

# Social Work with Carers

## Blank: Ecogram

This depicts the important relationships, resources and systems in a person's life, not simply those connected with their family.

Start by writing the person's name at the centre of a piece of paper. If you are considering them as a family or household, you might want to draw a miniature family tree in the central circle, but make sure each person's name is given in a separate circle.

Now ask the people in the household about outside systems which may affect or support them. For example, this might include extended family, friends, workplaces, religious organisations, social services, other welfare agencies, medical professionals, and so on.

Draw these systems in circles outside of the family circle.

Now connect these other circles either to the family circle as a whole (if they affect/support everybody) or to the particular member of the household.

You can use different connectors for different types of relationships. For example, a zig-zagging line is often used to depict a relationship where there is conflict, a dashed line to depict a tenuous relationship, strong lines or multiple lines to depict strong connections, and so on. You can use a short line cutting across these connectors to show that a connection has been cut off.

