

Neglect Chronology Template

A neglect chronology can be used to record and understand the events in a child's life, particularly when there are concerns about neglect. It helps to summarise and organise information about the child's experiences and circumstances over time, highlighting any patterns or trends that might indicate a failure to meet the child's basic needs. Chronologies are valuable for understanding the cumulative impact of neglect, as it often builds over time rather than being a single incident.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

A structured summary	A chronology is a concise, chronological record of significant events and changes in a child's life.
Focus on neglect	It's particularly useful when there are concerns about neglect, helping to document the cumulative impact of a parent's failure to meet a child's basic needs.
A form for practitioners	It's a form that practitioners can use to understand the situation, identify patterns, and determine appropriate interventions.
Not an assessment	A chronology is not an assessment, but it can be a crucial part of an assessment.

Why it is important:

Understanding patterns	It helps identify patterns of neglect over time, rather than focusing on isolated incidents.
Supporting assessments	It provides a clear and organised record of events, which can support practitioners in making accurate assessments.
Identifying triggers	It can help identify triggers or situations that may be contributing to the neglect.
Facilitating communication	It can facilitate communication and collaboration between different agencies and practitioners involved in the child's care.
Supporting intervention	It can help inform the decision-making process and determine the best course of action for the child.

Elements of a neglect chronology:

- **Date:** The date of the event or concern.
- **Person/agency reporting issue:** Who reported the concern and what agency.
- **Concern/incident reported:** A description of the concern or incident.
- **Impact on child:** How the event or incident affected the child.
- **Action taken and outcome:** What was done in response to the concern or incident and what was the outcome.

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Date and time of concern	Agency	Source of information <i>(Who reported the concern)</i>	Concern/incident reported <i>(A description of the concern or incident)</i>	Impact on the child <i>(How the event or incident affected the child)</i>	Action taken and outcome <i>(What was done in response and what was the outcome)</i>

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