

How to Outsmart Mother's Day and Father's Day

Helen Ellis M.A.

DistanceFamilies.com

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Do you live in a country where Mother's Day and/or Father's Day is celebrated on a different day from where your mother and/or father live?

Do you find yourself saying 'darn' when the appropriate greeting card isn't in the shops, just when you need it?

This is a dilemma for Distance Sons and Distance Daughters.

At the other end it's a tough gig for the mother and/or father when *their* local day passes with little or no acknowledgement. The shops are full of merchandise. Mother's Day or Father's Day is plastered across the radio and television and on the day, every café (if they're allowed to open!) is full of families treating Mum or Dad. It is an unnecessarily painful reminder of the Distance Family geographical void.

If your current regime is to send a card when it is *your* local Mother's or Father's Day, I am sad to say... you've missed the boat. It's just not the same.

This situation is so easily solved, and what's more, the minuscule effort required to fix the problem will be rewarded a thousand times over with overflowing gratitude and appreciation.

So what's the solution?: buy a card (and even a spare) *every* time it is Mother's Day and/or Father's Day where *you* live, and when the dates don't align, put the card aside and send it later.

Here's a heads up... right now. Mother's Day has come and gone in the UK (in March). In a few weeks (9 May) it will be Mother's Day in the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. If you live in one of those countries, and your mother lives in the UK, buy a card shortly and keep it for 2022.

Likewise, Father's Day isn't aligned for some. This year it is 20 June in the UK, USA, Canada and South Africa but Australia and New Zealand celebrate it on 5 September. So if you live in Australia or New Zealand and your father lives in the UK, USA, Canada or South Africa it is tricky for you to buy a Father's Day card for this June. In September, be sure to buy one for *next* year and put it aside.

Airfreight movements are troublesome globally. Gone are the days when a letter travelled to another continent in just a few days. Send all cards at least

three weeks in advance - if not earlier. Your parent won't mind if it turns up ahead of the celebration and is given a temporary home on the kitchen counter. It is physical evidence of your desire to do the right thing.

When it is impossible for most of us to travel and visit each other, do whatever you can to make Father's Days and Mother's Days align correctly for the people that count.

Here's a recap for the next 12 months:

2021

9 May - USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa - Mother's Day

20 June - UK, USA, Canada, South Africa - Father's Day

5 September - New Zealand and Australia - Father's Day

2022

27 March - UK - Mother's Day

Helen is the Founder of DistanceFamilies.com and the author of *Being a Distance Grandparent - a Book for ALL Generations*. [Available](#) for order 20 April 2021 - in time for Mother's Day.

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