

Steps to take before and after a divorce



Financial Focus

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Going through a divorce is emotionally painful and can disrupt one's life in many ways — but does it also have to be financially devastating?

Not necessarily. You can help yourself greatly by making a series of moves. Here are some to consider:

Before the divorce is final

- Determine how you'll cover the cost of the divorce. To meet the costs of a divorce, which can be tens of thousands dollars, you may need to tap in to your income stream and savings accounts, or even explore alternative options, such as borrowing from your retirement plan, if it's allowed by a divorce

court judge.

- Create a budget. You may want to build a temporary budget. Your divorce attorney can advise you on how long your separation period may last in a contested case.

- Start building separate bank and brokerage accounts. Consult with your divorce attorney on ways to establish independent bank and brokerage accounts without harming your spouse.

- Understand your retirement benefits. Know the value of your and your spouse's 401(k) or similar plans, IRAs, pensions, stock options and other employer benefits. Also, you might need to negotiate the splitting of retirement benefits through a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO). A tax professional and a financial advisor can help you understand how different QDRO proposals can affect your retirement goals.

After the divorce is final

- Finish building your separate financial accounts. You may want to close any joint accounts or credit cards, change online access to financial accounts, remove your

name from bills for which you are no longer responsible and complete any agreed-upon asset transfers, such as dividing retirement assets.

- Create a new budget. You can now create a longer-term budget, incorporating any spouse or child support you receive as income. You may also need to adjust your spending to reflect items in the divorce agreement, such as expenses now covered by your former spouse and court-ordered responsibilities for paying college education expenses for dependent children and possibly the attorneys' fees for a former spouse.

- Review your protection plans. You may need to review your life, homeowners and auto insurance policies. And if you were covered under your spouse's health insurance plan, you may want to apply for COBRA to stay on that plan up to 36 months or switch to your own employer's plan, if available. If you don't have access to an employer's health insurance, you may want to explore a marketplace plan from the Affordable Care Act or contact a health insurance broker.

- Review your estate plans. To reflect your new marital status, you may need to work with your legal professional to change some of your estate-planning documents, such as a will, living trust, advanced health care directive or power of attorney. Also, review the beneficiary designations on life insurance policies, IRAs, annuities and investment accounts, as these designations can likely supersede instructions on your will or trust.

- See your tax professional. You may need to consult with your tax professional on issues such as changing your tax return filing status, claiming a child as a dependent and dealing with tax implications of assets received in the divorce.

Going through a divorce is not easy — but by taking the appropriate steps before and after the divorce is finalized, you can at least help put yourself in a more secure and stable financial position to begin the next phase of your life.

(Editors Note: This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.)

Mercer records 5.3 percent unemployment in March

Mercer County's unemployment continues its downward trend over the recent months. According to state figures, local unemployment dropped to 5.3 percent in March, down 5.4 percent in February and from 5.6 percent in January. Mercer's unemployment rate was up from 4.8 percent in March 2024.

Unemployment rates rose in 112 counties, fell in four (Bath, Bracken, Hopkins and Morgan) counties and stayed the same in four (Carroll, Cumberland, Harrison and Montgomery) counties between March 2024 and March 2025, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth at 4.2 percent. It was followed by Shelby County, 4.5 percent; Fayette County, 4.6 percent; Oldham

and Scott counties, 4.7 percent each; Harrison, Jessamine, Todd and Washington counties, 4.8 percent each; and Boone, Kenton and Spencer counties, 4.9 percent each.

Martin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 10.9 percent. It was followed by Magoffin County, 10.3 percent; Wolfe County, 9.9 percent; Lewis County, 9.7 percent; Elliott County, 9.6 percent; Lawrence and Menifee counties, 8.6 percent each; Carter County, 8.4 percent; and Breathitt and Jackson counties, 8.3 percent each.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influ-

ences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 5.5 percent for March 2025, and 4.2 percent for the nation.

Kentucky's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down to 5.2 percent in March 2025 compared to 5.3 percent in February 2025. The state's seasonally adjusted March 2025 unemployment rate was released on April 17 and can be viewed online at kentucky.gov.

In that release, Kentucky's statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are adjusted to observe statistical trends by removing seasonal influences such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. For more information regarding seasonal fluctuations, visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics online at bls.gov.

Unemployment statistics

are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually to count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should only be compared to the same month in previous years.

Learn more about Kentucky labor market information online at kystats.ky.gov

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID
MERCER COUNTY FISCAL COURT
The Mercer County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for the repair/replacement of bridge on Henry Robinson Road (CR 1327), Bridge ID No. 084C00050N. Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00am, Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Sealed bids will be opened at the May 27, 2025 Fiscal Court meeting. Sealed bids can be mailed or hand delivered to the:
Fiscal Court Clerk, Missey Ellis,
at the County Judge/Executive's Office at the Mercer County Courthouse located at 207 W. Lexington St.,
Harrodsburg, KY, 40330.
For complete repair details and specs, please contact Todd Palmer, Mercer County Road Supervisor
at 859-734-6340 or 859-265-1737.

The Mercer County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT • FURNITURE & PERSONAL PROPERTY

Location: 534 Long Lick Lane, Springfield, Ky. 40069
Directions: From Springfield Ky take Mackville Road (Hwy 152) about 10 miles to Mayes Creek Road. Turn left on Mayes Creek road and go about 1 mile to Long Lick Lane. Turn right on Long Lick lane and go about 7/10 miles to the property on your left. From Exit 42 (Hwy 555) on Bluegrass Parkway go Southwest about 9 miles to Mayes Creek Road on the Left. Turn left on Mayes Creek Road and go about 5 2/10 miles to Long Lick Lane. Turn left and go about 7/10 miles to the property on your left. Auction signs posted.

REAL ESTATE SELLS AT 10:00 A.M.

Reason For Sale: In order to settle the Estate of Mr. Simpson (Mr. Greg Goatley, Attorney), Bishop Realty & Auction, LLC has been commissioned by the Co-Executors (Gregory Allen Simpson & Karen Denise Cutsinger) to sell at ABSOLUTE AUCTION the following property under the terms and conditions as stated.
REAL ESTATE: Selling a 98 Acre farm with a 28x52, 1999 Fall Creek Home with 3 bedrooms, living room with cathedral ceiling, kitchen, laundry and 2 baths. The home has a covered front porch plus a covered wrap-around porch on the back and side of the house. The home is on a concrete block foundation and sits on a spacious fenced in yard with plenty of room for a garden spot. There is also a 12x16 metal storage building, 2 bay shop/garage and a large tobacco barn. City water at the house and barn, 2 ponds and creek frontage. Mature shade and beautiful views of the rolling country side. Lots of pasture & hay ground with an excellent stand of grass. Lots of good ridge land and many scattered home sites with a tremendous amount of road frontage. Farms like this are hard to find. If you are looking for a working cattle farm, a smaller tract of land or just a place for a new home, we have it all right here. A new Survey is under way and as soon as the survey is approved we will have a better description of the tract sizes. The farm will be offered as a whole and in tracts and deeded in the manner bringing the most total dollars. **SOLD AT ABSOLUTE AUCTION WHERE THE FINAL BID SETS THE PRICE.**
TRACTOR, EQUIPMENT& TOOLS: 1976 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor that was recently overhauled with a new diesel motor, power steering and injector pump, seat and more, Cub cadet LT 1046 riding mower, Vicon 7ft. disc mower, rotary hoe, (2) 3 pt. hay forks, 6 ft. Agri-Cutter 3 pt. bushhog, 6 ft. M.F. 3 pt lift disc, (2) Ford 601 sickle mowers, Dearborn 10-152 2 gang plow, (2) 3pt. hitch scaper buckets, 5 ft. 3 pt hitch bushhog, N.H. 256 dolly wheel ake, Schultz Spreadmaster manure spreader PTO driven, Ground driven manure spreader, 2 basket hay tedder, hay elevator, boom pole, metal drag, truck box for storage, catch chute, water troughs, feed troughs, mineral tub, car ramps, steel posts, tobacco sticks, echo & stihl blowers, echo weed eater, hedge trimmers, 10x10 dog kennel, lots of gates, pressure washer, (2) electric fence boxes, air compressor, air tank, funnels, jack stands, wrenches, tools, hammers, shovels, cattle oiler, pipe wrenches, bolts & nuts, nails, tool boxes, chain saw sharpener, bench vise, bench grinder, jumper cables, chisel-punch set, (2) echo chainsaws, 460 Husqvarna chain saw, igloo dog house, 10 ft. step ladder, come alongs, bolt cutters, top links, barn jack, chains, extension cords and more.
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: Libby Glass Car Jug, card table, carnival glass, bird figurines, laundry basket, Filter Queen Air Purifier and Sweeper, Kenmore sewing machine, canister set, Kitchen knife set, small kitchen appliances, old Horse & Carriage clock, Antique cast iron Turtle Spittoon, microwave, G.E. refrigerator and Electric range, G.E. Washer, Hotpoint Dryer, Upright deep freezer, Couch & chair, lamps, dresser with mirror, shower seat, granite ware, blue jars, (2) flat irons, Crocks, bowls & jugs, butter churn, pitcher & bowl, lots of glassware, set of dishes, afghans, candle holders, pictures, Oak dining room table with 6 chairs, extra leaf and hutch, Jazzy electric wheel chair with car carrier, jars of marbles, wheel chair, walkers, cane, rocker recliner, lift chair, recliner, straight chairs, tables, colored dishes, small wash board, step stool, umbrellas, Oak entertainment center, mug collection, tread mill, luggage, desk chair and mat, Roku 32" TV in the box, Phillips 50" TV in the box, clocks, (2) porch rockers, water hoses, and more.
TERMS: Real Estate- 20% down the day of sale and the balance with deed delivery and possession on or before July 7th, 2025. Personal Property: Cash or good check the day of sale. No Credit Cards. There will be a 10% Buyers Premium added to the final bid of everything sold to determine the total sales price. A 6% Ky Sales Tax will apply to all personal property unless you provide a valid Resale Certificate Number.

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Photo Submitted

Johns speaks to Harrodsburg Rotary Club

The speaker at the Rotary Club of Harrodsburg on Wednesday, April 30, was Whitney Johns, Judge of the 50th Judicial Circuit. Johns was introduced by Rotarian Norrie Currens.

Harrodsburg springs forward with new small businesses



Chamber Chat
Jill Cutler
Executive Director
Mercer Chamber of

April showers bring May flowers and boy are my eyes

and nose noticing. Spring is Central Kentucky's most beautiful season, I think. The lush fresh green of the grass and tender tree buds really make us hopeful for sunnier days.

Sunnier days are encouraging. So are new economic announcements and ribbon cuttings. There have been 10 ribbon cuttings so far this year. There have been 12 new resident bags given out. There were 600 folks that came to the Regional Job

Fair. 200 volunteers helped with Earth Day cleanups.

Then there are announcements that are not what we hoped. In all this the chamber of commerce must find balance. It is our job to help make lemonade out of lemons and we ask your support in doing so. It may mean new plans or partnerships. It may mean just working through the pain point. With a team effort in Mercer County, we can find ways together.