The Father of the Bride Speech
5-Minute Guide

# Purpose

The main purpose of the Father of the Bride Speech is to welcome the guests to the wedding and give an insight into the Bride's personality and her formative years.

The speech is also a fond tribute to the Bride and a celebration of a new chapter in her life.

The Father of the Bride usually speaks first, before the Groom and the Best Man.

## Duties

# In his speech, the Father of the Bride will traditionally:

- officially welcome guests to the wedding.

#### He will usually also:

- mention any absent or deceased family or friends
- acknowledge his wife, on whose behalf he is also speaking

### Content

The very best wedding speeches include lots of personal detail and draw inspiration from shared memories and experiences.

Unfortunately, too many speeches rely on generic material copied from elsewhere.

Talk to other family members for additional inspiration.

Resist the temptation to cut-and-paste content from the internet.

### Structure

#### A simple but effective speech structure is:

- Welcome the guests
  Thank everyone for coming and mention any key absences
- Acknowledge the occasion
   Say a few positive words about the day so far
- ♦ Share stories about the Bride Tell 2 or 3 anecdotes from the Bride's early life
- Compliment the Bride Praise your daughter and say why you're proud of her
- ♦ Raise a Toast!

### Tone

#### The Father of the Bride Speech should be:

- generous and loving
- happy and proud

#### Also remember:

- sensitive issues or topics which might embarrass the Bride should be avoided
- → it's okay to be a little sentimental!

# Delivery

#### When delivering your speech:

- ♦ aim to speak for no longer than 5 10 minutes
- keep it conversational i.e. try to speak as you would normally speak
- take your time pause between each of your main points
- use small cue cards to prompt you don't try to do it all from memory or read from a script

And make sure you practice before the big day!

### Pitfalls

#### The Father of the Bride should try to avoid:

- alluding to any financial support that might have been given for the wedding
- ♦ telling stories that genuinely embarrass the Bride
- ♦ neglecting to mention the mother of the bride
- relying on all-too-familiar lines and clichés
- drinking too much before the speeches!

### What Next?

### Three steps to a finished speech:

- start making a note of any ideas you could use in your speech
- write a rough first draft using the recommended structure
- practice your speech out loud and keep revising your draft until you're completely happy

### Good Luck!

For more free resources visit:

www.weddingspeechcoach.com