

To check funeral flower etiquette in another country, ask someone close to the family or contact the funeral director handling the service. Confirm what is welcome before choosing flowers, writing a card or arranging delivery.

Start with the family and service notice

Read the funeral notice carefully. It may say that flowers are welcome, ask for donations instead, or give instructions about where to send a tribute. Follow those wishes even if they differ from what you would normally do at home.

If the notice does not mention flowers, ask a relative or friend who knows the family well. Keep the message brief and give them an easy way to say no. You can ask if flowers would be appropriate and if the family has a preference for the service or their home.

Consider how close you are to the family. Someone arranging the funeral may be managing many details, so a mutual friend might be a better first contact. If you cannot get an answer in time, a simple message of sympathy is a considerate choice.

Check local and religious customs

Look for guidance from a local funeral director, a place of worship or a cultural organization in the country where the service will take place. Ask about the particular ceremony, not just the country. Customs can differ between communities and families, and a general guide may not describe the wishes of the people you want to support.

Some religious traditions have specific practices around mourning, and flowers may not be customary at every service. Do not assume that the same rules apply to everyone who shares a faith or lives in the same place. The family or the person leading the service can tell you what is suitable for this occasion.

Confirm the flowers and the card

Before ordering, check if any colors, flower types or arrangements should be avoided. Local meanings can differ from those you know, so ask a local florist familiar with funeral work for advice. Tell them about any instructions you have received from the family or funeral director.

Keep the card simple. A short expression of sympathy and your name are enough. If you write in a language you do not know well, ask a fluent speaker to check the wording. A sincere message in your own language is better than a translation you cannot verify.

Arrange delivery with care

Confirm the correct address, delivery date and name of the person receiving the flowers. A funeral director can tell you if arrangements should arrive at the funeral home, a place of worship or another venue, and when they can be accepted.

If you are sending flowers to the family home, check that this is welcome and that someone can receive them. Allow time for an international order, and ask the florist to confirm that delivery has been arranged. If flowers are not requested, a condolence card or a donation named in the notice may be more useful.

The best guide is the family's stated preference. When details remain unclear, choose a quiet message of sympathy rather than guessing.

A useful next read: Polish name-day flowers