Chronology for family court

England and Wales · updated 17 November 2026 · checked against the court rules in force (PD 27A, from 2 March 2026)

What a chronology is

A chronology is a list of the important events in the case, in date order. It helps the judge see what happened, and when, without reading every document first.

How to fill it in

- One line per event. Keep each entry short and factual.
- Three things on every line: the date, what happened, and where the evidence is (the page number in the bundle, once you have one).
- Include court hearings and orders, as well as the key events.
- If you disagree with the other side's version of an event, write "disputed" rather than arguing it in the chronology.
- Never include an address or contact details you are keeping confidential.
- The court rules limit a chronology to 10 pages (Practice Direction 27A).
- Follow any direction from the court about whether the chronology should be agreed with the other side.

Print or copy only the blank pages. Your court's own orders and directions always come first.

Free guide: mycaseorganiser.com/guides/doctype/chronology. General information, not legal advice. Check Practice Direction 27A (justice.gov.uk) or get advice before relying on it.

Made-up example

Hartley v Hartley is an invented case. It shows the level of detail to aim for.

No.	Date	What happened	Where the evidence is
1	14/03/2019	Ella is born.	Birth certificate, page B1
2	01/09/2024	The parents separate. Ella lives with her mother and sees her father every other weekend.	Applicant's statement, C3 para 4
3	06/02/2026	Handover at 18:30. The mother says the father shouted at her in front of Ella. The father disputes this.	Applicant's statement C5 para 9; Respondent's statement C14 para 6
4	06/02/2026	WhatsApp from the father at 18:55: "I only shouted because you pushed me to it."	WhatsApp export, page E22
5	20/03/2026	C100 application issued.	Application, A1
6	12/05/2026	First hearing (FHDRA). The court orders a section 7 report.	Order of 12/05/2026, A8

IN THE FAMILY COURT AT _____

Case number: _____

_____ **Applicant**

and

_____ **Respondent**

CHRONOLOGY

prepared by _____, the Applicant / Respondent, on _____

No.	Date	What happened	Where the evidence is
1			
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No.	Date	What happened	Where the evidence is
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