

Genogram Symbols — Quick Reference

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STANDARD SYMBOLS & RELATIONSHIP LINES (MCGOLDRICK NOTATION)

	Male		Marriage
	Female		Divorce
	Index person (client)		Separation
	Deceased		Unmarried / cohabiting
	Pregnancy		Close relationship
	Conflict		Cutoff / estrangement
	Children (descent line)		Distant relationship

Reading a genogram: Squares are male, circles are female; the index person (the client or subject of the assessment) gets a double outline. Horizontal lines connecting the bottoms of two symbols are couple relationships — solid for marriage, dashed for cohabitation, with slashes marking separation (one) or divorce (two). Vertical lines descending from a couple line lead to children, ordered oldest to youngest, left to right. Emotional-relationship lines (conflict, closeness, cutoff) are drawn directly between the two people involved.