

“Mother of the Bride Speech”

Whether you're standing in for an absent father or your daughter just wants to hear from you on the day, giving a speech is an honour and not one to be shied away from. Whether it's your first public speech ever, or you're a complete pro, here are some tips and suggestions for what to include in your speech. This isn't the be all and end all of mother of the bride speeches, but it's a pretty great guideline. Remember there will be 3-6 speeches including yours, we recommend that everyone keep their speeches to 3-5 minutes, so there's time for dancing later!

1. Welcome guests. If you're standing in for an absent father it's very likely you will be the first to speak at the reception, other than the MC. However if your daughter's dad is giving a speech be careful not to double up on the same stories and toasts.

2. Story time! It's great to mention how much your daughter's life has changed for the better since meeting her new spouse, but avoid long drawn out stories from her childhood or teen years.

3. Welcome your new Son-in-law to the family, and convey your happiness in getting to know his family.

4. Offer advice and well wishes. Advice is a great opportunity to add something humorous and lighthearted.

5. Thank the helpers and organisers. Even small weddings require a lot of hard work, from a variety of people.

6. Finally, ask everyone to raise their glasses in a toast to the couple.

7. Be familiar with your speech, but don't feel you need to memorise it – cue cards or reading from your phone is fine. If you print your speech, make sure it's in a large, easy to read font - size 14 Arial or Times New Roman are good - and every couple of lines alternate the text colour from black to blue so you can look up at the guests and not lose your spot. You're currently reading Size 16, Times New Roman, Bold.

8. Make eye contact with everyone, and remember to smile. You'll find it's infectious.

If you're struggling or need a hand, don't hesitate to contact me :). Good Luck!

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