

## Common Misunderstandings about Mexico Addresses

By Richard Villasana

Let me address some common misunderstandings about the names of Mexican states. Mexico is the name of the country. I may hear a "duh" but stay with me for a moment. One of the thirty-one states is also named Mexico. So how can you know the difference?

Most Mexican documents and addresses will use the form Edo. de Mexico meaning State of Mexico when referring to the state itself. You may also see the complete name, Estado de Mexico, and the less common state abbreviation, Edomex. If you were trying to find someone living in the city of Acambay in the State of Mexico, the proper form could be any of the following:

Acambay, Estado de Mexico  
Acambay, Edo. de Mexico  
Acambay, Edomex

I wish I could tell you this is the final word about Mexico and the State of Mexico, but it's not. Some Mexican publications such as Guia Roji's Mexican atlas and Mexico telephone books refer to Edo. de Mexico as simply Mexico.

I recently had two situations that truly reflect the confusion that exists with the names of cities and states.

The first was an inquiry from a young girl who wrote she was trying to find someone in Jilote, Veracruz. I explained there is no such city. There is a city named Jilotepec in Veracruz and recommended she check with the person who told her the city name was Jilote. The girl wrote back she was aware Jilote is a slang term for Jilotepec.

This exchange shows how one small item can stop someone from moving forward and finding the person they are looking for. It's always best to use the proper city name if searching online or asking for help.

Keep in mind there can be cities in the same state where the difference in name is only one or two letters. I sometimes do a double take because I'll see two names that look exactly alike at first glance. I have found one Mexican state that has two cities with the same name. I know this was not a spelling error because the area codes and residential listings were completely different.

Another event occurred while watching the program, **48 Hours Mystery**. The show opened with a scene from a city in Mexico. The caption read, "Ajijic, Mexico." I just happened to be watching the show with a friend from Guadalajara who immediately said, "Hey, that's in Jalisco! There's no Ajijic, Mexico!" Guadalajara is in the state of Jalisco, and my friend knows the town, Ajijic. The proper form for the city is Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico.

Would saying or writing Los Angeles, USA seem appropriate or correct? To someone unfamiliar with the U.S. states, they may have no idea where Los Angeles is. Worse, who can say if the post office would deliver a letter if it was addressed to just Los Angeles, USA. So, when we talk about Mexican

small towns, precision with the name and spelling is critical to a search and for anyone you have assisting you with the research.

If you are, or have had, challenges with the name of a city and state in Mexico, take heart. Not even CBS and 48 Hours seem to know how to properly list an address. They may claim creative license, but when someone is trying to locate a person in Mexico, that creativity can slow down or stop the search altogether. Now you know what to look for.

This is the main reason why locating someone living in Mexico may require the services of experts who know the ins and outs of addresses and so much more.

#### 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](http://www.FindRelativesInMexico.com) or his blog at <http://findrelativesinmexico.blogspot.com>.