

The Wording

Invitation language should always be graceful and clear.

The request line tells the guests what they're being invited to.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craig Smith
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter

The host line tells who is extending the invitation.

The joining clause ("to" is traditional for Christian weddings; "and" is used for Jewish weddings)

Sydnee Emily
to
Max Henry Hersh

The bride's name goes first.

on Saturday, the sixteenth of October
two thousand and ten
at six o'clock in the evening

Hotel Bel Air
790 Stone Canyon Road
Bel Air, California

The attire line goes in the bottom right-hand corner.

Black tie

A standard invitation in which the parents of the bride invite guests to the wedding. Since their last name appears at the top, hers is omitted.

If the bride's parents are hosting but you want to recognize the groom's parents too

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craig Smith
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter
Sydnee Emily
to
Max Henry Hersh
son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Ross Hersh (etc.)

If you prefer to skip social titles

Mindy and Robert Smith
request the pleasure of your company (etc.)

If the groom's parents are hosting the wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Ross Hersh
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their son
Max Henry
to
Sydnee Emily Smith
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craig Smith (etc.)

If the couple is hosting the wedding

Sydnee Emily Smith and Max Henry Hersh
request the pleasure of your company
at their marriage
on Saturday, the sixteenth of October
two thousand and ten (etc.)

If the couple is hosting but wants to include their parents

Together with their families
Sydnee Emily Smith and Max Henry Hersh
request the pleasure of your company
at their marriage (etc.)

If parents are divorced and not remarried or are hosting without their spouses

Mrs. Mindy Smith / Mr. Robert Smith
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter (etc.)

If parents are divorced and remarried

Mrs. Mindy Harris and Mr. John Harris
Mr. Robert Smith
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter (etc.)