

advertisement

1. Mortgage Type
Refinance

2. Select Your Current Rate
5.00% - 5.99%

3. Loan Type
30 year fixed rate

4. Loan Amount
300,000-\$624,999

5. ENTER ZIP CODE

FREE TO CALCULATE NEW PAYMENT

LowerMyBills.com

Wealth Blog

Finance Blogs » [Wealth](#) » [Celebrity divorce lessons](#)

Celebrity divorce lessons

By [Judy Martel](#) · Bankrate.com
 Monday, February 9, 2015
 Posted: 7 am ET

Like

Tweet

6

Share

Share +2 Share this on Google+

Pin it

Email

Celebrity divorces are hardly news, with so many high-profile couples deciding to call it quits. But they can provide some lessons for the [wealthy](#).



© DANNY MOLOSHOK/Reuters/Corbis

Comedian Chris Rock has allegedly filed for divorce from his wife, but the financial moral of the story is in the prenuptial agreement he signed in 1996. According to Investment News, even though the prenuptial was signed by both parties, Rock is claiming it is no longer valid.

Value of a prenup

Prenuptial agreements are considered an essential document to protect wealth or a business in the event of divorce. Kimberly Foss, president and founder of Empyrion Wealth Management in Sacramento, California, says it's just common sense and should be thought of as one of the practical tools in your financial plan, rather than a harbinger of potential doom.

Latest Blogs

- [RETIREMENT](#)
- [US trails in retirement security](#)
- [TAXES](#)
- [New IRS online tax pro directory](#)
- [INSURANCE](#)
- [Obamacare's hidden victories](#)
- [RETIREMENT](#)
- [Jean Chatzky: 5 Social Security tips](#)

Feb 10 : Obama Generously Gives Homeowners A Once In A Lifetime Mortgage Bailout

If you owe less than \$625,000 on your home, use Obama's Refi Program. The program is totally free and doesn't add any cost to your refi. The bad news is that it expires in 2015. You'll be shocked when you see how much you can save.

Pick Your Age:

18-25	46-55
26-35	56-65
36-45	66-75
Over 75	

Calculate New House Payment

LowerMyBills.com

advertisement
 Today's Top Stories

- [8 wacky, wonderful credit card rewards](#)
- [Self-employed? Here's how to get a mortgage](#)
- [What's the next big thing in elite credit cards?](#)
- [5 things your invite-only credit card gets you](#)
- [4 ways to bank your tax refund](#)

Overnight Averages

[About this index](#)

Product	Rate	+/-	Last week
30 yr fixed	3.85%		3.79%
15 yr fixed	2.98%		2.90%

"You buy insurance for your home and you don't expect your house to burn down. You buy life insurance and you don't expect to die. These are just policies that protect you so you can relax and enjoy your house and your life without worrying about what will happen if the worst-case scenarios - fire or death -- present themselves," she says.

"I look at a prenup the same way. It's just a simple, practical policy that protects both people in the event they divorce," she adds. Prenups can also be a part of the larger financial plan by outlining financial goals and investment strategies, Foss says.

The bottom line is that couples who marry without a prenup are taking a risk because they don't have a plan, she says. "With a prenup in place, you know what is likely to happen if the marriage dissolves. Without a prenup in place, what happens is totally up in the air."

Why prenups expire

So what about Rock's claim that his prenup is no longer valid? It depends on the way it was drafted, Foss says. There are a variety of reasons it might expire.

"Sometimes, prenups are written to expire and be renegotiated in 10 years, because it's impossible to foresee how your finances will change over the decades," she says. "It could be that the primary wage earner becomes unemployed. Children also complicate and change a couple's finances."

Foss adds that couples can also agree to revoke their prenup and create a new one to meet their changed circumstances. "Let's say one spouse inherits \$3 million from a great aunt with an unwritten understanding that the money will go to charitable work in the community," she says. "If the prenup originally called for all assets to be split upon a divorce, you'd want to revise it."

Even the rich and famous make mistakes when it comes to estate planning. Read more about some infamous [celebrity probate blowups](#).

Get more news, money-saving tips and expert advice by signing up for a [free Bankrate newsletter](#).

Related posts:

- 1. [High cost of a rich divorce](#)
- 2. [How divorce affects your taxes](#)
- 3. [Divorce insurance anyone?](#)
- 4. [Don't let divorce ruin retirement](#)
- 5. [Celebrity tax fireworks](#)

« Super Bowl players' big payday

Bankrate wants to hear from you and encourages comments. We ask that you stay on topic, respect other people's opinions, and avoid profanity, offensive statements, and illegal content. Please keep in mind that we reserve the right to (but are not obligated to) edit or delete your comments. Please avoid posting private or confidential information, and also keep in mind that anything you post may be disclosed, published, transmitted or reused.

By submitting a post, you agree to be bound by Bankrate's [terms of use](#). Please refer to Bankrate's [privacy policy](#) for more information regarding Bankrate's privacy practices.

1 Comment

EI

February 09, 2015 at 4:22 pm

Why does anyone think this little racist jerk is entertaining? His is the same tired old routine America has heard for decades



Add a comment

(Comments may take 5-10 minutes to appear)

Name (required)

E-mail (required)

5/1 ARM	3.40%	3.23%
View rates in your area:	<input type="text" value="Zip Code"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>

Bankrate's FREE Content Center

Get it!

Mortgage Calculator

Calculate your monthly mortgage payment.

Get it!

CD Rate Averages

Compare rates daily across CD & Investment products.

Get it!

Refinance Stories

Displays refinance-related stories and articles.

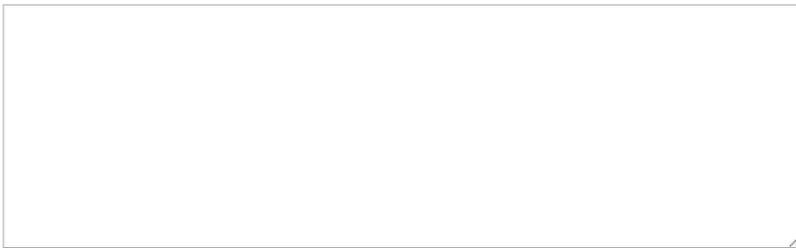
Contributors

View all contributors

Judy Martel is a Certified Financial Planner and the author of "The Dilemmas of Family Wealth." She was previously a senior editor at Bankrate.



- [Posts](#) | [E-mail](#) | [Bio](#)



Submit Comment

Compare Rates »

MORTGAGE RATES		HIGH YIELD CD AND MMA RATES		OTHER RATES	
30 year fixed	5/1 ARM (IO)	6 month CD	3 year jumbo CD	Home Equity	Checking
15 year fixed	30 year FHA	1 year CD	5 year IRA CD	Credit Cards	College Finance
5/1 ARM	30 year fixed refi	2 year CD	MMA's	Auto	Personal Loans
7/1 ARM	15 year fixed refi	3 year CD	See all CDs	Insurance	Credit Unions
30 year Jumbo	See all Mortgages	1 year Jumbo CD	See all MMA's	Local CDs	Local MMA's

Sponsored Ads

Advertisement

[Guy Photoshops Himself...](#) -- Guy photoshops himself w/ celebs. We can't stop laughing, you have to see this!
[Buzzle Gossip](#)

[25 Need-To-See Pics!](#) -- 25 Pics You Need To See Before You Kick The Bucket!
[Buzzle](#)

[Please Don't Retire at 62](#) -- Social Security: 5 Facts You Must Know
[Motley Fool](#)

[American Express—Savings](#) -- 0.90% APY With A High Yield Savings Account From American Express—Learn More
Now
[American Express](#)

[Special Offer: The Wall Street Journal](#) -- The new s you want. The insight you need. \$12 for 12 weeks. Subscribe today!
[Subscribe Today!](#)

advertisement



FEB 10: Obama Generously Gives Homeowners A Once In A Lifetime Mortgage Bailout

If you owe less than \$625,000 on your home, use Obama's once in a lifetime mortgage relief program. The program is totally free and doesn't add any cost to your refi. The bad news is that it expires in 2015. You'll be shocked when you see how much you can save. [Calculate New House Payment](#)

Click Your Age: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66-75 OVER 75

[Lawyer MyBills.com](#)

[About us](#) | [Advertise with Bankrate](#) | [Partners](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Investor Relations](#) | [Free Content Center](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile Apps](#)

Understanding Bankrate's rate averages

© 2015 Bankrate, Inc. All Rights Reserved. | [Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

Bankrate.com is an independent, advertising-supported publisher and comparison service. Bankrate may be compensated in exchange for featured placement of certain sponsored products and services, or your clicking on certain links posted on this website.

