



La Donna Wedding

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Response Dates and the Mailing of the Wedding Invitations

Before mailing your invitation, it is best to take a completely assembled addressed invitation to the post office and have it weighed to insure that proper postage is applied. You do not want to take the chance of your invitation being returned for 'insufficient postage' or being delivered with 'postage due' and you also want to verify whether the envelope size fall within standard size requirements or if it is considered over-sized. This can also make a difference in the postage required. The post office offers many styles of stamps (including the popular love stamps), which may, because of the color, enhance your invitation or show a charity or cause that you are supporting. The important thing is to insure that you have the proper postage on your invitation. Remember that you also need a first class stamp on the response card envelope.

Ordering your invitations, addressing, assembling and putting stamps on them and, therefore, getting them ready to mail is something that you can do in advance of when you actually want to mail them. The closer you get to your wedding day, the more tasks and details you have to take care of, so this is one detail you can get accomplished and set aside until mailing time. Mark your planner calendar the date you want to mail the out-of-state invitations and when you want to mail the guests that reside within your state. Don't forget to check with the post office for the required postage.

The invitations should be in the hands of your guests not less than two weeks prior to the response date for your invited guests that live more locally. For those guests that live out-of-state or have travel arrangements to make, you should allow a good month before your response date. The response date is determined by considering when your reception facility needs a final count of guests attending. This can be as much as 2 weeks before your wedding date. It is suggested that you add approximately one week to the 'final count' date to allow ample time to contact those guests who have not responded. Taking into consideration the cost per guest, you do not want to pay for guests that do not attend by assuming that they are attending and you also don't want to assume that they are not attending. If invited guests who did not return the response card end up attending your reception, this may cause a shortage of food. So as you can see, it is vital that those not responding be contacted.

Another consideration with regard to a response date is if you are planning on using seating or place cards. Be sure to allow ample time to be able to put your seating arrangement together. Although it is an extra task, and not necessarily an easy one at that, it is almost necessary these days. Utilizing place cards serves many purposes. They will insure everyone a reserved seat, even those late arrivals. They will insure your out-of-town guests a seat with other guests that you know they have an enjoyable evening with. They will insure members of a family, co-workers and friends arriving at different times, to be able to sit together. It shows your guests that you took extra time to accomplish the above and that you care and want them to have an enjoyable evening.

Since contacting a guest about this matter might be a bit uncomfortable for some, you might have your wedding coordinator or non-family member make the calls. Also, if someone other than the bride, groom or parents makes the calls, it will allow the task to be done in a shorter time period, as

more in-depth conversations will be avoided. Either way, it may be expressed to the invited guest that since their response card had not been received, there was a concern as to whether or not they had received their invitation. Reasons for this occurring could be because the envelope was incorrectly addressed, either because your guest changed physical addresses without your knowledge or by an actual addressing error. Therefore, it is very important to have a current address list and to double-check each envelope for accuracy, after it is written. It could also be just because they simply did not take the time to fill it out and return it. In any event, it is important that those who have not responded be contacted.

The main reason you contact a guest that you have not received a response card from is because you want to know if the invited guests are planning on attending and how many are attending. If two guests are invited and the response cards states that three are attending, a decision must be made as to whether to allow the extra guest to attend or to contact the guest and politely explain the invitation was for only two guests. Sometimes limited space restrictions, or more often the budget, won't allow for additional guests, other than those that were originally invited.

