

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET TIMELINE

[Introduction]

The timeline below is based on the highly successful horror series *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. This outline is the canonical account based on the films and approved licensing tie-ins. It contains the least possible spoilers for those who have not seen all the films, but still contains enough information to have everything covered.

Below each listing is a footnote that provides evidence or explanation of where the listing originated. Please see these sources to confirm the information documented here.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET TIMELINE

1907: Amanda Krueger is born.

[As shown in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*.]

Circa 1940: Practicing nun Sister Mary Helena (Amanda Krueger) is accidentally locked in the tower for the criminally insane at Our Lady of Sorrows mental institution. She is raped for days by the one hundred patients confined there. Amanda is found afterward, barely alive and now pregnant. After the incident in the tower, that wing of the hospital is closed and Our Lady of Sorrows changes its name to Westin Hills psychiatric hospital. Frederick Charles Krueger is born months later after a breech birth and given up for adoption.

[Freddy's birth date has not been officially released. *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child* both reference it to be sometime in the 1940s. Due to what we're shown in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* and *Freddy vs. Jason*, his birth date is most likely in the early '40s.]

"A young girl on the staff was accidentally locked in here over the holidays. The inmates managed to keep her hidden for days. She was raped...hundreds of times. When they found her, she was barely alive...and with child. That girl was Amanda Krueger. Her child - the bastard son of a hundred maniacs."

- Sister Mary Helena

Circa 1940 to 1961: Fred Krueger is placed with an abusive alcoholic named Mr. Underwood. Mr. Underwood addresses Fred as "Freddy", and abuses the boy physically and verbally in his drunken stupors. In his elementary years, Freddy begins to exhibit sociopathic behavior by killing small animals. Other children often ridicule him, making him an outsider socially.

[As shown in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

In his late teens, Freddy proclaims to have learned the secret of pain from self-mutilation and kills Mr. Underwood.

[As shown in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

In early adulthood, Freddy marries a woman named Loretta. The Kruegers reside in Freddy's childhood home at 1428 Elm Street.

[As shown in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

1961: Kathryn Krueger is born.

[Noted on Adoption decree in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

Circa 1961 to 1965: Police begin to find the slashed and burned remains of neighborhood children. They are unable to solve the murders and local newspapers dub the mysterious killer The Springwood Slasher.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge* and *Freddy vs. Jason*.]

Loretta Krueger finds a hidden room in the basement of the house, containing items of the macabre; included are versions of a workman's glove with long metal talons on the four main fingers. Promising she won't tell, Freddy strangles her in front of young Kathryn for "snooping in his special work."

[As shown in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

Freddy works as a janitor at the local power plant, and in its abandoned boiler room he killed the missing children.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge*.]

1966: Freddy is arrested for the murders of twenty neighborhood children. A confession from young Kathryn regarding her mother's disappearance prompted police action. Kathryn is placed in the care of adoption services after Freddy's arrest.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*. The blackboard confirms the date during the school scene in *Freddy's Dead*.]

1967: The Burroughs family adopts Kathryn, gives her a new name, and moves her away from Springwood. Her records are subsequently sealed to conceal her true identity.

[Noted on Adoption decree and referenced in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

1968: Freddy Krueger's high profile trial begins and is cut short when it's revealed the search warrant to obtain evidence was not signed correctly. Trial evidence is deemed inadmissible and Krueger is released. Later that night, outraged and grieving neighborhood parents form a mob and track Freddy to his boiler room lair. The mob encircles the lair, pouring gasoline around the boiler room and igniting it. In addition, Molotov cocktails are thrown through the lair's windows – setting its interior ablaze. The mob stands motionless until Krueger perishes in the conflagration.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and shown in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* and *Freddy vs. Jason*.]

While the flames surround him, Freddy is approached by three dream demons. These demons roam the land of the living until they find the most evil soul, and in turn, give them the power to turn dreams into reality. Krueger accepts their offer to "be forever" as the flames consume him.

[As shown in *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

The parents involved with Krueger's death agree to keep the incident secret and help erase his existence. Krueger's remains are taken to Penny Bros. Auto Salvage and hidden in the trunk of an old red Cadillac. Officer Donald Thompson moves his family into the house at 1428 Elm Street. With Kathryn Krueger already gone from Springwood, all loose ends from that night are tied up.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors* and *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

"You want to know who Fred Krueger was? He was a filthy child murderer who killed at least twenty kids from the neighborhood, kids we all knew. It drove us crazy when we didn't know who it was - but it was even worse after they caught him. Oh, the lawyers got fat and the judge got famous, but somebody forgot to sign the search warrant in the right place, and Krueger was free, just like that.

A bunch of us parents tracked him down after they let him go. We found him in an old abandoned boiler room where he used to take his kids. We took gasoline and poured it all around the place, made a trail out the door, and lit the whole thing up and watched it burn."

- Marge Thompson

Amanda Krueger, who had been following Fred's trial, hears of his release and hangs herself in the tower where she was raped. Afterward, her body is sealed in the condemned tower and a memorial stone is placed in the Springwood cemetery for Amanda Krueger, her name in Christ Sister Mary Helena.

[As shown in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors* and referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child*. Amanda's headstone also confirms the date of Freddy's "death" at the hands of the Elm Street parents.]

Circa 1968 to 1981: Neighborhood children make up a nursery rhyme about the Freddy lore to jump rope to. Most parents involved with Krueger's death separate or divorce.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*.]

The dream demons give Freddy the power to exist and kill within dreams. Krueger can appear in any form he wants and can change the dream in any way to achieve his ends. Physical harm inflicted by Krueger in a dream will carry over to the real world, and absorbing his victim's soul will gain him more power to further influence the line between dreams and reality. In addition, fear of Krueger's memory will allow him to eventually return in cases of defeat. Setting his sights on a new generation of children, Freddy wants revenge on the parents of Elm Street for taking away his daughter.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*, *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*, and *Freddy vs. Jason*.]

1981: The events of *A Nightmare on Elm Street* take place.

[Though the first film was released in 1984, *A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child* is set in 1989. Dates of reference in the other sequels push the first film's events back to 1981.]

1981 to 1986: Nancy Thompson is sent to a psychiatric hospital away from Springwood to recover from her ordeal and finish High School. The house at 1428 Elm Street is placed up for sale. After being released from the hospital, Nancy attends college for a degree in Psychology. Freddy continues to kill the Elm Street children through their dreams. Most of these deaths are considered suicides.

[As shown in the *Nightmares on Elm Street* comic book series and referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*.]

1986: Five years after the events of the first Nightmare, the events of *Freddy's Revenge* take place.

[Time lapse referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge*.]

1986 to 1987: The house at 1428 Elm Street is boarded up and placed back out on the market. The remaining Elm Street children are committed to Westin Hills for their violent nightmares and accompanying "accidents".

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*.]

Nancy Thompson moves back to Springwood, applies for an internship at Westin Hills, and is soon accepted.

[Referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*.]

1987: Six years after the events of the first Nightmare, the events of *Dream Warriors* take place.

[Time lapse referenced in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*.]

1988: The events of *The Dream Master* take place.

"My children... from the very beginning, it was the children who gave me my power. The Springwood Slasher, that's what they called me. My rein of terror was legendary; dozens of children would fall by my blades.

Then the parents of Springwood came for me, taking justice into their own hands. When I was alive, I might have been a little naughty, but after they killed me, I became something much, much, worse - the stuff nightmares are made of."

- Freddy Krueger

1989: The events of *The Dream Child* take place.

[Date confirmed at graduation scene, see cap tassels stating '89 in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child*.]

1990: Alice and Jacob move away from Springwood. Freddy gains enough power to break free and returns.

[Referenced in the *Nightmares on Elm Street* comic book series.]

The events of issues 1 and 2 of the *Nightmares on Elm Street* comic series take place.

[Referenced in the *Nightmares on Elm Street* comic book series.]

1995: The events of issues 3 through 6 of the *Nightmares on Elm Street* comic series take place.

[Referenced in the *Nightmares on Elm Street* comic book series.]

* From 1991 to 1999, the events of *Freddy's Nightmares* and *Tales of Terror* take place. *

[Assumption based on the events leading up to *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare*.]

1999: The events of *Freddy's Dead* take place.

[During the film's opening, the events of *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* are said to happen "10 years from now". Given the dates of reference in *Freddy vs. Jason*, it would have to be ten years from 1989.]

1999 to 2003: Free of Freddy's hold, Springwood rebuilds. The house at 1428 Elm Street is remodeled and serves as the new home for the Campbell family. Soon after, Freddy again returns and begins killing. The parents of Springwood take action: Any teen that reports dreaming of Freddy is committed to Westin Hills and placed on medication for dream suppression, mention of Freddy in official documents is erased and certain old obituaries are also edited, and "Freddy" by name is no longer spoken. Not able to get to the committed/medicated teens and unable to spread fear by name, Freddy is rendered powerless and forgotten - giving Springwood four years of peace.

[Referenced in *Freddy vs. Jason*.]

2003: (Late Summer) The events of *Freddy vs. Jason* take place.

[*Freddy vs. Jason*'s release date aside, the scene at Crystal Lake has a sign that states the area will be open in summer 2004.]

2008: Five years after the events of *Freddy vs. Jason*, the events of *Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash* take place.

[Referenced in *Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash*. Side note: The film *Jason X* states government officials captured Jason Voorhees in the year 2008.]

2009: The events of the Avatar special and novels *Suffer the Children*, *Dreamspawn*, and *Protégé* take place.

[Events in these publications reference story elements shown in *Freddy vs. Jason*.]

2010: The events of Avatar comic book series *Paranoid* and *Fearbook* take place, along with novel *The Dream Dealers*.

[*Paranoid* and *Fearbook* continue events detailed in the Avatar special. *The Dream Dealers* is referenced to take place almost thirty years to the date of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*.]

2011: The events of Wildstorm's *Nightmare on Elm Street* comic book series take place, along with novel *Perchance to Dream*.

[*Perchance to Dream* references Jacob Johnson's age to be twenty-one.]

2012: *New Line Cinema's Tales of Horror* takes place.

Additional information:

The events of the Nightmare series primarily take place in the fictional town of Springwood, Ohio. *Wes Craven's New Nightmare*, the seventh film, is set outside the Nightmare story and takes place in the fictional "real world" in 1994. Canon for the *Nightmare on Elm Street* series only includes what was/is approved by New Line Cinema. Confusion began when licensing deals were given to various comic book and book publishers in the 1980s. New Line did not take an active role in the approval process until 1990.

Origin stories and dates presented in the "Life and Death of Freddy Krueger", "Marvel Comics Presents..." and *Freddy's Nightmares* are not considered canon, due to the films rewrote most of what was presented in these tales. Deleted scenes from the films are also not considered canon, due to their removal and contradicting references.

Considered canon would be the following releases:

- + The films released in theatres and home video.
- + *Nightmares on Elm Street* comic book series by Innovation Comics.
- + *Freddy Krueger's: Tales of Terror* novel series by Tor Books.
- + *A Nightmare on Elm Street* comic book series by Avatar Press.
- + *A Nightmare on Elm Street* novel series by Black Flame.
- + *A Nightmare on Elm Street* comic book series by Wildstorm/DC Comics.
- + *New Line Cinema's Tales of Horror* comic book series by Wildstorm/DC Comics.
- + *Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash* comic book series by Wildstorm/DC Comics and Dynamite Entertainment.
- + *Freddy's Nightmares - A Nightmare on Elm Street: The Series*.

Note: The television series *Freddy's Nightmares* is loosely considered canon. Some episodes do present altered backstories/dates from that of the given films. Though most episodes do not interfere with the film events and can fit nicely in the given timeline, the backstories/dates presented in the television series should not be favored over the films.