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The Ultimate Wedding Invitation ADDRESSING GUIDE

By: Zayla & Co.



Addressing Wedding Invitations: A Comprehensive Guide

Sending out your wedding invitations is an exciting milestone - it makes the big day feel so much more real! Once you've perfected the invitation wording, the next step is figuring out how to properly address the envelopes. The etiquette around addressing wedding invitations can seem complex, but we've put together this handy guide to simplify the process.

A NOTE ON ADDRESSING ENVELOPES

When addressing your envelopes, avoid abbreviating street names. For example, write out "Boulevard" instead of "Blvd," "Avenue" instead of "Ave," "Street" instead of "St," and "Drive" instead of "Dr." This applies to all words in the address, including directions like "North" or "West."

Example:
1234 Oakwood Boulevard
Apartment 56
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

UNMARRIED DATING COUPLE

For couples who are dating but not living together, include both names on separate lines.

Formal:
Mr. Lucas Jennings
Ms. Avery Sinclair

Informal:
Lucas Jennings
Avery Sinclair

SINGLE FEMALE

For a single woman, use "Ms." if she is over 18.
For those under 18, use "Miss."

Ms. Harper Sullivan
-or-
Miss Lily Chen

SINGLE MALE

For a single man, use "Mr." if he is over 18.
No title is needed for those under 18.

Mr. Caleb Daniels
-or-
Liam Thompson

UNMARRIED COUPLES LIVING TOGETHER

For couples who are dating or unmarried but cohabitating, include both names on the envelope. For a formal approach, list each name on its own line. For something more casual, the names can go on the same line without last names.

Formal:
Mr. Sebastian Larkin
Ms. Natalie Vaughn

Informal:
Sebastian & Natalie

MARRIED COUPLES WITH SHARED LAST NAME

There are several options when addressing married couples who share a surname. Use the husband's full name (Mr. & Mrs. Liam Hawkins) or include both first names with the man's name first (Mr. Liam & Mrs. Sophia Hawkins). For a more casual feel, simply use the shared last name (Mr. & Mrs. Hawkins) or their first names only (Liam & Sophia).

Formal:
Mr. & Mrs. Liam Hawkins
-or-
Mr. Liam & Mrs. Sophia Hawkins

Informal:
Mr. & Mrs. Hawkins
-or-
Liam & Sophia

RELIGIOUS TITLES

When addressing invitations to individuals with religious titles, use the appropriate title before their name.

Bishop:

The Most Reverend Joseph Thompson and Mrs. Emily Thompson

Minister:

The Reverend Alexander Patel and Dr. Maya Patel

Pastor:

Pastor Liam Hawkins and Mrs. Sophia Hawkins

Rabbi:

Rabbi Ethan Novak and Mrs. Olivia Bloom

OTHER DISTINGUISHED TITLES

Follow the same rules as for doctors, with the spouse holding the distinguished title listed first. Indent the second line if both titles don't fit on one.

Husband is a judge (formal):

The Honorable Jacob Hartman & Mrs. Leah Hartman

-or-

The Honorable & Mrs. Jacob Hartman

Wife is a judge (formal):

The Honorable Leah Hartman & Mr. Jacob Hartman

Husband is a judge (informal):

Judge Hartman & Leah Hartman

Wife is a judge (informal):

Judge Hartman & Jacob Hartman

Both are military captains:

Captains Leah & Jacob Hartman, US Army

-or-

The Captains Hartman

INVITING WHOLE FAMILIES

To invite a couple's children, be sure to include their names on the envelope. Some options:

Formal:

Mr. & Mrs. William Chen and Family
Miss Audrey, Andrew, Emma

Informal:

The Chen Family

Hopefully this guide provides clarity on properly addressing your wedding invitations for a range of scenarios. When in doubt, erring on the side of being more formal is always a safe bet. Happy wedding planning!

MARRIED WOMAN WITH HYPHENATED LAST NAME

If the wife has chosen to hyphenate her last name, address as follows:

Mr. Ethan Novak and Mrs. Olivia Bloom-Novak

Married Woman Who Kept Her Last Name

If the wife kept her maiden name, address as follows:

Mrs. Maya Gupta and Mr. Rishi Malhotra

MARRIED COUPLES WITH DIFFERENT LAST NAMES

List both first names, starting with the person you're closest to.

If you're equally close to both, list the names alphabetically.

Formal:

Mrs. Olivia Bloom & Mr. Ethan Novak

Informal:

Mrs. Bloom & Mr. Novak

-or-

Olivia & Ethan

DOCTORS

If one spouse is a doctor, list their title and name first. A few examples:

Husband is a doctor; wife is not:

Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Patel

Wife is a doctor; husband is not (same last name):

Dr. Maya and Mr. Rishi Malhotra

Wife is a doctor; husband is not (different last names):

Dr. Maya Gupta and Mr. Rishi Malhotra

Both spouses are doctors (same last name):

Doctors Maya and Rishi Malhotra

-or-

Drs. Maya and Rishi Malhotra

-or-

The Doctors Malhotra

Both spouses are doctors (different last names):

Dr. Maya Gupta and Dr. Rishi Malhotra

LAWYERS

If one or both spouses are lawyers, use the suffix "Esq." after their name(s).

Husband is a lawyer; wife is not:

Mr. Liam Hawkins, Esq. and Mrs. Sophia Hawkins

Wife is a lawyer; husband is not:

Mrs. Olivia Bloom, Esq. and Mr. Ethan Novak

Both spouses are lawyers:

Mr. Liam Hawkins, Esq. and Mrs. Sophia Hawkins, Esq.

-or-

Liam Hawkins, Esq. and Sophia Hawkins, Esq.