

GEDitCOM TECHNICAL NOTE #2

ALWAYS DISPLAYING CERTAIN EVENTS IN THE DEFAULT GEDitCOM FORMAT

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■ Introduction

For INDIVIDUAL records, the **Default GEDitCOM Format** always has fields for entering birth and death events. All other individual events are displayed in a table of events. If an event is present in a record, it appears in the table; otherwise the user has to attach it before it can be edited. Similarly, in FAMILY records, the marriage event always appears, but all other family events appear in a table.

You may prefer to have one or more other events behave like birth, death, and marriage events and always appear in records. In this way, they can be viewed and editing without ever having to attach the event first. This technical note explains how to modify the **Default GEDitCOM Format** (and also the French version **Format GEDitCOM par défaut**) to remove certain events from the table of events and make they always appear like birth, death, and marriage events. Although moving events from the table to permanent display makes it easier to view and edit those events, it also clutters the user interface. You should only move events that are expected to be in most records in your GEDCOM files and therefore expected to be viewed and editing often.

Technical Note #2 History

1. April 20, 2000: Initial release
2. May 3, 2000: Some notes added about a few events that can not be moved by the methods in this note (see "Problem Events" section).
3. March 5, 2001: Updated all scripts to reflect the changes made to the **Default GEDitCOM Format** in version 2.9.4.

■ Individual Events

This section gives the step-by-step process of promoting individual events from the event table to permanent display. This technical note is based on versions of the **Default GEDitCOM Format** posted on or after April 20, 2000. If you have an older version, you will need to visit the GEDitCOM web site (see title page for address) and download the latest version of the format. You can tell if your **Default GEDitCOM Format** is acceptable by opening the Template Editor and looking for the "evnt Editing" template. If it is there, you can continue; if it is not there, download the current version on the web site. (*Note: if you have the current version of GEDitCOM, you only need to download the **Default GEDitCOM Format**; you do not need to download the entire GEDitCOM package again).*

One type of individual event some users like to promote are baptism events. Many church records, particularly Catholic records, give baptism information rather than birth information. You may thus find your records are more likely to have baptism dates and places than birth dates and places. For such records, it might be nice to always display the baptism event along with the birth event. The following steps show a general way to promote events to permanent display. To illustrate the process, each step will show specifically how to display baptism events after the birth event. These steps can be done with either the **Default GEDitCOM Format** or the French version **Format GEDitCOM par défaut**. Any differences required for changing the French version will be noted.

1. Open the Template Editor, open the "INDI Record Editing" template, and Scroll down until you find the lines that display the death event. They should resemble:

```
! ----- Death Event(s)
newline #sbrk
set strt #vpos
show DEAT
showall DEAT
newline
pass bbox Death
```

(Note: in the French format, the last line will end in "Décès").

2. Select and copy all the death event lines. Next scroll to where you want the moved event displayed and paste the lines in that location. For this example, the lines should be pasted just after the section on birth events.
3. Edit the newly pasted lines to refer to the event being moved. You need to change the two lines with "DEAT" to the GEDCOM tag for the event being moved. For moving baptism events, change "DEAT" to "BAPM". Also change the last word of the last line to a short word that describes the event being promoted. For moving baptism events, change "Death" to "Baptism" (or to "Baptême" for the French format).
4. Scroll down the "INDI Record Editing" until you find the event table section. It should begin with the line

```
! ----- Events -----
```

Locate the `showall` line the displays the event being moved in the event table and delete it. For moving baptism events, locate and delete the `showall BAPM` line.

5. Save the "INDI Record Editing" template and then open the editing template for the event being moved. For moving baptism events, open the "BAPM Editing" template. Change the template to be

use [DEAT Editing](#)

and then save it.

6. **English version only** (see step 7 for editing the French format): Open the "GEDCOM Tag Phrases" template. Enter a line for the event being moved that describes the fact that this event has occurred. The first word in the line is the GEDCOM tag for the event. The rest of the line should be text for a check box to show the event has occurred. For moving baptism events, enter a line [BAPM Baptized](#). Save the "GEDCOM Tag Phrases" template.
7. **French version only:** The **Format GEDitCOM par défaut** has other uses for the GEDCOM tag phrases and thus the method used in step 6 for the English version can not be used for the French version. Instead, open the "DEAT Editing" template and locate the section that should resemble:

```
! set text of "event occurred" check box
if *name=Décès
  get *this.SEX
  if *it=F
    Text Décédée
  else
    Text Décédé
  endif
  help Cocher si la personne est décédée
elseif *name=Mariage
  Text Mariés
  help Cocher s'il y a eu mariage
else
  ! only used if forget to add label for that event
  Text Oui
  help Cocher si l'événement a eu lieu
endif
```

Now add an `elseif` block to create a label that describes the fact that this event has occurred. For moving baptism events, you could insert

```
elseif *name= Baptême
  Text Baptisé
```

The word in the `elseif` line must match the name given to that event in the "GEDCOM Tag Names" template. If you need to use different text depending on whether the individual is male or female, you can follow the example for death events in the block after the `if *name=Décés` line.

The change is now complete. Open any GEDCOM file and test it. The event you moved should now always appear in the location you selected and it will no longer appear in the event table. For moving baptism events, there will now always be a baptism event after the birth event. To move more events, simply repeat the above steps for each event to be moved.

■ Family Events

This section gives the step-by-step process of promoting family events from the event table to permanent display. The process is essentially identical to one described in the previous section:

1. Open the Template Editor, open the "FAM Record Editing" template, and Scroll down until you find the lines that display the marriage event. They should resemble:

```
! ----- Marriage Event
newline 1
set strt #vpos
show MARR
newline
pass bbox Marriage
```

(Note: in the French format, the last line will end in "Mariage").

2. Select and copy all the marriage event lines. Next scroll to where you want the moved event displayed and paste those lines in that location.
3. Edit the newly pasted lines to refer to the event being moved. You need to change the line with "MARR" to the GEDCOM tag for the event being moved, add a `showall` line after the `show` line for the event being moved, and change the last word of the last line to a short word that describes the event being promoted.
4. Scroll down the "FAM Record Editing" until you find the event table section. It should begin with the line

```
! ----- Events -----
```

Locate the `showall` line the displays the event being moved in the event table and delete it.

5. Save the "FAM Record Editing" template and then open the editing template for the event being moved. Change the template to be

```
use DEAT Editing
```

and then save it.

6. Do step 6 (English format) or step 7 (French format) in the previous section.

The change is now complete. Open any GEDCOM file and test it. The event you moved will now always appear in the location you selected and it will no longer appear in the event table. To move more events, simply repeat the above steps for each event to be moved.

■ Problem Events

The above process will not work for all events. In the language of object-oriented programming, some events in GEDCOM are overloaded. In other words, some event tags have other uses when they appear in different places such as in other types of records besides INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY records. In order to handle this overloading, the templates for such events have to be special templates. This requirement means that the above process for moving other events will not work. The event tags that can not be moved by these methods are:

1. **ADOP**: Individual adoption event
2. **EVEN**: Generic individual or family event

In addition, LDS ordinance events can not be moved by the methods in this technical note because they contain different types of data than other events. The LDS ordinance events are:

1. **BAPL**: LDS Baptism
2. **CONL**: LDS Confirmation
3. **ENDL**: LDS Endowment
4. **SLGC**: LDS Child Sealing
5. **SLGS**: LDS Spouse Sealing

■ Updating to New Version of GEDitCOM

When you update to a new version of GEDitCOM, it may come with new versions of the **Default GEDitCOM Format** and **Format GEDitCOM par défaut**. Those new versions will not include your changes. To incorporate your changes in the new versions, make a note of which events you moved and then repeat the processes in the previous two sections to move the events again. If there are any problems, check the GEDitCOM web site (address on first page) to see if there is a new version of this technical note. If there is a new version, it may describe some new things to do when moving events.