

BEST MAN'S DUTIES

You da man...you da BEST MAN! You're probably the groom's brother, his best friend and/or the guy that knows how to party like it's going out of style. You're the guy that has to lend a friendly ear to your buddy when the entire wedding planning process is stressing him out.

The groom has thought long and hard about which of his friends he'd grace with this title. It's your prerogative to think about the title before accepting. You have a few responsibilities and some costs. The price tag that comes with being a best man is somewhere between \$400.00 \$\$1000.00+. Your biggest expense will come with the stag.

So what do you have to do to be a good best man?

BEST MAN'S DUTIES

- Plan and pay for bachelor party w/groomsmen.
- Rent and pay for a tux, and go for fittings.
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Help bring and boxes to ceremony and reception location.
- Help the groom dress and make sure he gets to the church on time.
- Keeps the bride's wedding ring until the ring exchange. You may be asked to hold both rings and none at all if the ring bearer has them.
- Sign the marriage license.
- The couple will give you a sealed envelope with officiates or church's fee in it. You will give this the priest/officiate before the ceremony.
- Sit to the groom's left at the reception.
- Dances with the maid of honor.
- Make a first toast to the bride and groom. This is usually done before dinner but in some cases right after.
- Arranges transportation or personally drives the bride and groom to the hotel or the airport.
- Collects and returns all formalwear rentals on time.
- Help maid of honor bring gifts to the bride and groom's house.

BEST MAN'S SPEECH

You will be the first person to get up and speak. Although it's called "a toast" it's nice to say a few words on the grooms behalf and mention the bride also. Your toast can be anywhere from 2 to 5 minutes in length.

We will give you suggestions on what you can put into your speech and examples of what we're talking about. But your speech will tell about your past and friendship with the groom. If you are married and your wife is the maid of honour, you can do a speech together and take turns talking.

Greet the guests and tell them your relationship to the groom, "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is Tony, I'm the best man (give your lapels a little tug or do something else

cool). Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for coming here tonight and hope you have a good time. I'd also like to thank Joey and Mary for giving me this honour...."

Talk about the groom. "Joey and I have known each other for...". You can speak of bad habits, the good old days when you went bar hopping, how long you've known each other, things you did when you were kids, what happened leading up to the wedding, how he told you that he was getting engaged, all kinds of stuff. Don't mention previous girlfriends or chicks from the men's bathroom. Tell stories but don't embarrass anyone too much or cause an argument.

Mention the bride. You can tell stories about things you've witnessed between the couple or "nice" things that the groom has said about her to you in confidence. "I can still remember the first time Joey saw Mary. He was so excited, grabbing my shirt, my beer was flying all over the place and then he pointed his finger across the bar and said "Holy shit, look at that". Well I didn't say it was romantic, I just remember it. Mary was the girls for him from the beginning and no one is more happy than me to be standing here today."

In closing be sentimental. Tell the groom how much his friendship means to you and wish the couple luck and raise your glass to them. "Joey, seriously bud, we've known each other a long time. The memories that I have of all the things we did together will be the same stories I tell from my rocking chair to my grandson. I'm proud to call you my friend. I'd like to make a toast to the bride and groom, May you be as happy 50 years from now as you are today, Cheers."

Walk over and hug the groom and kiss the bride. You're done and you did a good job.