

Chronologies: a short guide for social workers

Policy:

- Chronologies should be short, succinct documents that cover significant events and issues that impact on the child's safety and welfare.
- The document should provide a simple, easy to read overview of the family history and key events that have had a significant impact on the child's life, to help identify any emerging patterns and persistent themes of risk and concern
- Entries should be brief one-line notes giving basic information about a significant event with details recorded in case notes.
- Entries should be accurate, relevant, kept up to date and recorded on the Chronology template on MOSAIC
- Chronologies should be started at the same time as the C&F assessment and record events from the child's birth, although previous events can be recorded if relevant, for example older siblings being removed.
- Court chronologies should focus on events leading up to issuing care proceedings.
- Further guidance can be found at: [chronologies-practice-guidance.pdf \(camden.gov.uk\)](https://www.camden.gov.uk/media/1000000/chronologies-practice-guidance.pdf)

What to record

Key professional interventions	Referrals, significant concerns raised by professional network, child protection interventions such as police protection, sec 47 investigation, CP conferences and plans, entry to care and LAC reviews, dates of sw involvement (allocation, transfer), case closure etc, threats or incidents of violence to staff, lack of engagement/appointments missed with SW or other key professionals
Significant events and changes in the circumstances of the child and family	Marriages, divorce, separation and changes of partner, births, deaths; changes in family and household composition; significant family rifts and domestic violence; changes of residence (temporary or permanent), episodes of homelessness; changes in carers, involvement with criminal justice system, prison sentences etc, evidence of drug dealing, substance misuse
Child's/Parents health history	Significant diagnosed health conditions and impairments, significant health events/illnesses, accidents, contact with accident and emergency, pregnancy, periods of hospitalisation and relevant medical examinations.
Education, training and employment	Child's educational history, changes of school/educational establishment; significant educational events, such as EHCP or PEP's, periods of exclusion and absence; any changes in parents/carers employment status that have significantly impacted on the child and family.
Changes in the child's legal status and placement history of a looked after child	looked after status, court applications, hearings and orders, changes of placement, dates and decisions of any care planning panels. e.g. Adoption or Fostering.