

# Reports with More than Nine Columns

TMG list reports are limited to nine output columns. In many of my list of events or witnesses reports, I want four date columns: the actual date, which includes qualifiers, and three columns for sorting in YYYY, MM, DD format. I usually want at least three place columns: state, county, and city, so I can sort and filter effectively. Of course, I usually want the name (in Last, Given format), and I usually want the person's ID number. That's nine columns, and I'm still missing the tag type label, role, and memo fields. I may even want the witness memo field, the place detail, and Principal1 and Principal2. In order to create reports with all the output columns I want, I need at least two report passes that I can "paste" together.

Creating a report with more than nine output columns is not difficult. Keep two important points in mind. (1) The filter must be identical for each report pass; and (2) each report pass must be sorted in the identical manner. If you have three sort columns in the first pass, the same three sort columns must be used in the second pass. In these multi-pass reports, I usually sort only on the subject ID number. Unlike name, the ID number is unique, and I only need to repeat one column in each pass.

Sort Order	Column Type	Heading	Width
1	Witness Last, Given	W_Last_Given	30
2	Witness Surname (Selected)	W_Surname	20
3	Witness ID	Wit_ID	6
4	Tag Type Label	Label	10
5	Witness Role	Role	15
6	Date	Date	40
7	Date - Year	Year	4
8	Date - Month	Mo	2
9	Date - Day	Dy	2
Total			129

This shows the output columns for the first report pass of the family timeline report. It includes the selected surname, especially important for married women, and the three-column sortable date output. It's sorted on one column only, the Witness ID.

The output columns for the second report pass are shown below. It includes four place parts and the names of Principal1 and Principal2. Like the first report pass, it's sorted only on the Witness ID.

Sort Order	Column Type	Heading	Width
1	Witness ID	Wit_ID	6
2	State	State	20
3	County	County	30
4	City	City	25
5	Detail	Detail	35
6	Memo	Memo	254
7	Witness Memo	WitMemo	254
8	Prin1 Last, Given	P1_Last_Given	50
9	Prin2 Last, Given	P2_Last_Given	50
Total			724

OK Cancel Help

This second pass report should be copied and pasted next to the first report pass. I then quickly verify that the first few and last few lines match, and then I delete the extra sort column. The report is now ready to use.

Creating this family timeline report is a five-step process. First, select the subjects. My method of choice is creating a focus group. A list of witnesses report does not include a focus group filter option, so a list of people report must be run, changing the Temporary flag value for the focus group members. Finally, run the list of witnesses report's two passes. Of course, one must not forget to reset the Temporary flag before the reports are run. One can use Book Manager to organize and run these multi-step reports. This eliminates the possibility of making careless changes in report format, forgetting steps, or forgetting a report name.

