EXAMPLE OF A GENOGRAM



How to Create a Genogram Using Microsoft Word

Step 1

Draw on a piece of paper exactly what you want the genogram to look like and what information you want to include, such as the types of relationships between family members you want to highlight and other data pertinent to certain family members.

Step 2

Open a blank document in Microsoft Word.

Step 3

Create a text box for each person you want to include in the genogram. To add the first text box, click the "Insert" tab. In the "Text" group, click "Text Box." Select "Draw Text Box." Click in the document where you want to position the first name in the genogram. Click and drag to draw the text box, then type inside of it with the name of the person.

Step 4

Add a text box for each labeled person in the genogram. Position the text boxes in the approximate location you want for each person, using your paper drawing as a guide. You can always go back and reposition things later.

Step 5

Create shapes to use to represent each person. For instance, use squares for males and circles for females. To draw a shape for each person underneath his name, click the "Insert" tab. In the "Illustrations" group, click "Shapes." Select the shape you want to insert, click a position on the document and drag to draw the shape. Press down "Shift" while you do this to draw a perfect circle or square. Repeat this for each person in the genogram. If one person has multiple relationships or details you want to include, make the shape larger.

Step 6

Draw lines to represent the connections between people. You should first draw lines showing the blood relationships between spouses, then parents and children. Click the "Insert" tab. In the "Illustrations" group, click "Shapes." In the "Lines" group, right-click a line or elbow connector, then click "Lock Drawing Mode." This will allow you to draw multiple lines at once. Click a position on the document, then move your cursor to another position and click again. Press "Shift" to draw a straight line. Double-click when you've finished drawing one line.

Step 7

Draw new lines, creating additional relationships, such as abuse, neglect or intimate relationships, if necessary. Choose the type of line you want and then manually draw it on the page. Press "Esc" to exit the drawing mode when you've drawn all the lines.

Step 8

Select a line to format it, so you can distinguish between different relationships. With the line selected, click the "Format" tab. Change the shape style and stroke color as needed.

Step 9

Create additional text boxes for important details next to each person, such as birth date and death date or to signify a relationship type, such as first marriage or adoptive parents. Continue formatting the document until the genogram is complete.

Step 10

Create a key in one corner of the document to show which different shapes, lines and colors signify certain types of relationships. Use the "Shapes" command to create small lines and shapes as you did in the above steps, making sure to include each type you used in the genogram. Next to each shape or color, type what it signifies. For example, next to a small circle, type "female." This will help others easily read and interpret your genogram.

Step 11

Click the "File" tab, then "Save as" to save the genogram.