

# Dissociative Amnesia DSM-5 Criteria

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Dissociative amnesia is marked by an inability to recall autobiographical information beyond what would be expected from normal forgetting. This condition can manifest as localized amnesia (affecting a specific event or period of time), selective amnesia (impacting particular aspects of an event), or generalized amnesia (encompassing one's identity and life history).

Memory deficits in dissociative amnesia are primarily retrograde, often linked to traumatic experiences. For instance, an individual may be unable to remember the third grade if they were kidnapped and held hostage during that time.

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## Diagnostic criteria

1. An inability to recall important autobiographical information, usually of a traumatic or stressful nature that is inconsistent with ordinary forgetting. Note: Dissociative amnesia most often consists of localized or selective amnesia for a specific event or events; or generalized amnesia for identity and life history.
2. The symptoms cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.
3. The disturbance is not attributable to the physiological effects of a substance (e.g., alcohol or other drug of abuse, a medication) or a neurological or other medical condition (e.g., partial complex seizures, transient global amnesia, sequelae of a closed head injury/traumatic brain injury, other neurological condition).
4. The disturbance is not better explained by dissociative identity disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, somatic symptom disorder, or major or mild neurocognitive disorder

### Coding note:

The code for dissociative amnesia without dissociative fugue is F44.0. The code for dissociative amnesia with dissociative fugue is F44.1. Specify if:

- F44.1 With dissociative fugue: Apparently purposeful travel or bewildered wandering that is associated with amnesia for identity or for other important autobiographical information.

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## Reference

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596>