

The Left Handed Calligrapher

ETIQUETTE GUIDE

INVITATION WORDING OPTIONS

Bride's Parents Hosting - Religious Location

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lewis Manning
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Amelia Rose
to
Mr. Liam Quinlan Cullen
Saturday, the fifth of June
two thousand twenty
at half after ten in the morning
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Syracuse, New York

Bride's Divorced Parents Hosting - Religious Location

Ms. Margo Luanne Manning
Mr. Patrick Lewis Manning
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Amelia Rose
to
Mr. Liam Quinlan Cullen
Saturday, the fifth of June
two thousand twenty
at half after ten in the morning
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Syracuse, New York

Couple Hosting - Secular Location

The pleasure of your company
is requested at the wedding of
Miss Amelia Rose Manning
to Mr. Liam Quinlan Cullen
Saturday, the fifth of June
two thousand twenty
at half after ten in the morning
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Syracuse, New York

OR

Amelia Rose Manning
and
Liam Quinlan Cullen
request the pleasure of your company
at the celebration of their wedding
Saturday, the fifth of June
two thousand twenty
at three o'clock
Gilfillan's West Hill Country Club
Camillus, New York

** There are many other options for wording your wedding invitations. If you have questions or a particular need please feel free to ask me! e.g. specific religious ceremonies, double weddings, at residence weddings, military weddings

* If the ceremony is held at a place of worship, the request line (the 2nd line of our example) is "request the honour of your presence." If the ceremony is held at a non-religious, secular location, the request line is "request the pleasure of your company."

* The British spelling "honour" is most traditional, but if you'd like to use the American spelling ("honor") it's still just as correct. Just make sure to be consistent throughout your wedding suite — i.e. if you use "honour" on your invitation, spell "favour" on the reply card the British way.

ENVELOPE ADDRESSING

Outer Envelope:

The outside envelope is the mailing envelope. Your guests' names and addresses are calligraphed on the face of the envelope.

Inner Envelope:

The inside envelope informs its recipients which members of the house hold are invited to your wedding. Only surnames and titles are used. If children under eighteen are invited, their given names are written on a second line. Avoid using "and family" as it is ambiguous and may encourage some of your guests to add to your guest list.

In these modern times, it is acceptable for an inside envelope to be omitted. This has an added benefit of saving cost on paper, calligraphy and postage.

Abbreviations:

No abbreviations are used in the address. Abbreviations such as "St." or "Ave." are never used. The state should be written out and not abbreviated. However, abbreviated titles such as "Mr.", "Mrs.", and "Dr." may be used. Although it is acceptable to abbreviate "junior", its proper usage is to spell it out. When spelled out, it is used with a lower case "j". When abbreviated, and upper case "J" is used. A comma always precedes "junior" whether written out or abbreviated.

MARRIED COUPLE

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Mr. and Mrs. Troy Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton

MARRIED COUPLE

with children under eighteen living at home

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Mr. and Mrs. Troy Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton
Marving and Heather

MARRIED COUPLE

in which woman kept maiden name

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Ms. Christine Pritchett
and Mr. Troy Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Ms. Pritchett
and Mr. Clayton

MARRIED COUPLE

in which both are Doctors

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Doctor and Mrs. Troy Clayton
or
The Doctors Clayton
or
Doctor Christine Clayton
and Doctor Troy Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Doctor and Mrs. Clayton
or
The Doctors Clayton

WIDOW

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Mrs. Troy Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Mrs. Clayton

UNMARRIED COUPLE LIVING TOGETHER

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Miss Christine Pritchett
Mr. Troy Clayton
or
Ms. Christine Pritchett
Mr. Troy Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Miss Pritchett
Mr. Clayton
or
Ms. Pritchett
Mr. Clayton

DIVORCED WOMAN

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Mrs. Christine Pritchett Clayton
or
Ms. Christine Pritchett Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Mrs. Clayton
or
Ms. Clayton

DIVORCED WOMAN

who has resumed using maiden name

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Ms. Christine Pritchett

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Ms. Pritchett

SINGLE WOMAN

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Miss Christine Pritchett
or with a Date:
Ms. Christine Pritchett

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Miss Pritchett
or
Ms. Pritchett and guest

SINGLE MAN

OUTSIDE ENVELOPE
Mr. Troy Clayton
or with a Date:
Mr. Troy Clayton

INSIDE ENVELOPE
Mr. Clayton
or
Mr. Clayton and guest