Genogram Symbols Cheat Sheet

👤 GENDER & IDENTITY SYMBOLS

Male
Square shape

Female
Circle shape

Unknown / Unspecified Gender
Diamond shape

Identified Patient / Client
Double border around symbol

Pet / Significant Other
Pentagon (some systems)

† LIFE STATUS INDICATORS

Deceased (Male)
X drawn through square

Deceased (Female)
X drawn through circle

Pregnancy (Current)
Triangle shape

Miscarriage
Small triangle with X

Stillbirth
Gender symbol with X + "SB" label

Induced Abortion
Filled triangle

💍 COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS

Marriage
Solid horizontal line

Cohabitation (Living Together)
Dashed line

Separation
One slash through line

Divorce
Two slashes through line

Engagement / Dating
Dotted line or notation

👪 PARENT–CHILD CONNECTIONS

Biological Child
Solid vertical line to child

Adopted Child
Dashed line to child

Foster Child
Dotted line to child

Fraternal Twins
Lines converge to one point

Identical Twins
Converging lines + horizontal bar

💬 EMOTIONAL RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS

Close / Harmonious
Two parallel lines

Enmeshed / Fused
Three parallel lines

Distant
Single dotted line

Conflict
Zigzag / jagged line

Cutoff / Estranged
Break in line

Close & Conflictual
Parallel + zigzag combined

Focused On
Arrow toward focus

Abuse
Zigzag with arrow

Normal / Plain
Single solid line

🏥 HEALTH CONDITION NOTATION (QUADRANT SYSTEM)

Cardio-vascular
Mental / Neuro
Cancer
Metabolic

☐ **Top-Left:** Cardiovascular
☐ **Bottom-Left:** Cancer

☐ **Top-Right:** Mental / Neurological
☐ **Bottom-Right:** Metabolic / Endocrine

Outer ring categories: Respiratory, Autoimmune, Musculoskeletal, Other
Filled quadrant = person has condition | **Half-filled** = carrier
Tip: Use a legend on your genogram whenever health conditions are shown.

💡 QUICK TIPS FOR PRACTITIONERS

✅ **Birth order:** Oldest child on the left, youngest on the right

✅ **Always include a legend** when using health condition notation

✅ **Use color sparingly** and ensure print-friendliness

✅ **Couple placement:** Male traditionally on left, female on right

✅ **Date your genogram** — family situations change over time

✅ **Three generations minimum** for clinical genograms