

WEDDING INVITATION ETIQUETTE GUIDE

Your Wedding Invitations are one of the most important elements in your day because they provide guests with the most important information. And while some details of your wedding don't follow a strict set of rules, your invitations do have a set of hard-and-fast rules to follow. Follow these tips for the perfect way to create your invitations with ease.

ISSUED BY BRIDE'S PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Johnson
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter

ISSUED BY BRIDE AND GROOM

Michelle Elise Johnson
And
Patrick Ryan Sheridan
request the honor of your presence
at their marriage

DIVORCED FATHER AND STEPMOTHER

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Johnson
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of his daughter
Michelle Elise Johnson
OR
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Johnson
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of Mr. Johnson's daughter
Michelle Elise Johnson

ONE PARENT DECEASED, LIVING PARENT NOT REMARRIED

Mrs. Steven Johnson
requests the honor of your presence
at the marriage of her daughter
Michelle Elise Johnson

ISSUED BY BRIDE'S AND GROOM'S PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Johnson
And
Mr. and Mrs. William Sheridan
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their children

DIVORCED PARENTS

Mrs. Mary Johnson
Mr. Steven Johnson
request the honor of your presence
OR
Mrs. Mary Johnson
And
Mr. Steven Johnson
request the honor of your presence

ISSUED BY MORE THAN TWO SETS OF PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith
And
Mr. and Mrs. William Sheridan
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their children

ISSUED BY GROOM'S PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. William Sheridan
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of
Michelle Elise Johnson
to their son
Patrick Ryan Sheridan

DIVORCED MOTHER AND STEPFATHER

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of her daughter
Michelle Elise Johnson
OR
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of Mrs. Smith's daughter
Michelle Elise Johnson
OR
Mrs. Michael Smith
requests the honor of your presence
at the marriage of her daughter
Michelle Elise Johnson

ONE PARENT DECEASED LIVING PARENT REMARRIED

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of her daughter
OR
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith
request the honor of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter



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DATE LINE

Traditionally, the day of the week and date are written out in full. Numerals and abbreviations should be avoided.

SATURDAY, THE FIFTH OF JULY

SUNDAY, THE TWENTY-THIRD OF JUNE

YEAR LINE

While it is not a necessity, it is more proper to include the year of your wedding. If you choose to include the year, it should be on its own line. The year, like the date, should be written out. It is proper to either capitalize the first letter of the year, or to use all lowercase letters, though it is most common to capitalize the first letter of the year. If you are sending out an announcement and the wedding has already taken place, then a year should be included with the date.

TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN

TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN

TIME LINE

One of the most crucial elements to your invitation is the time—your guests need to know when to arrive! The phrases "in the morning" or "in the evening" should be used over the "a.m." and "p.m." abbreviations. "Half after," not "half past" should be used. Times between 12 noon and 5:30 PM are considered afternoon. Any time earlier is considered the morning, and anytime later is considered the evening.

AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

AT HALF PAST ELEVEN IN THE MORNING

LOCATION LINE

The location of the wedding is another crucial element in your invitation. No abbreviations should be used. It is not necessary to include a zip code. An address may be bypassed if the location is common knowledge. If marrying at a household, the address should be provided.

THE VALLEY REGENCY
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

W. HOBOKEN
225 RIVER STREET
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

NO CHILDREN

It is not proper to indicate on the invitation or any other piece that children are not welcome. This is to be shared word of mouth before the wedding. Though still moderately inappropriate, a reasonable compromise is to add "Adult Only Reception" to the last line of your reception card.

Do not use phrases such as NO KIDS, NO CHILDREN, etc. The only correct wording is Adult Reception or Adults Only Reception.

BLACK TIE

Guests are to assume that the event is formal if the event takes place in a house of worship, or in the evening. If your event is a "Black tie" affair that will not be taking place under these circumstances or you are especially concerned, it is appropriate to add "Black tie" on your reception card. Other options: Semi-formal, cocktail attire, festive attire, creative black tie, white tie, black tie optional, dressy casual, informal.

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GIFT REGISTRY

It is considered poor taste to include gift registry information on any part of your invitation. This comes across as a request in exchange for attending the wedding. The most proper way to let people know where you are registered is by word of mouth. Make sure your wedding party and parents know so that they can inform guests when they ask. It is fine to include a link to your wedding web page in your invitation and that is where you can post information about your registries.