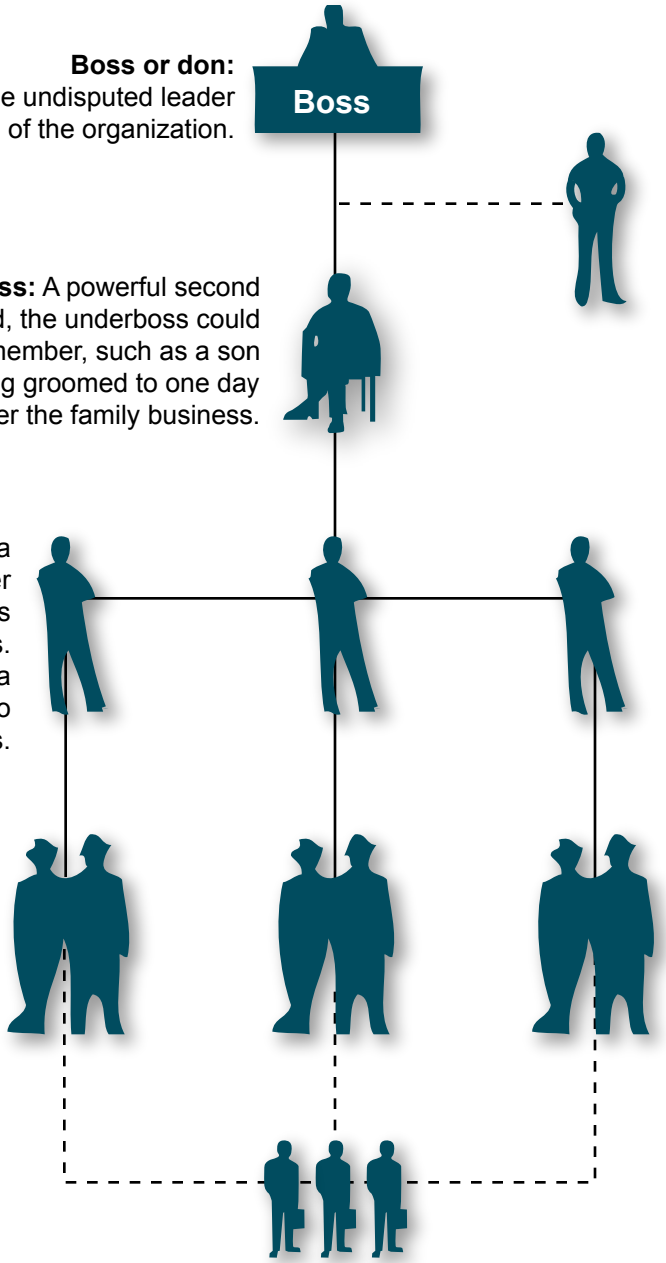
New York's Five Families

In New York City, five major Italian-American Mafia families dominate organized crime activities:

- **Bonnano crime family**
- **Columbo crime family**
- **Gambino crime family**
- **Genovese crime family**
- **Luchese crime family**

While the Mafia–also known as La Cosa Nostra--may no longer possess the robust national presence and influence it once had, it remains a significant threat in the extended New York metropolitan area, New England, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Detroit.

The Mafia Org Chart



Boss or don: The undisputed leader of the organization.

Consigliere: A counselor and adviser to the boss. The consigliere is a trusted friend and confidant, usually the Number 3 man in the family.

Underboss: A powerful second in command, the underboss could be a family member, such as a son who is being groomed to one day take over the family business.

Capo: Describes a ranking made member of a family who leads a crew of soldiers. A capo is similar to a military captain who commands soldiers.

Soldier: Also known as a "made man," soldiers are the lowest members of the crime family but still command respect in the organization. To become made, soldiers are required to take an oath of silence, called *omerta*. In some families, another requirement is that candidates commit murder.

Associate: An individual who is part of a crew but has not been made and commits crimes under the protection/direction of made members and remits a share of his illegal proceeds to his direct made superior.