



Centre for Professional Practice

Social Work Chronology

An up to date chronology should be a requirement for every open case to Children's Social Care, enabling practitioners to gain a more accurate picture of the whole case. A good quality chronology is an effective tool for informing the assessment of children and their families.

The chronology provides an overview of key incidents. It is a "sequential story" of significant events in a family's history. It contributes to an emerging picture; significantly, current events are understood in the context of historical information. It will contribute to the practitioner's understanding of the immediate and cumulative impact of events and changes upon individual's within a family and therefore inform decision making.

A chronology is not expected to be a repetition of the narrative contained in process or case recordings, but bullet points indicating incidents, events or issues within a family or which significantly affect a child's life. It therefore requires familiarity with the case information, and analysis to identify the critical moments in a child/family's life experience. It must be relevant and succinct so that important events are not lost in insignificant and irrelevant details.

A significant event is an incident that impacts upon a child's safety and welfare, circumstances or home environment. This will involve professional judgement based upon the child and family's individual circumstances. To be of value a chronology should be:

Succinct – If every issue/contact is recorded, the value of the chronology is diluted;

Simple in Format – This will ensure that information is efficiently merged and sorted;

Informative – This will assist with the decision making process.

A number of core issues should always be considered but may not be relevant for every case. Use professional judgement re significance:

- Births of significant persons
- Deaths of significant persons
- Education, training and employment details
- Referrals to Children's Services
- Strategy discussions
- S47 enquiries
- Child Protection Conferences
- Child absconded or missing from home or care of a Local Authority
- Admissions to the care of a Local Authority
- Discharges to the care of a Local Authority
- House moves
- Persons moving in and out of the household
- Details of new partners

- Significant incidences of anti-social behaviour
- Significant assessments by any professional agency (E.g. SEN)
- Significant referrals to key partner agencies (E.g. youth inclusion services)
- Criminal proceedings
- Significant police service logs
- Incidences of reported domestic abuse
- Schools attended
- Changes of school
- School inclusion issues
- School attendance issues
- Changes in significant health professionals
- Mental Health issues
- Other significant health issues.

Other issues that are significant to a particular family may also be recorded, for example, an observation during a home visit. Positive factors should also be recorded in order to provide balance, examples are:

- Evidence of the family's engagement with professionals
- Parent's self-referral for support
- Child's presentation in school significantly improves.

A chronology must also form the basis of any assessment undertaken with respect to children and their families. It can be used with family members to gain an insight into particular family member's perspective regarding key events. Managers should be responsible for specifically addressing the issues of the chronology during supervision.

Useful Links:

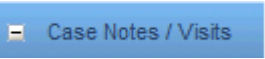
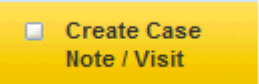

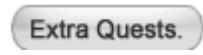



<http://coppguidance.rip.org.uk/court-application/chronologies/>

<https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/blog/reunification-in-practice/>

https://www.rip.org.uk/search/?search_area=site&keyword=analysis&topic=&type=&searchSubmit=SEARCH





Entering Chronology

All chronologies will need to be entered onto the child’s case record, to do this you will need to follow the below instructions, this will guide you through the input process;

- Load the Childs record that you want to record a chronology entry for.
- Click 
- Click 
- Select “ C- Chronology Information” in the “Note/Visit Type”
- The date and time will pre-fill
- Enter “Chronology Event” in the headline.
- Click 
- Click 
- Enter the Date of the Significant Event you are recording.
- Enter the “Significant Event Details”
- Enter the “Source of Evidence/Document Reference”
- Enter the “Significance and Impact on the Child”
- Click  Click  (This will take you back to the maintain casenote)
- Click 

Chronology Information			
Question	List Answer	Date Answer	Text Answer
Date		18/08/2017	
Significant Event Details			Significant Event
Source of Evidence/Document Reference			Evidence
Significance and Impact on child			Impact on Child

Copy Chronologies To Family Members

- Once you have completed and saved the extra questions Click  (This will take you back to the maintain casenote)
 - Select “Yes” against “Copy note to Family Members”
 - Click into the “Copy” Column against the family member you want to copy the case note to.
 - Click  (You should see a message confirming the Successful Copy), Click 
- Click  to return you to the “Browse Casenotes Screen”

Copy note to family members?

Yes No

Chronology Information

Copy Note to Family Members

Displaying 1...4 of 4 records

Related Person	Person Identifier	Date of Birth	Age	Relationship	Start Date	NHS Number	EC	OKC	KH	NK	PR	PC	VU	Hazards exist	End Date	Copy	Complete	Previously Copied	Copy Answers	Delete
Sparrow, Jack Arthur Master	484599	04/02/2011	7 yrs 4 mths	Brother	27/02/2017		N	N	N	N	Y	U	N	N		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>