

Knowing the Mexican States

By Richard Villasana

People often ask for help with an address from Mexico. The biggest challenge is knowing what the names mean. Is the address the name of a city or a state? An example would be: Magdalena Jalisco Autlan.

Knowing the Mexican state is one piece of the puzzle as you put together the information you will need so you can locate the person you are looking for. The easiest way to handle this is to first identify which is the state name. There are thirty-one states in Mexico. Mexico City is the capital of the country. One of the best resources for checking state names can be found at www.FindRelativesInMexico.com/resources.html.

The answer to the example above is: Magdalena and Autlan are the names of cities in the state of Jalisco.

From the numerous emails I receive, it is apparent there are general misunderstandings about the Mexican states, the capitals and what makes a proper address.

Most capital cities have the same name as the state. For instance, the capital of the state of Puebla is Puebla. This is properly written as Puebla, Puebla. (There are state abbreviations, but I'll save that for another time.)

So what does it mean if you have an address with Puebla, Mexico? That's a good question. An educated guess is the address is/should be Puebla, Puebla, Mexico. But when it comes to locating someone in Mexico and especially if you are going to pay for specialized services or resources, you really want to be certain what the proper address is before you start spending your money.

If possible, ask the person who gave you the address to verify the information. Maybe they left out a vital piece, such as giving you both the city and state name. In some cases, the person may not know there is a difference and was simply passing on the address as they received it.

This may appear to be a minor issue, but it's not. I just received an email asking for help. The city and state the person gave me is Puebla, Edo. de Mexico. There is no city named Puebla in Edo. de Mexico so it's very likely the correct city and state is Puebla, Puebla. If this person hadn't asked for expert advice, he may have continued searching for months thinking Puebla, Edo. de Mexico was a good address.

If at all possible, you have to verify your information is correct. It can be the small things that stop you from finding someone in Mexico.

About the Author:

Through his company, Find Relatives In Mexico, Richard Villasana reunites people from around the world with relatives, birth parents and friends presently living in Mexico. He is a speaker and leading authority on Mexico Family History. Find more information at www.FindRelativesInMexico.com or his blog at <http://findrelativesinmexico.blogspot.com>.