Client/Family Screening Assessment Tool

Genogram: A tool used to gather familial history in two-dimensional fashion. A genogram tracks factual information such as birth dates, death dates, marriage dates, relational issues, genetic traits, medical and psychiatric history, strengths of families as well as a host of other material. It traces ancestors back at least three generations vertically and the same generation horizontally. When demonstrating connections, males are drawn on the left and females on the right in relationship to one another. Solid lines between symbols delineate connection via birth or marriage. Dotted lines represent a relationship, but not via marriage.

□ = male   ○ = female

Note who was present and the dates to gather information:

_____

_____

Eco-Map: A two-dimensional tool that visually represents a client and their family in the center of a circle. On the outside of the circle resources are drawn to demonstrate the outside systems the family interacts with. Arrows are drawn to demonstrate which way the energy flows from the inner circle to the outer circle.
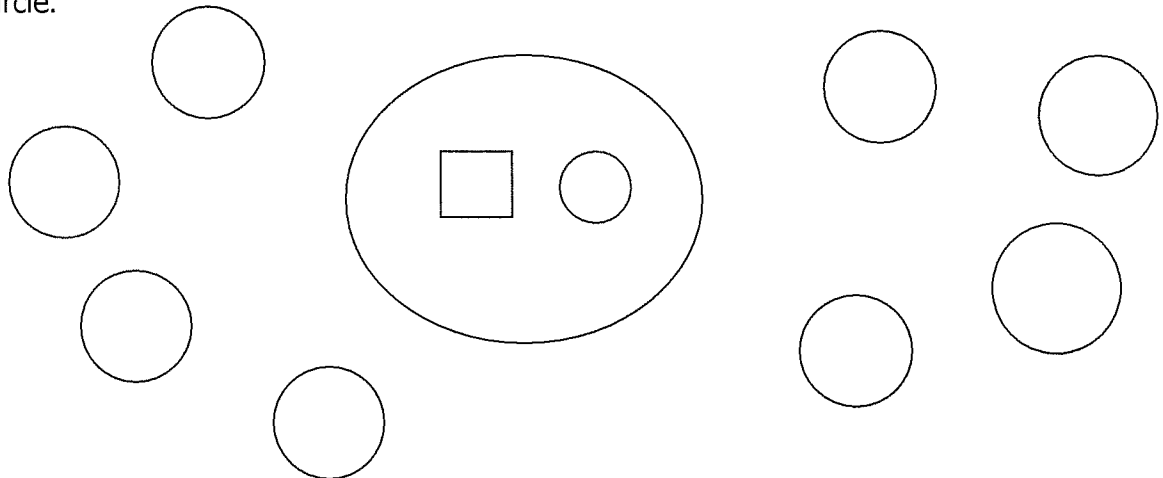
Note who was present and the dates to gather information:

_____

_____

Simple Guide to Genograms

A genogram or family tree is a useful tool to gather information about a young person's family. This visual representation of a family can help you to identify patterns or themes within families that may be influencing or driving the young person's current behaviour.

Most young people really enjoy this opportunity to talk about their family history, and it can work as a good tool to build trust and rapport in a working relationship. However be aware that some young people may find seeing a visual picture of the state of their relationships confronting, particularly if the majority of relationships in their life at present are conflictual or distant. Use this tool sensitively and in cases where you think it will be useful to help promote healthy change and the development of more positive relationships in the young person's life. A copy of this genogram should be recorded on CRIS or CRISSP.

With the young person

- Aim to gather information about at least three generations: the young person's generation, their parents and their grandparents.

- Include significant others who lived with or cared for the family.

- Start with drawing the family structure, who is in the family, in which generations, how they are connected, birth/marriage, deaths etc.

- You may ask them to tell you a bit about each person.

- As the young person tells you about family members and relationships, make a note alongside the name.

- Ask about relationships between family members
  - Who are you closest to?
  - What is/was your relationship like with....?
  - How often do you see...?
  - Where does...live now?
  - Is there anyone here who you really don't get along with?
  - Is there anyone else who is very close in the family? Or others who really don't get along?

- Ask about characteristics or habits of family members, particularly those relevant to your role: health issues, alcohol/drug use, physical and mental health, violence, crime/trouble with the law, employment, education.

- Ask about family values, beliefs and traditions.

- Try to explore patterns and themes.
  - Who are you most like?
  - What is...like? Who else is like them?
  - Did anyone else leave home early? Is anyone else interested in art, etc?

Symbols for drawing the genogram or family tree

Female symbol - name, age
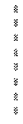
Male symbol - name, age

Unknown gender

Married - add the year or ages

De facto relationship - commencement date or ages

Separation - date or ages

Divorce - date or ages

List children in birth order and put names and ages either within the symbol or underneath.

Death - a small cross in the corner of the symbol (record date if known)

Dotted circle - this can be used to enclose the members living together currently, for example, who the young person is living with.

Conflictual relationship

Very close

Distant relationship

Genogram Symbols

Family Members

☐ Male	◯ Female	☐ ◯ Central Person

◯ Pregnancy	⊠ ⊗ Deceased
△ ◬ Abortion Miscarriage	⌐F ⌐A ☐ ◯ Foster/Adopted Child

☐ ◯ Fraternal Twins	☐—☐ Identical Twins

Unions

☐— m. 1952 —◯ Married	☐ m. 1975 // d. 1980 ◯ Divorced
☐ m. 1952 / s. 1961 ◯ Separated	☐- - - - -☐ Unmarried Couple

☐ m. 1975 // d. 1980 ◯ m. 1984 ☐

Multiple Marriages

Relationships

≡≡≡ Very close, fused	◯ People within shape are within same household
═══ Close	
∿∿∿ Conflictual	⩘⩘⩘ Fused & Conflictual
⋯⋯⋯ Distant	—┤ ├— Cut off, estranged

Family Ties Project

LIFE PLANNING FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS

Sample Genogram Family
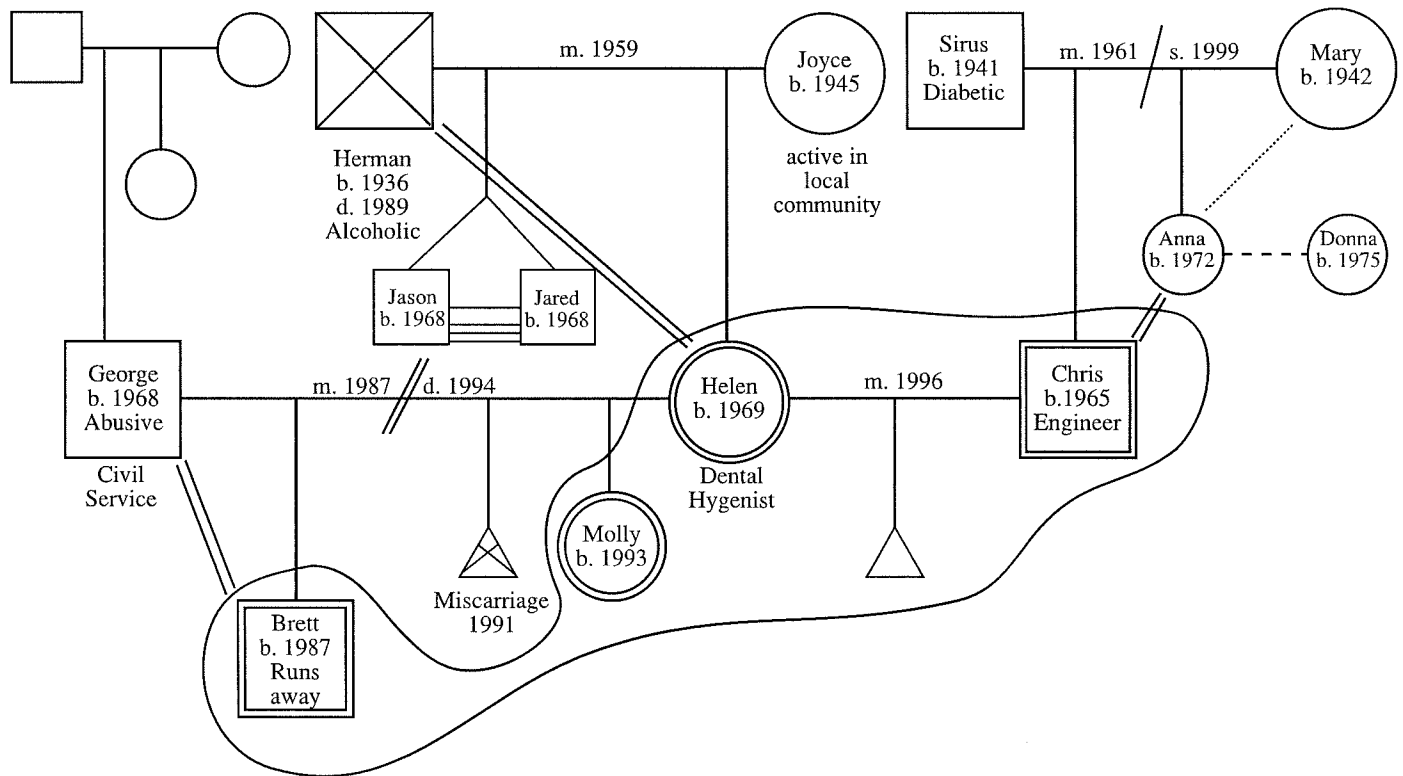
Our "Identified Family" consists of Helen, Chris, Molly and Brett.
They all live in the same household.
Helen married Brett and Molly's father George in 1987.
George, a Civil Service worker, was abusive and the couple divorced in 1994. Not much is known about George's family and there is little contact with Helen.
George and Brett continue to be close and have weekly visits.
Brett was born in 1987 and is currently troubled, running away often to his father George's house.
Helen had a miscarriage in 1991.
Molly was born in 1993.
Helen and Chris married in 1996 and are currently expecting their first child together.
Helen is a Dental Hygenist and Chris is an Engineer.

Helen's Background:
Helen's parents Herman and Joyce were married in 1959 until Herman's death in 1989.
Herman was an alcoholic.
Helen was closer to her father than to her mother.
Joyce is very active in her local community.
Helen has brothers who are identical twins, Jason and Jared. They are very close.

Chris' Background:
Chris' parents Sirus and Mary were married in 1961, but have been separated since 1999.
Sirus has health difficulties due to diabetes and relies often on Chris to help him.
Chris' sister Anna is in a relationship with Donna, which has distanced her from their mother Mary.
Chris is close to Anna