

More Divorces In Shelby County During Tough Economy



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MEMPHIS, TN – At first, the bad economy actually kept couples together. But in the first three months of 2009, divorce rates in Shelby County are up more than ten percent, compared to the same time period in 2008.

Divorce Attorney Larry Rice says finances are just one factor when it comes to divorce.

“Marriages are like battleships. Very rarely do they sink with one hit.”

He says at first, the economy served as a life preserver. “When people are traumatized, they cling together. Those marriages that otherwise would’ve broken up stay together. The normal habituation rate to a changed environment is four to six months.” Rice says during that time many faltering marriages begin to sink.

In the first three months of 2009, 638 people have already filed for divorce in Shelby County. That’s compared to 577 during the first three months of 2008

“It’s the accumulation of stress, of damages that sinks it and finance can be a stress,” says Rice.

There are ways to fight that stress. Experts say the number one way is to be open with your spouse about finances. Set a budget and stick to it. If needed, seek guidance from an expert like a certified financial planner.

Another option is counseling. Many churches offer both counseling and money management courses.