How to Automatically Forward Texts From One Sender to Another Person on iPhone (No App Needed)

TechRounder PDF Edition

Live article: https://www.techrounder.com/how-to/forward-texts-from-one-sender-iphone-no-app/

By Vipin PG | Published November 23, 2026 | Updated November 23, 2026 | Format: Guide | 8 min read

Quick answer

Say you want every text from one person to reach someone else’s phone too. Maybe a parent wants to see a teenager’s messages, or a spouse should get the delivery updates that land on your number.

Say you want every text from one person to reach someone else’s phone too. Maybe a parent wants to see a teenager’s messages, or a spouse should get the delivery updates that land on your number. You can set this up on an iPhone without a third-party app, so no outside software needs access to your messages. The tool is the Shortcuts app that came with the phone.

This guide shows how to automatically forward texts from one specific sender to another person on iPhone, what changed in iOS 27, and what to check when the automation runs but nothing gets sent. That last problem is the most common complaint.

Quick answer

Open Shortcuts, create a Message automation for the sender you care about, and add a Send Message action addressed to the other person. Pass the incoming message into that action, then set both the automation and the action to run without asking. The details below are where most setups go wrong.

Why the built-in Text Message Forwarding setting won’t work

Settings has an option called Text Message Forwarding (Settings > Messages). It sounds right, but it only mirrors your texts to your own devices, such as a Mac or iPad signed in with the same Apple Account. It can’t send anything to another person, and it can’t filter by sender.

A Shortcuts automation is the only built-in way to pass one sender’s messages to someone else.

What you need before you start

- An iPhone with the Shortcuts app. It’s preinstalled, and you can reinstall it free from the App Store if you removed it.
- The sender’s phone number, or the email address they use for iMessage.
- The person you’re forwarding to, saved in Contacts with the right number.
- An iPhone that is on and connected. The automation only handles messages that arrive after you create it, so it can’t catch up on old ones.

Each forward is a real outgoing message from your number. Tell the person whose texts you’re forwarding. In some situations this is also a legal question.

How to forward texts from one sender automatically (iOS 26 and earlier)

1. Open Shortcuts and tap the Automation tab at the bottom.

2. Tap the plus button, then choose Message.

3. Under Sender, choose the person. Try typing their full phone number instead of picking a name. The troubleshooting section explains why.

4. Leave "Message Contains" empty to forward everything from them, or enter a keyword to forward only certain texts.

5. Select "Run Immediately", then tap Next.

6. Choose the option to create a new blank automation, tap Add Action, and search for Send Message.

7. Tap Recipients and pick the person who should receive the forwarded text.

8. Tap the message field and insert the Shortcut Input variable. It holds the incoming message.

9. Tap the small arrow on the Send Message action and turn off "Show When Run". If you skip this, the action opens a compose screen and waits for you instead of sending.

10. Tap Done.

When the sender next texts you, the message should go to the second person on its own. A MacMost demonstration shows a Message automation sending a reply while the iPhone is locked.

How to do it on iOS 27

iOS 27 reorganized Shortcuts. According to Apple’s iOS 27 guide, you now add an automation to a shortcut instead of using a separate tab. Menu labels can differ slightly between builds, so treat these names as a guide.

1. In Shortcuts, create a new shortcut. iOS 27 may open on "Describe a Shortcut", so choose the manual editor if you prefer to build it yourself.

2. Tap Edit, then Automation, and choose Message as the trigger.

3. Set the Sender, and optionally "Message Contains".

4. Add a Send Message action. Set the recipient, and set the message to the incoming message (Shortcut Input).

5. Turn off the option that shows the compose sheet. It’s called "Show When Run" or "Show Compose Sheet" depending on the version.

6. Tap the Info button, open Privacy, and make sure "Allow Running When Locked" is on. Apple says the automation then runs without asking and doesn’t notify you each time it fires.

This is where people get stuck. Guides written for iOS 26 tell you to pick "Run Immediately", and on iOS 27 that screen may not be where you expect it.

Make the forwarded text show who sent it

A forwarded message arrives from your number, so the recipient can’t tell who originally wrote it. Add a Text action before Send Message and type something like this:

> Quote: From Alex: (Shortcut Input)

Then use that Text result as the message body in Send Message.

Test one piece at a time

If the first try fails, don’t rebuild everything. Check the parts in this order.

1. Test the trigger alone. Temporarily replace Send Message with Open App or Show Notification, then have the sender text you. If the app opens, the trigger works and the problem is in the send step. A forum user suggested this test in a recent MacRumors thread about this exact problem.

2. Test the send step alone. Tap the play button on the shortcut. If it opens a compose screen instead of sending, the "show" option is still on.

3. Test with a keyword. Swap the sender filter for a "Message Contains" keyword and text yourself. If that fires but the sender filter doesn’t, your sender entry isn’t matching.

4. Test with the phone locked, then with a few messages sent in a row.

Troubleshooting: why nothing happens

What you see: Nothing happens at all | Likely cause: The sender filter doesn’t match the incoming message | What to try: Delete the contact name and type the sender’s number with country code. If they use iMessage with an email address, enter that instead

What you see: Messages opens with the text typed but not sent | Likely cause: The compose option is still on | What to try: Turn off "Show When Run" or "Show Compose Sheet" on Send Message

What you see: A prompt asks you to confirm every time | Likely cause: The automation isn’t set to run without asking | What to try: On iOS 26 and earlier, choose "Run Immediately". On iOS 27, check "Allow Running When Locked" under Privacy

What you see: Works unlocked but not locked | Likely cause: The locked-device permission is off (iOS 27) | What to try: Turn on "Allow Running When Locked"

What you see: Sends twice | Likely cause: Two automations match the same message, or the action was added twice | What to try: Remove the duplicate

What you see: Doesn’t reach the recipient | Likely cause: Their contact card has several numbers, or they aren’t on iMessage and SMS fallback is off | What to try: Pick one specific number and check Settings > Messages > Send as SMS

What you see: Bank or delivery texts don’t trigger it | Likely cause: Business senders often use short codes or names that don’t match a contact | What to try: Use a "Message Contains" keyword instead of a sender

The sender filter causes the most silent failures. Users report that typing the raw phone number fixes automations that never fired when a contact name was selected. A contact card with several numbers, or an iMessage address registered to an email, can leave the automation waiting for something that never arrives. One Apple Community post also reports that dashes in a sender name were stripped when entered, which broke matching for some senders.

What to know before you rely on it

- Text is the safe case. Photos and attachments may not come along, so test with a throwaway picture first.

- Group chats are unpredictable. iOS 27 added support for sending to group chats, but Apple doesn’t document whether a message from a group triggers the automation or who counts as the sender. Test before depending on it.

- Each Send Message action has one recipient. For a second person, add another action.

- You get no error message when a send fails. A Show Notification action alongside Send Message is the only built-in way to see that the automation ran.

- The phone has to be on when the message arrives. Texts received while it was off are not replayed.

- Forwards that go out as SMS may count against your plan.

- Some iOS 27 behavior is still unclear. Apple’s guidance and user reports differ on points like whether automations sync between devices, so check how yours behaves.

If it still won’t work

- Forward by hand. Press and hold a message, tap Forward, and choose a contact. This is fine for occasional use.

- Send yourself a notification instead. Use Show Notification in place of Send Message, then forward manually when something important arrives.

- Use a shared Reminders list. The automation can add the text to a list the other person can see, with no message thread involved. This needs a Reminders action, so test it before relying on it.

Handing a third-party app full access to your messages just for this one feature is a bigger privacy step than a Shortcuts automation, which keeps the logic on your own phone.

Frequently asked questions

Can an iPhone automatically forward texts from a specific number to another person?

Yes. Use a Shortcuts personal automation with the Message trigger and a Send Message action. No third-party app is needed.

Does the automation work when my iPhone is locked?

It can. A MacMost demonstration shows a Message automation running on a locked phone. On iOS 27, Apple’s guide says to turn on "Allow Running When Locked" under Privacy for automations that run without asking.

Is Text Message Forwarding the same thing?

No. That setting only sends your messages to your own devices on the same Apple Account. It can’t forward to another person.

Will it forward photos and attachments?

Not reliably. Shortcuts passes message text most easily, so test with a harmless image first.

Does it work for both iMessage and SMS?

The trigger is meant to fire on incoming messages in general. The sending side can fail if the recipient isn’t on iMessage and "Send as SMS" is off, so test with the real recipient.

Does the sender know their texts are being forwarded?

The automation doesn’t tell them. The recipient sees the forwarded message coming from your number, so tell the sender yourself.

Why does the automation ask me to confirm every time?

It isn’t set to run without asking. On iOS 26 and earlier, pick "Run Immediately". On iOS 27, review the trigger’s options and the "Allow Running When Locked" setting.

Can I forward to more than one person?

Add a separate Send Message action for each person.

Is this different on iOS 27?

Yes. Automations are added inside a shortcut instead of a separate tab, and the control for running without asking has moved. The steps above cover both versions.

Wrapping up

Forwarding one sender’s texts to another person on an iPhone takes a Message automation, a Send Message action, and two settings that let it run without asking. If nothing happens, test the trigger first, then the send step, and check the sender entry before anything else.

If you try this on iOS 27 and something behaves differently from what’s written here, let me know in the comments so I can update the steps.

Sources and further reading

- Communication triggers in Shortcuts (Apple)
- Add automations to Shortcuts, iOS 27 (Apple)
- What’s new in Shortcuts for iOS 27 (Apple)
- Forward text messages to your other devices (Apple)
- MacMost: how to set up your iPhone to automatically respond to text messages
- MacRumors forum discussion on automatic message sending

References

1. support.apple.com - guide / shortcuts - https://support.apple.com/guide/shortcuts/apdd711f9dff/ios

2. support.apple.com - guide / shortcuts - https://support.apple.com/guide/shortcuts/add-automations-apdfbdbd7123/ios

3. support.apple.com - en-us / 149045 - https://support.apple.com/en-us/149045

4. support.apple.com - HT208386 - https://support.apple.com/HT208386

5. macmost.com - how-to-set-up-your-iphone-to-automatically-respond-to-text-messages.html - https://macmost.com/how-to-set-up-your-iphone-to-automatically-respond-to-text-messages.html

6. forums.macrumors.com - threads / can-i-send-on-a-text-message-automatically-with-iphone.2494986 - https://forums.macrumors.com/threads/can-i-send-on-a-text-message-automatically-with-iphone.2494986/