

White flowers, such as chrysanthemums, lilies or roses, are generally a suitable choice for a Hindu funeral. Customs vary between families and communities, so check the family's wishes before bringing or sending flowers.

## Choose simple, fresh flowers

A modest arrangement of white flowers is a safe place to start. White is associated with mourning in many Hindu traditions, and a simple bouquet or wreath can express sympathy without drawing attention away from the service.

Marigolds and roses may also be used in Hindu funeral rites, sometimes as garlands. Their use and color can depend on family tradition, so do not assume that a particular flower is required. If you are unsure, a local florist can prepare a restrained arrangement of fresh white flowers.

Keep the presentation straightforward. Avoid elaborate decorations or a large display unless you know that the family would welcome one. The purpose is to honor the person who has died and show care for those grieving.

## Check where flowers should go

Before ordering or bringing anything, read the funeral notice. The family may have named a place for flowers, requested a donation instead, or asked guests not to bring gifts. Follow those instructions first.

If the notice does not say, ask a relative, a friend close to the family, or the funeral organizer. A short message is enough: explain that you would like to send flowers and ask what would be appropriate. Give the family room not to reply immediately.

Flowers might be placed near a photograph or at a designated spot during the service. Do not put them on the body, a casket or a ceremonial area unless someone directing the rites invites you to do so. At a cremation, follow the instructions given at the venue.

## How to offer your flowers

1. Check the notice for the family's preferences and the correct location.
2. Choose a modest arrangement, such as white chrysanthemums, roses or lilies.
3. Keep the wrapping and decorations simple, and include a brief sympathy card if you are sending the flowers.
4. On arrival, ask the organizer where to leave the flowers, then follow the family's lead during the service.

If you cannot attend, you can ask whether flowers should be sent to the family home. They may prefer a visit or a note at another time, particularly if the household is busy with funeral arrangements and prayers.

## What to write on a card

A few sincere words are enough. You could write, "I am sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and your family." If you knew the person who died, you can add a brief, truthful memory or say that you will miss them.

Avoid trying to explain the loss or making assumptions about the family's beliefs. You do not need to use a religious phrase to offer sympathy respectfully.

Bring flowers only if they fit the family's wishes, and let their guidance shape the gesture.

Have a look at business flowers etiquette