# Genogram Guidance

A genogram is a family tree and completing one helps a practitioner to better understand who is in a family and the relationships between family members. Talking to children and their carers about their extended family is a good starting point part for an assessment and can help make complexity clearer. Creating a genogram can help identify who is within the child’s support network as well as help practitioners understand any long-term family issues such as intergenerational neglect and relationship breakdowns.

A genogram should cover at least three generations and should include dates of birth where known.

A simple genogram can be drawn using the following symbols :

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A square for a Male** | **A circle for a Female** | **A triangle for Gender unknown eg unborn baby** | **A cross for Deceased** | **A solid connecting line for a Long-term relationship (marriage/cohabitation)** | **A solid connecting line with a slash through it for separation or divorce** |

To learn more about using genograms [click here](https://practice-supervisors.rip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Drawing-a-genogram.pdf)

You can add more detail, notes, and symbols to represent the story that the family share with you. It can be as simple or as complex as you want – just a basic family tree or it can tell a story.

Children are placed in order of birth from left to right. A dotted line should be drawn around the people who live in the same household, as shown below:

**Father**

**Mother**

**Child** 1

**Child** 2

**Child** 3

# pictorial example of a genogram with notes