Standard Symbols for Genograms

Male | Female
---|---
[Symbol] | [Symbol]
Heterosexual

Birth Date
- '41:
- written on left above symbol

Age
- '82:
- written inside symbol

Death
- 1943-2002:
- an X through symbol
- Age at death in box
- Death date on right above symbol

Gay/Lesbian
- [Symbol]

Bisexual
- [Symbol]

Location & Annual Income
- Boston $100,000
- '72:
- written above birth & death date

Significant Institutional Connection
- [Symbol]

Person who has lived in 2+ cultures
- '41:
- [Symbol]

Immigration
- '41:
- [Symbol]

AA

Marriage
- m 1970

Couple Relationship
- [Symbol]
- [Symbol]
- LT = Living Together
- Ad 95, LT 97

Secret Affair
- Affair '95

Committed Relationship
- LT 95

Marital Separation
- met '88, m '90, s '95

Divorce
- m '90, s '95, d '97

Divorce and Remarriage
- m '90, s '95-96, s '96, d '97
- remar '00, rediv '02
- m '05

Children: List in birth order beginning with the oldest on left
- Biological Child
- Foster Child
- Adopted Child
- Stillbirth
- Miscarriage
- Twins
- Identical Twins
- Pregnancy
Symbols Denoting Addiction, and Physical or Mental Illness

- Physical or Psychological illness
- Alcohol or Drug abuse
- Suspected alcohol or drug abuse
- Smoker
- Obesity
- Language Problem
- In recovery from substance abuse and mental or physical problems
- In remission
- In recovery from alcohol or drug abuse
- Serious mental and physical problems and substance abuse

Symbols Denoting Interactional Patterns between People

- Distant
- Close-Hostile
- Hostile
- Fused-Hostile
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Caretaker
- Close
- Fused
- Cutoff
- Cutoff Repaired
- “spiritual” connection

Annual income is written just above the birth & death date.

Typically you would include the person’s occupation and education near the name and the person’s whereabouts at the top of the line connecting to the symbol.

Symbol for Immigration = ⚪️

Artificial Insemination

Lesbian couple whose daughter was conceived with egg of one partner and sperm donor.

Gay Couple whose daughter was conceived with sperm of John and an egg donor, and carried by surrogate mother till birth.
**siblings of primary genogram members are written smaller and higher. Spouses are written smaller and lower:**

**foster children**

Child Raised from Birth by His Granduncle and Aunt

Use an arrow to show family into which child moved

**household**

Household shown by encircling members living together
(Couple living with their dog after launching Children)

**symbol for immigration**

**adopted child**

Use an arrow to show family into which child moved

Adopted at 5
1. Husband, His Current Wife and his Ex-Wives (who are shown lower and smaller). Husband's wives may go on left to be closest to him. Indicators "1st," "2nd" etc. make clear the order of his marriages.

2. Wife, Her Current Husband and her Ex-Husbands (who are shown lower and smaller). Wife's previous relationships are shown on left to keep children in birth order, since they remained in her custody.

3. Couple with 3 year old, showing their previous spouses (smaller) and those spouses' new partners (even smaller)

4. Couple living with their joint child and her child from a previous relationship. The other spouses of the partners are shown smaller and lower on either side of the present household, indicated by a dotted line.