

COGA
PEDIGREE STRUCTURE FORM
INSTRUCTIONS

The Pedigree Structure Form (PSF) can be administered to the proband or a best informant. It is the rater's decision, on a case by case basis, whether the proband or a best informant would be the most knowledgeable regarding pedigree structure information.

If a best informant is used, observe the following:

1. The interview must always be from the proband's point of view.
2. The best informant must be the first person interviewed in the family. (This is because the plotted pedigree of the PSF information must be available when family members are interviewed and administered the FHAM).

The following relatives are identified on the PSF:

Parents and Grandparents
Siblings, Their Mates, Nieces/Nephews
Aunts/Uncles, Their Mates, Cousins

The above include all step/half relations and are identified for both the maternal and paternal side.

PSF DESIGN AND CONTENT:

The PSF is in table form and organizes the relatives in nuclear groups, i.e. the Proband, his/her mate(s), their children, then for each child, his/her mate(s) and their children. This pattern is then followed for sibs/aunts/uncles. The following information is obtained for each relative: Twin or Adopted, DOB, Sex, Living, if Deceased - DOD, Cause of Death/Death State.

PSF INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Always indicate the relative's full name. For females, use maiden names.
2. When listing mates, list most current mate first, then go back.
3. For dates:
 - use the year of birth, year of death - not the age of the relative
 - format for dates is i.e. 10/11/64
 - if only the year is known use the four digits, i.e. 1952
 - if only the month and year are known, write i.e. May, 1945
4. If the name of a relative is unknown, do not leave blank, put a question mark (?)
5. If information is 'sketchy' i.e. four or five cousins, sex unknown; fill in the boxes for five cousins, with "?" for name, DOB, sex, etc.

MATES OF PROBANDS AND INTERVIEWED RELATIVES:

The PSF is administered to all current and past mates with whom there are offspring. The family number remains the same as the proband's. For the Mates' PSF only first degree relatives are identified. The Mates' PSF is a separate document but is kept with the Proband's PSF.

ADDITIONS TO THE PSF:

The interviewer reviews the contents of the pedigree with the relative being interviewed and any additions/changes (i.e. missing/incorrect information) are made. The additional boxes at the end of the interview can be used for information on previously unidentified relatives.