

TIME LINE EXAMPLE

Document the onset of symptoms, events before and after, developmental issues, etc.

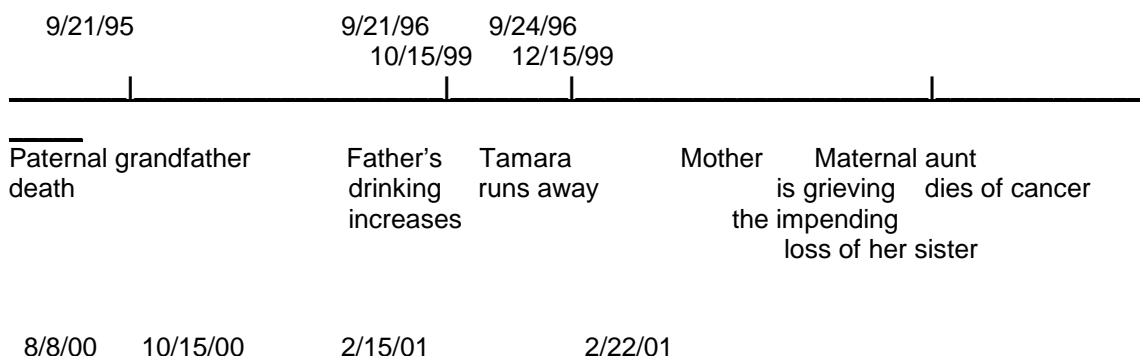
Case example: Tamara is a 16 year old who was referred to a mental health center on 2/22/01 due to a suicide attempt.

Her paternal grandfather passed away on 9/21/95 when Tamara was 10. He was prone to violent behavior and drank heavily for most of his adult life. The grandfather physically abused Tamara's father as he was growing up. Father also drinks to excess and has done so since 1993.

At the one-year anniversary of the grandfather's death, Tamara's father began drinking even more heavily. Tamara ran away three days later and returned home after two days. Her mother promised Tamara that things would change with her father's drinking, but the situation remained the same.

During the next few years, Tamara's maternal aunt died of cancer and Tamara's mother herself was later diagnosed with cancer. The diagnosis, coupled with the father's continued drinking created an intolerable situation for Tamara. She turned to drugs and alcohol, and a few months later attempted suicide and was hospitalized. She came to the attention of the child welfare system after she was discharged from the hospital.

By noting the dates of significant events in Tamara's family history, the worker can see how family events unfolded. The worker can gain a better perspective of the reasons Tamara might have come to the attention of the child welfare system by noting the significant events in her life.





Mother
diagnosed
with cancer

Tamara tries
drugs/alcohol

Tamara
attempts suicide

Tamara
referred to
mental health
center



Department for Children
and Families
*Prevention and
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Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas