

HOW TO ADDRESS WEDDING INVITATIONS

CREDIT: COLIN COWIE

First receptions are lasting impressions, so it's crucial to make a good one. Your wedding invitations are the first impression that family and friends receive from you and your soon to be spouse as an official package deal. They are the first clue that guests receive to your style and possible color scheme for your wedding. Sending an invitation sounds easy, but there is an art to choosing the right stationary and addressing each envelope properly. The addressing can get trick as each guest may have their own circumstances be it be a married couple, an unmarried couple, or a couple with children. Here are a few guidelines to addressing your invitations properly so your first impression is the best one possible.

To a Married Couple:

On the outer envelope:

Mr. Charles and Mrs. Emily Hudson

Or

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hudson

On the inner envelope:

Mr. and Mrs. Hudson

Or

Charles and Emily

To a Married Couple That Use Different Last Names:

If you are closer to one person within the couple, list that person first followed by their partner. If you are acquainted with both, list them in alphabetical order.

On the outer envelope:

Mr. Charles Hudson and Mrs. Emily Moore

On the inner envelope:

Mr. Hudson and Ms. Moore

Or

Charles and Emily

To an Unmarried Couple Living Together:

Both names should be included, but each should be placed on its own line to acknowledge that the couple is not married.

On the outer envelope:

Mr. Charles Hudson

Ms. Emily Moore

On the inner envelope:

Mr. Hudson

Ms. Moore

To a Same-Sex Couple:

Use the same rules as you would for any other unmarried or married couple.

On the outer envelope:

Ms. Sarah Baker and Ms. Carrie Carlson

Or list their full names without titles:

Sarah Baker and Carrie Carlson

On the inner envelope:

Ms. Baker and Ms. Carlson

Or

Sarah and Carrie

To a Married Woman Doctor or Two Married Doctors:

On the outer envelope:

If a woman uses her maiden name professionally or socially, the outer envelope should read:

Dr. Emily Moore and Mr. Charles Hudson

Or, if she uses her husband's name socially:

Dr. Emily and Mr. Charles Hudson

If both parties are doctors, you can address the outer envelope:

Doctors Emily and Charles Hudson

On the inner envelope:

Dr. Moore and Mr. Hudson

Or

The Doctors Hudson

To Those With Other Distinguished Titles:

Apply the same rules for military personnel, judges, reverends, etc. that you use for doctors. If both titles don't fit on one line, indent the second line.

On the outer envelope:

The Honorable Kelly Scott and Lieutenant Chris Scott

Or

Captains Kelly and Chris Scott,
U.S. Navy

On the inner envelope:

Judge Scott and Lieutenant Scott, U.S. Navy

Or

The Captains Scott

To Children and Families:

Younger guests can be included on the inner envelope of their parents' invitation by their name(s) -- they should not be addressed on the outer envelope. For girls under 18, use "Miss." Boys don't need a title until they're 18 -- then they're addressed as "Mr."

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wood
Daniel, Jeffrey, Miss Brittany and Miss Lauren

To Children 18 and Older:

They should receive their own invitations (unless they live at home with Mom and Dad). Be careful, if you don't include each child's name you're implying that children are not invited. Also, don't be surprised if some guests assume their children are welcome. If you are concerned, give your guests a heads up by asking your family and bridal party to spread the word.

On the outer envelope:

Ms. Lauren Ross

Or

Mr. Daniel Ross

On the inner envelope:

Ms. Ross

Or

Mr. Ross