

# A FATHER OF THE BRIDE SPEECH

Marriage is a beautiful and complex thing, the joining of two hearts, two souls as one. Today we celebrate the beginning of (groom) and (bride)'s journey together. I am (your name), father of the bride (her name). I would like to take a moment to thank you all for sharing in their special day. I'd especially like to welcome (groom) into our family with open arms and his parents (their names). And I'd like to thank (officiant) for the beautiful wedding ceremony. And thank you everyone for attending, especially those who are here from out of town.

Anyone who knows me knows that (bride) is the joy of my life. From the moment I first held her the hospital, I knew she would always be my little girl. I taught her how to tie her shoes, ride a bike, cast a fishing rod and put up a tent. So (groom), I hope you like camping, because that's how she wanted to spend every vacation since she could talk. But she is also my little princess, the girl who loved to put on fashion shows for her mom and I. But she never looked as pretty as she does today.

And (groom), I couldn't be happier than I am today, knowing that from now on she can count on you. The way she looks at you reminds me of the way her mom used to look at me when we were your age. You are her protector and her best friend and I welcome you to our family, from today on you are not my son-in-law, but the son I never had.

Their first date was a disaster. (groom's) car broke down and I had to go pick them up, in the pouring rain, on a dark country road. He was taking her on a hayride, at her request. He took off his jacket to keep her dry and sat with her the entire time, so she wouldn't be scared. He was soaking wet, but she was dry and safe. I knew then that he would always look out for my baby girl.

Thank you (groom's parents) for all of your help and generosity in planning the wedding. We are so happy that you, too, are now part of our family. I can see by the way your son treats my baby girl, that you raised him to be the perfect gentleman. He is a tribute to the love you two have shared over the years.

(turn to wife): (wife's name), my love, we dreamed of this day for so long. We started our journey 30 years ago and I would do it all over again. The first day I saw you walk into my office, I knew my life would be forever changed. And here we are today, giving away our only daughter to a wonderful man. Now we can look forward to watching them raise their family with the same joy and love that we raised our little girl.

Everyone, please stand with me and join me in a toast to (bride and groom). May you have many years of light, love and laughter as you being you adventure together. May the road be smooth and full of happy memories!