Genogram template

The symbols and steps for drawing your family tree across three generations.

> Draw what you know — **the empty places in the tree are often more telling than the filled ones**. Bring the draft with you to a session; we'll complete it together.

The symbols

1. Men = squares, women = circles. You are marked with a double line.
2. A horizontal line between two people = a partnership; two strokes across it = a divorce.
3. Vertical lines downwards = children, oldest on the left.
4. A crossed-out figure = deceased; add the year of death.
5. Relationships: a double line = close, a wavy one = conflictual, a broken one = contact cut off.

Space for the drawing

Details

NAME	YEAR OF BIRTH	YEAR OF DEATH	OCCUPATION / ILLNESSES / MOVES	RELATIONSHIP WITH ME

For personal use.

What I notice

Which pattern repeats across the generations?

What isn't talked about in the family?

Symbols for people



Man
A square. Write the name below the shape, the year of birth inside it or beside it.



Woman
A circle, the same size as the square, so the generations line up.



Unknown or other
A diamond. Use it too when you don't know the person's gender.



You
The same shape, outlined once more inside. Only you are marked this way.



Deceased
Cross the shape through both diagonals. Add the year of death beside it.

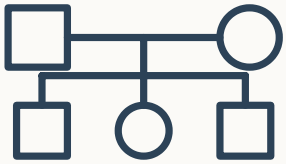
Symbols for connections



Partnership
A horizontal line between the two shapes; by convention the man on the left, the woman on the right.



Divorce
Two diagonal strokes across the partnership line. One stroke means living apart without a divorce.



Children
Down from the middle of the partnership line, then across; children from the oldest on the left.



Close relationship
Two parallel lines between the two people. Draw these only once the tree stands.



Tension
A wavy line. It means recurring conflict, not one argument.



Contact cut off
A line with a break in the middle. Note the year from which there has been no contact.

The order of drawing

1. Start by placing yourself and your brothers and sisters in the bottom row.
2. Above them draw the parents and their partnership lines, then the grandparents.
3. Only once the tree stands should you add years, occupations, moves and illnesses.
4. Draw the relationship lines (close, tension, contact cut off) last, or the drawing locks up.
5. Leave what you don't know blank and circle it. Empty places are information in themselves.

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