

Editorial Graphics and Publishing Services

How to Use a Comma With Abbreviations Following a Person's Name

DO use a comma to set off [Esq.](#) and other abbreviations that represent degrees or religious orders. For example:

Roscoe Parker, [Esq.](#), is our representative in Washington, D.C.

Rev. James Tooley, [S.J.](#), will lead the group in prayer before the meeting.

Molly Grainger, [M.D.](#), is leaving to join Doctors without Borders this year.

Cheryl Kingsley, [Ed. D.](#), wrote a book on special education, which was published last year.

DO NOT use a comma to set off [Jr.](#), [Sr.](#), or roman or arabic numerals. For example:

Lieutenant Peter Holly [Jr.](#)

Adrian Bond [Sr.](#)

Robert Beard [2nd](#)

Ellen Smith [III](#)

Exception: If you know that the person prefers to use commas in his or her name.

For more on using commas with a person's name, see *The Gregg Reference Manual*, paragraphs 156 to 158.