

Siblings should order flowers for a parent overseas as soon as they agree on the occasion and delivery date. For a birthday or other fixed date, aim to order at least a week ahead, and allow more time around major holidays.

Choose the date together

Start with the date in your parent's country, not the date where you live. A birthday may begin there hours before it does for one or more siblings. Check the local calendar before anyone places the order.

Decide if the flowers need to arrive on the exact day. If your parent will be out for a meal or away for the weekend, an earlier delivery may be more useful. Flowers sent a day or two ahead can still mark the occasion and give your parent time to enjoy them.

For a group gift, leave room for a brief discussion about the arrangement and the card. Agree on who will order and who will collect each sibling's contribution. One person should handle the booking so you do not accidentally send two arrangements.

Allow extra time for busy dates

Mother's Day, Valentine's Day and other local celebrations can bring heavy demand. Order as early as you can for these dates, especially if you want a particular flower or a narrow delivery window. Mother's Day does not fall on the same date in every country, so check the date your parent observes.

Delivery availability also depends on the destination. A florist in a large city may offer different options from one serving a remote area. Check the available dates before promising your parent that flowers will arrive at a particular time.

Last minute orders can work, but do not assume they will. If the preferred date is unavailable, choose another date or ask your parent when someone will be home to receive the flowers.

Check the details before ordering

Give the florist the full local address, including any building name, apartment number and postal code. Add a phone number your parent can answer. Delivery drivers may need it to find the address or arrange a handoff.

Check what happens if your parent is not home. Some florists may leave flowers in a safe place or contact the recipient, but practices vary. If the delivery is a surprise, ask about this before ordering.

Fresh flowers vary by season and location. If the exact blooms are important, ask what is available locally. Otherwise, choose a style or color scheme and check the florist's substitution policy. Put all siblings' names on the card, and have one person save the order confirmation.

Questions about ordering

Can we order on the day?

Sometimes. Check local delivery availability and the florist's order deadline. Keep in mind that the local day may already be well underway.

Should we send flowers before a holiday?

That can be a practical choice. An earlier delivery may be easier to arrange, and your parent can enjoy the flowers during the celebration.

Who should confirm the delivery?

The sibling who placed the order should keep the confirmation and follow up with the florist if needed. They can then update everyone else.

Take a look at local flower delivery in Europe