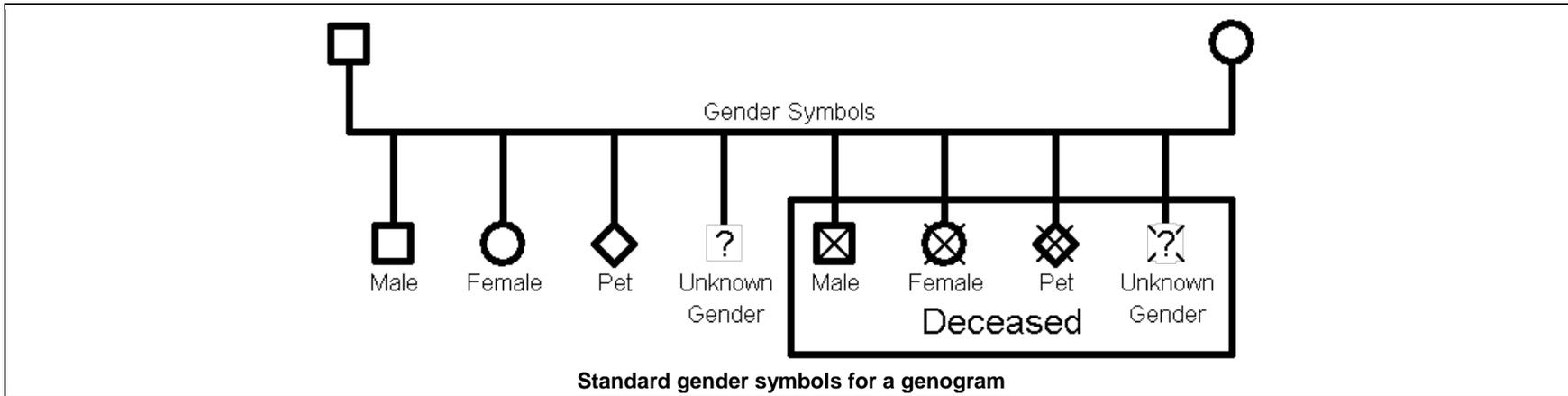
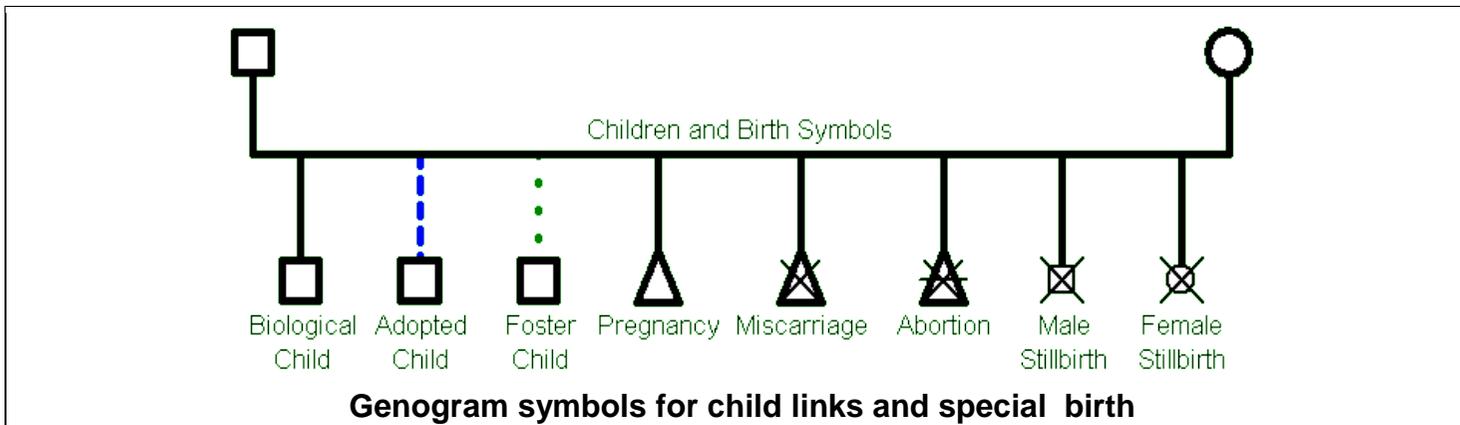


Genogram Symbols

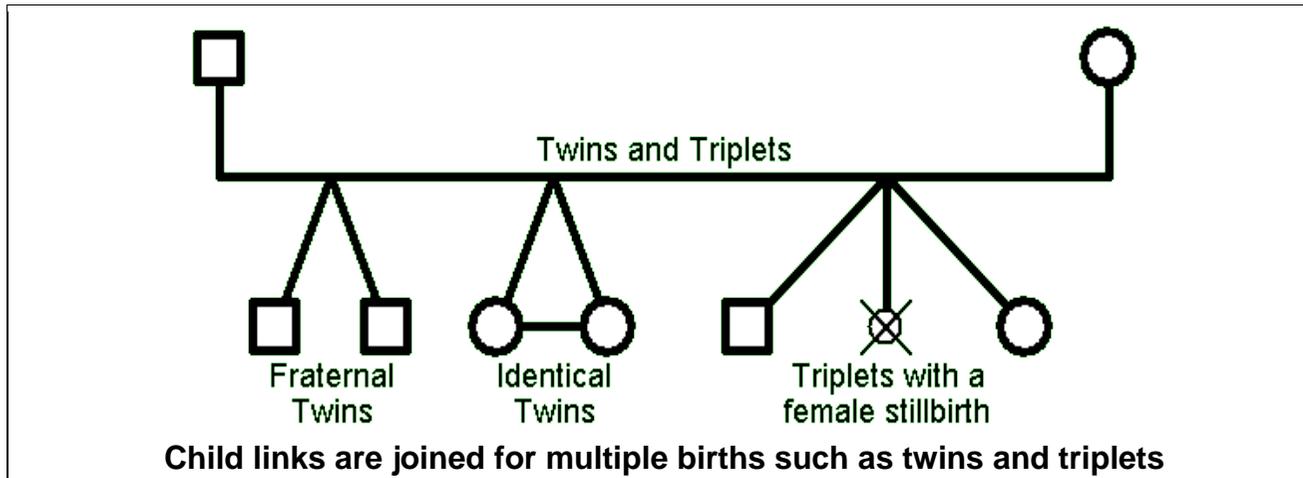
In a genogram, the male is represented by a square on the left and the female by a circle on the right



In a standard genogram, there are three different type of children: biological/natural child, adopted child and foster child. A triangle is used to represent a pregnancy, miscarriage and abortion. In the case of a miscarriage, a diagonal cross to indicate the death of the fetus is drawn on top of the triangle. The abortion is displayed similar to the miscarriage with an additional horizontal line. A still birth is displayed the same as its gender, however the gender symbol is twice as small while the diagonal cross remains the same size.



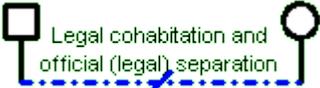
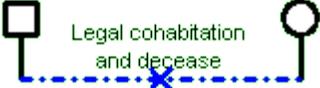
The child links are joined together for multiple births such as twins, triplets, quadruplets etc. Identical twins (or triplets ...) are displayed by an horizontal line between the siblings. In the example below, the mother got two fraternal twin brothers, two identical twin sisters and triplets, which one died at birth.



Family Relationships

The next genogram component is the **family relationship** to describe the union of two individuals. If you are confused, you may replace **family relationship** by **marriage** as long as you understand that **marriage** is a special case of a family relationship. Other family relationships are divorce, separation, cohabitation, engagement, etc

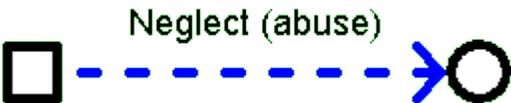
| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Marriage</p> | <p>This family relationship represents a married couple. There is no special symbol to distinguish a civil marriage and/or a religious marriage.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Separation in fact</p> | <p>This is the generic symbol to describe a married couple no longer living together. A separation is displayed by a single oblique bar.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Legal Separation</p> | <p>The married couple is separated and started legal procedure for an eventual divorce. .</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>The married couple has divorced. No comments.</p> |
|  | <p>One of the spouse died while married. .</p> |
|  | <p>The two individuals no longer live together and are in the process of terminating their cohabitation contract.</p> |
|  | <p>The cohabitation contract has been terminated.</p> |
|  | <p>One of the partner deceased. This situation is very similar widowhood; the difference is the two individuals had a cohabitation contract rather than a marriage contract.</p> |
|  | <p>Although there is no legal definition of cohabitation, it generally means to live together as a couple without being married. Use this relationship to define the generic common law spouse. There is no such thing as <i>illegal cohabitation!</i></p> |
|  | <p>The generic symbol of two individuals no longer living together.</p> |
|  | <p>A relation where two individuals live together but there is no affection towards another.</p> |
|  | <p>The action of seeing someone or dating. Be aware the term <i>boyfriend</i> and <i>girlfriend</i> is often used for <i>cohabitation</i>.</p> |
|  | <p>One individual is abusing or has abused the other individual, including including date-rape, drug-rape and wife-rape. This type of relationship is mostly used in therapy or when a child was the product of such relationship.</p> |

Emotional Relationships

Although the families to some extent describe the emotional bond between the two parent, the **emotional relationship** component can be used to describe the emotional bond between any two individuals in the genealogy tree

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Cutoff / Estranged</p>  | <p>Define a cutoff relationship where the two individuals have no contact at all, characterized by extreme disengagement and emotional intensity.</p> |
| <p>Indifferent / Apathetic</p>  | <p>Define an apathetic relationship where one or both individual is indifferent to the other.</p> |
| <p>Distant / Poor</p>  | <p>Define a distant relationship between two individuals. Communication is very limited usually because of lifestyle differences.</p> |
| <p>Plain / Normal</p>  | <p>Define a plain normal relationship. This is not very useful, except to highlight a normal relationship among massive dysfunctional relationships. the line is coloured in grey.</p> |
| <p>Friendship / Close</p>  | <p>Define a close relationship (friendship) between two individuals. The two individuals are friends and share secrets.</p> |
| <p>Intimacy / Very Close</p>  | <p>Define an intimate relationship, where communication is open, uncensored and without secrets.</p> |
| <p>Hostile / Conflictual</p>  | <p>Define a hostile relationship between two individuals. The two individuals have conflicts and argue on major issues.</p> |
| <p>Violence</p>  | <p>Define a violent relationship between two individuals. The two individuals have conflicts which result in extreme actions such as physical force or excessive power.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>Physical Abuse</p> | <p>One individual is physically abusing another individual. Any non-accidental injury to an individual, typically to a child or a woman.</p> |
|  <p>Emotional Abuse</p> | <p>One individual is emotionally abusing another individual. Any attitude or behaviour which interferes with mental health or social development. This includes yelling, screaming, name-calling, shaming, negative comparisons to others, telling them they are "bad, no good, worthless" or "a mistake".</p> |
|  <p>Sexual Abuse</p> | <p>One individual is sexually abusing another individual. Any sexual act between an adult and child, or a forced sexual action between two adults. This includes fondling, penetration, intercourse, exploitation, pornography, exhibitionism, child prostitution, group sex, oral sex, or forced observation of sexual acts.</p> |
|  <p>Neglect (abuse)</p> | <p>Failure to provide for a child's physical needs. This includes lack of supervision, inappropriate housing or shelter, inadequate provision of food, inappropriate clothing for season or weather, abandonment, denial of medical care, and inadequate hygiene.</p> |

Rules to Build Genograms

Although there is general agreement on the basic genogram structure and symbols, there are some variations from one author to another. If you understand the following rules, you will be able create the most complex genogram without any problem... and others will be able to understand your work.

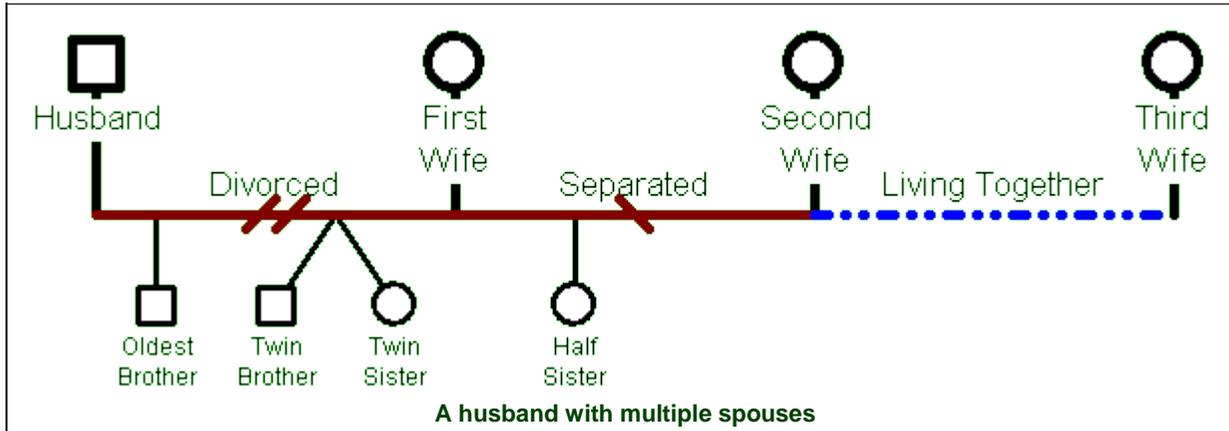
Basic Genogram Symbols



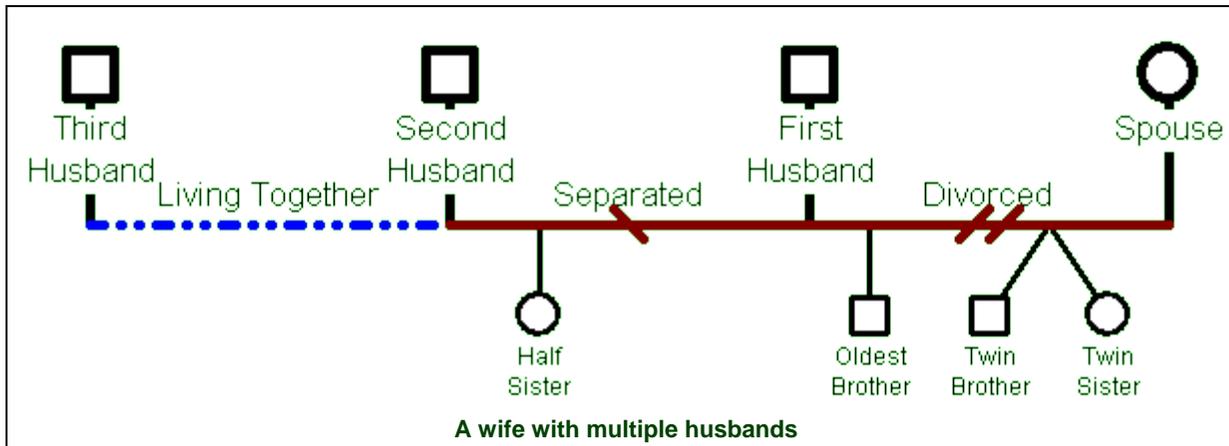
The male is noted by a square and the female by a circle. A family is shown by an horizontal line connecting the two.

The children are placed below the family line from the oldest to the youngest, **left to right**.

The following case is a husband with three spouses. The husband had three children with the first wife, then divorced. The husband married the second wife, had one child and separated. The husband currently lives with another woman. As you can see, the oldest child is at the left, and the youngest child, "Half Sister", is at the right of her family, as she is the unique child of the husband and the second wife.



Reversing the scenario where the wife had multiple husbands, we get the following genogram:



The second scenario is the same as the first one, except the spouse had three husbands. She had three children with her first husband and divorced. The wife married another man, had one child with him and now lives with someone else.

Please notice **the oldest child is always at the left most position of the family of his biological parents.** In this scenario, the "Oldest Brother" is older than the twins and the half sister, however the half-sister must be placed under the family of her biological parents. Since the second marriage is after the first marriage, it follows that the half sister is younger than the children from the first marriage. The half sister therefore appears to the left, although she is not the oldest child. If you are confused, please read this paragraph again.

In summary, here are the four rules to build a genogram:

1. The male is always at the left of the family and the female is always at the right of the family.
2. In the case of ambiguity, assume a male-female relationship, rather than male-male or female-female relationship.
3. A spouse must always be closer to his/he first partner, then the second partner (if any), third partner, and so on...
4. The oldest child is always at the left his family, the youngest child is always at the right his family.