

# DEFINE DATA Views

To be able to use database fields in a Natural program, you must specify the fields in a *view*.

The following topics are covered:

- Use of Database Views
  - Defining a Database View
- 

## Use of Database Views

To be able to use database fields in a Natural program, you must specify the fields in a *view*.

In the view, you specify

- the name of the Data Definition Module (DDM) from which the fields are taken, and
- the names of the database fields themselves (that is, their long names, not their database-internal short names).

## Defining a Database View

You define such a database view either

- within the DEFINE DATA statement of the program, or
- in a local data area (LDA) or a global data area (GDA) outside the program, with the DEFINE DATA statement referencing that data area (as described in the section Defining Fields).

At Level 1, you specify the view name as follows:

```
1 view-name VIEW OF dsm-name
```

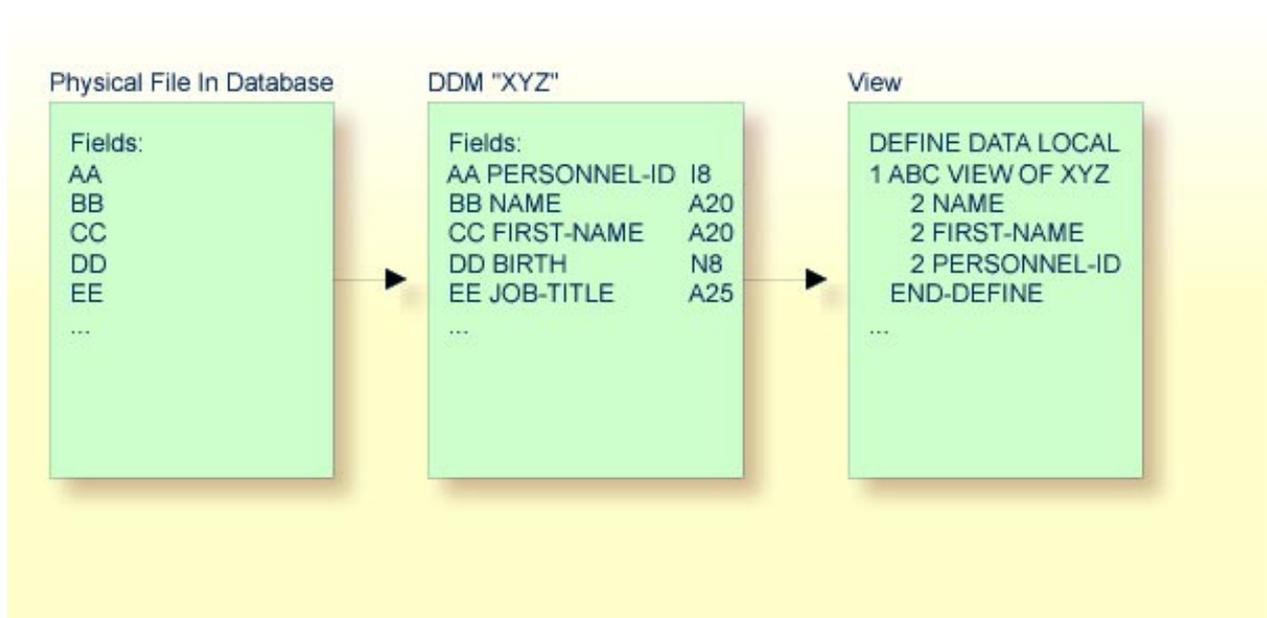
where

*view-name* is the name you choose for the view,

*dsm-name* is the name of the DDM from which the fields specified in the view are taken.

At Level 2, you specify the names of the database fields from the DDM.

In the illustration below, the name of the view is "ABC", and it comprises the fields NAME, FIRST-NAME and PERSONNEL-ID from the DDM "XYZ".



The format and length of a database field need not be specified in the view, as these are already defined in the underlying DDM.

The view may comprise an entire DDM or only a subset of it. The order of the fields in the view need not be the same as in the underlying DDM.

The view name is used in database access statements to determine which database is to be accessed, as described in Statements for Database Access.