynamics and relationships, i.e. violence and abuse (physical, emotional and sexual).
- show any individual's medical/health problem (i.e. depression, mental health) and learning disabilities.

Genograms are set out like a family tree to show people the family you are working with are connected to. Only family members should be displayed on a genogram NOT friends as these should be on an ecomap. Genogram need to show name, date of birth (not ages), year of marriage, year of divorce (or separation) and date of death (although you may not receive this information from family members) and any other significant life events.

For the layout of the genogram, the male is always at the left of the family and the female is always at the right of the family. A family is shown by a horizontal line connecting the two. The children are placed below the family line showing the oldest to the youngest (left to right). Each generation is on a separate line with the youngest generation at the bottom. See examples.

- Great grandparents
- Grandparents
- Parents (and parents' siblings)
- Child/children



## Example of a family showing half-siblings and stepchildren:



## Example of Couples:

Heterosexual couple


Lesbian couple


Gay couple


Transgender couple(s)


## Symbols used in genograms

 | The square box is used in a genogram to show the |
| :--- |
| person is a heterosexual male. |

This is used to show identical twins.
This symbol is used to show a deceased person.
This symbol is used to show an abortion.
This symbol is used to show a miscarried baby.
These symbols are used to show a baby that was
stillborn.
A solid line is used to show that the child is the
parents biological child.
A line and a dashed line is used to show the child
has been adopted.
A dashed line is used to show the child is a foster
child.

| Family relationships (marriage) m.10.03.2016 or 03.2016 | A solid line connecting the couple shows that the couple are married and the date this took place. This can also show month and year of marriage. |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\longrightarrow$ | This shows that the couple have separated (and have started legal procedure for divorce) |
|  | This shows that the couple are separated and are no longer living together. |
| $\frac{\mathrm{m} .2016 \mathrm{~d} .2021}{/ f}$ | This shows that the couple are divorced. If possible show the date (or year) they married and the date they were divorced. |
| $x$ | This shows that during the marriage one of the couple deceased. |
| Family Relationships) - | A broken (dash) line connecting the couple shows that they are unmarried / co-habiting or in a civil relationship and the date this relationships started. |
|  | This shows that the couple are now separated (living apart). |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 2018-2021 or 01.02.18-25.06.21 } \\ \text {------- } \end{gathered}$ | This shows that the couple in a civil relationship are officially separated. This also shows when the relationship started and ended. |

Genograms also show the relationships and emotional relationship between family members:

| Relationship | Explanation |
| :---: | :--- |
|  | A double line is used in a genogram to show a <br> very close relationship between two people. |
|  | A solid line is used in a genogram to show a <br> close relationship between two people. |
|  | A broken dash line is used in a genogram to <br> show a distant/poor relationship between two <br> people. |


| Emotional / Health - key information |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| LD | Child or family member has a Learning Disability |
| PD | Child or family member has a Physical Disability |
| SD | Child or family member has a Sensory Disability |
| MH | Child or family member have Mental Health |
| AM | Family member or child have Alcohol Misuse |
| SM | Child or family member have Substance Misuse |
| D | Child or family member have Depression |
| P | Family member is in Prison |
| CAR | Child At Risk |
| SI | Family member(s) or child have a Severe Illness |
| LI | Family member or child have a Lifelong Illness |
| SA | Sexual Abuse |
| PA | Physical Abuse |
| A | Anxiety |
| A | Experience of being Abused as a Child |
| EA | Child or family member has emotional abuse |
| The above is NOT a full list of key information and is a GUIDE only |  |


| Emotional relationships symbols between family members |  |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | These show Violence and the arrow should point <br> from the perpetrator to the victim. |
|  | These show Physical Abuse and the arrow <br> should point from the perpetrator to the victim. <br> should point from the perpetrator to the victim. |
|  | These show Neglect and the arrow should point <br> from the perpetrator to the victim. |


|  | These show Sexual Abuse and the arrow should <br> point from the perpetrator to the victim. |
| :--- | :--- |

## How to create Emotional relationships

## 1 Violence

Draw a thick red by clicking on "Insert" > "Shapes" > "Line Arrow". In Shape Outline, change the line weight to $2 \frac{1}{4}$ pts and change the font colour from black to red OR a wavy line and this is achieved by "Insert" > "Shape" and click on "Text Box" and while holding down the left side of the mouse drag the box down. Then change font colour to red and type $v \mathrm{v} v \mathrm{v}$ (no spaces). To remove the box lines > made sure you have clicked on the box > then click on "Shape Format" > "Shape Outline" and click on white, background 1.

## 2 Physical Abuse

Draw a thick blue line (as above) OR a wavy line with a line through the centre - this is achieved by "Insert" > "Shape" and click on "Text Box" then change font colour to light blue and type a forward slash and backward slash - / (no spaces). Then click on font key (a box with an arrow pointing to the right) then click on Advanced and in the spacing section change from Normal to Condense and change "By" to 0.6 pts ). Then draw a thick black line and change the weight to $11 / 2$ pts. Again remove the box lines.

## 3 Emotional Abuse

Draw a thick light green line (as above) OR a wavy line and this is achieved by "Insert" > "Shape" and click on "Text Box" and then change font to light green and bold and type a forward slash and backward slash - / <br>(no spaces). Then click on font key then click on Advance and in the spacing section change from Normal spacing to Condense and change to "By" to 2.1 pts). Again remove the box lines.

## 4 Sexual Abuse

Draw a thick double light blue line (weight 4.25pts) or double wavy line. This is achieved by "Insert" > "Shape" and click on rectangle and change font to light blue and bold and type forward slash and backward slash - / <br>(no spaces). Then click on font key then click on Advance and in the spacing section change from Normal spacing to Condense and change to By to 1.0pt). Again remove the box lines.

## 5 Hostile

Draw a thick blue line (as above) OR a wavy line - this is achieved by "Insert" > "Shape" and click on rectangle then change front colour to light blue and bold and type a forward slash and backward slash - / (no spaces). Then click on font key (a box with an arrow going down) then click on Advanced and in the spacing section change from Normal to Condense and change by to 0.3 pts ).

## A guide to drawing genograms on word

In Layout change orientation to Landscape.
To draw the Box or Circle - there are two ways to do this:-
On the toolbar (file - home etc) - click on Insert and you can either click on Text Box or Shapes.


If you are using the text box you then click on Draw Text Box and a + is shown, hold the left side of the mouse and drag down to the size you need (you can make this shape larger/shorter - see next page). You can change the box to a circle by clicking on it and under Shape Format - click on Edit Shape > Change Shape > click on oval.

Or, you can also click on Shapes - then on rectangle and click/drag for the box but it has a background colour $\square$ To remove this coloured background do not click anywhere on the page (the shape has a box outline and o's and a clockwise arrow U), on "Shape Styles" click on ABC in a black box, then change the line weight to 1 pt by clicking on "Shape Outline", the Weight. Then click on the mouse and click on "Set as Default Shape".

When you draw the line, it can sometimes be uneven and this can be changed. Make sure that you have clicked on the line (you will see an o at the front and end of the line o-mo) and on the toolbar you will see Shape Format showing the height and width of the line. You just need to make sure the height is 0 . If you are drawing a vertical line then it is the width you need to change to 0 . I know it is crazy that it is the other way round - so if the line connecting the parents is uneven change the height to 0 and the line from parents to children you will need to change the width.

Also to draw around the people who are in the same household - this is achieved by Insert - Shapes and "Freeform Scribble" and again make sure you have the left side button down and move the mouse around the appropriate people.

If you need to show transgender or gay/lesbian couple, first draw the appropriate circle and box or upside down triangle. On a transgender female to male - as you move the appropriate box/circle make sure you have the o o o o around the symbol then under Shape Format click on "Bring Forward" and click on "Bring to front".

To draw the double line $\longrightarrow$ First draw a line > Shape format > Shape Outline > Dashes > More Lines. Under Lines change the width to 3.75 pts (or higher number if you prefer) then under "Compound Type" click on the second (named as double) then close.


## Examples for Genograms

I have shown both examples of "emotional relationship" so that you can decide which preference you would be most happy to use




## Violence VVVVVVVVVVV

Physical Abuse
Sexual abuse MWWYWWM
mWWWMWWW
Learning Disabilities - LD
Very close relationship
Poor relationship ------
P - Prison


