

## IS LIFE BETTER AFTER BANKRUPTCY?

One hundred eighty four people speak out.



### **For most people, bankruptcy works.**

That's the headline news from a survey of 184 people who filed bankruptcy with the Law Office of Robert Weed in 2009 and 2008.

Answering questions, and adding written comments, these people told us that after bankruptcy:

- »» They slept better
- »» They rebuilt their credit
- »» They started saving
- »» They had peace of mind, and even
- »» One became a nicer person

They told us specifically:

- »» The annoying phone calls stopped
- »» The stress went away, and
- »» Life is better

Several people said it was the best decision they ever made. Two called it “a life saver.” One woman told us, “Even my kids are happier.”

Seventy five percent of the people said bankruptcy never came up in a way that embarrassed them in any way. More than nine out of ten people said their life was better after filing bankruptcy.

These survey results are the complete opposite of the fears people have, when they first think about filing bankruptcy. Instead of problems, people told us the stress ends, and a new life begins. The most common regret was that people waited too long before talking to a lawyer.

Here are the exact words of one woman who was so afraid to talk to a bankruptcy lawyer, and so happy once she did.

“Filing was the best solution for me and I wish I had done so a year earlier. I lost a job because I was pre-occupied with worries, I was denied job opportunities because of bad credit ratings. Rather than admitting my financial situation, I ended a very promising relationship!!!

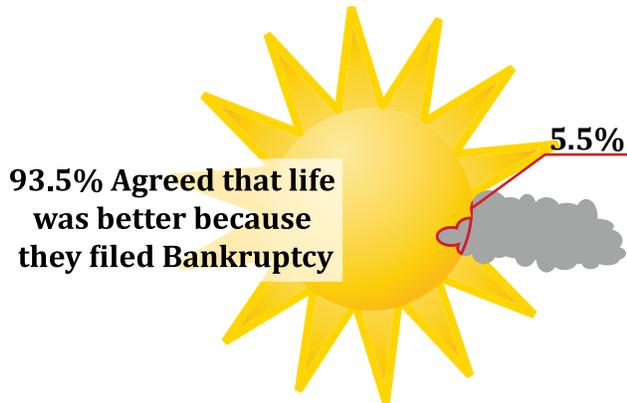
“At the advice of a trusted friend, I made an appointment to discuss my situation. I no longer felt like jumping off a bridge. I followed the instructions given and after the court date felt like a new person. Everybody at the Robert Weed Law offices treated me with respect.”

Danielle  
Survey No. 80  
Lives: Woodbridge  
Bankruptcy: Fall, 2009

The survey was done through SurveyMonkey.com from September to December, 2011. Here’s what people told us in detail.

# QUESTION:

Is your life better because you filed bankruptcy?



An overwhelming 93.5% of the people agreed that life was better because they filed bankruptcy.

In their written comments, they told us why, in their own words.

"Filing bankruptcy gives you a fresh start and can save your home and bring peace to your household. It was my last hope. I wish I would have done it much earlier."

Erik  
Survey No. 112  
Lives: Dale City  
Bankruptcy: Summer 2009

"Filing Bankruptcy helped me get past difficult times in my life. It was the best choice for a new start toward the future."

Jeff  
Survey No. 184  
Lives: Stafford  
Bankruptcy: Spring 2009

"Don't call anyone but Robert Weed! Saved my life and made the stress go away!!"

Susan  
Survey 172  
Lives: Manassas  
Bankruptcy: Spring 2008

"It has made a huge difference in giving me peace of mind. My credit was already ruined, and since I filed I have been able to re-establish my credit. I am living life again, not stressed and feeling hopeless."

Diana  
Survey No. 180  
Lives: Woodbridge  
Bankruptcy: Fall 2008

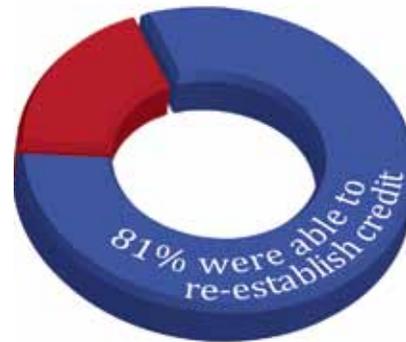
# QUESTION:

Since your bankruptcy was discharged, have you been able to re-establish credit?

Just over eight out of ten people (81%) told us that they had been able to re-establish credit after bankruptcy.

Not everyone gets back to good credit after bankruptcy. Establishing good credit after bankruptcy depends on many factors: Being able to hold a steady job in this tough economy; whether medical or other problems crop back up; and making wise choices.

But, most people told us their after bankruptcy credit was good. Here are two specific comments.



"Since bankruptcy I have a secured credit card at a low interest rate through my Credit Union, a \$1,000 loan at low interest rate to rebuild my credit and yesterday I purchased a new car at 6.9% interest! I am in such a good place and this has been a very humbling experience! My current credit score is 664 and going up :) Thank you so much for all you have done to improve my quality of life for my family and myself!"

Arthur  
Survey No: 23  
Lives: Leesburg  
Bankruptcy: Summer 2009

"There are many things to consider and Mr. Weed was not only an obviously experienced attorney but I felt he was compassionate as well. Although each bankruptcy differs, I can honestly tell you that through his guidance I've been able to get my credit score to a 690 average and I recently purchased a brand new automobile at 5.9 percent! AMAZING! Since my bankruptcy discharge 10/2009, my stress level is way down and the all around quality of my life has greatly improved."

Rodney  
Survey No. 138  
Lives: Leesburg  
Bankruptcy: Summer 2009

# QUESTION:

Since you received your “fresh start,” have you been able to start saving?

Two out of three people (65.7%) told us they have been able to start saving.



Two-Thirds of people have started saving

Sadly, many families drain their retirement savings before they talk to a bankruptcy lawyer. That makes it especially important to start saving again after bankruptcy.

“The decision to file bankruptcy was a difficult one for me to make. I felt guilty for not being able to meet all of my financial obligations, and I was worried about the social “stigma” I had always perceived there to be about it. However after I met with Mr. Weed and made the decision to file, the relief I felt was immediate. . . . Since then I’ve been able to save money, and have reestablished my credit.”

Sandra  
Survey 162  
Lives: Alexandria  
Bankruptcy: Winter 2009

People who have not yet begun to save, say the tough economy is the problem.

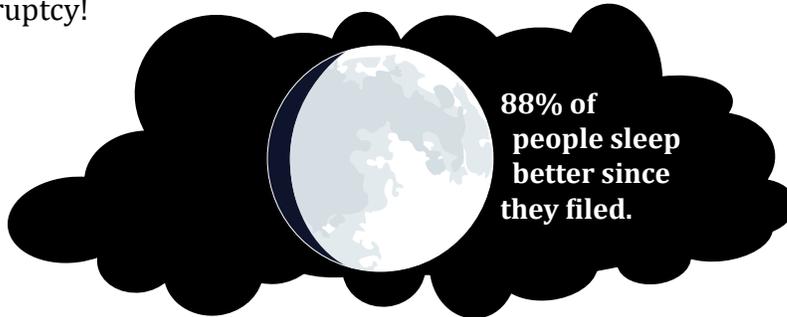
“I am doing better since the bankruptcy. I have not been able to put money in savings, simply because my job is very dependent on the economy, and lately that has not been going well. I am making better decisions.”

Kurt  
Survey No. 70  
Lives: Alexandria  
Bankruptcy: Summer 2009

# QUESTION:

Are you sleeping better than you did before you filed?

A remarkable 88.6% of the people found that they are sleeping better since they filed bankruptcy!



Financial stress leads to lack of sleep. Lack of sleep can mean poor performance at work and troubled relationships at home.

"The pressure, stress, lost sleep and guilt of handling my finances so poorly was having a serious affect on me - depression, fear, embarrassment."

Rae  
Survey No. 148  
Lives: Arlington  
Bankruptcy: Summer 2009

The health benefit of better sleep can be substantial. That's an unexpected positive result of bankruptcy. Bankruptcy stops the downward spiral of stress, lack of sleep, and poor functioning.

"I'm no longer stressed out all the time, I can sleep at night, and I'm just happier in general."

Allana  
Survey No. 162  
Lives: Alexandria  
Bankruptcy: Winter 2009

"We were very scared, but we decided to go forwards with our decision, and we are so glad that we did; now we can sleep well like normal people."

Darren & Naemi  
Survey No. 147  
Lives: Gainesville  
Bankruptcy: Spring 2008

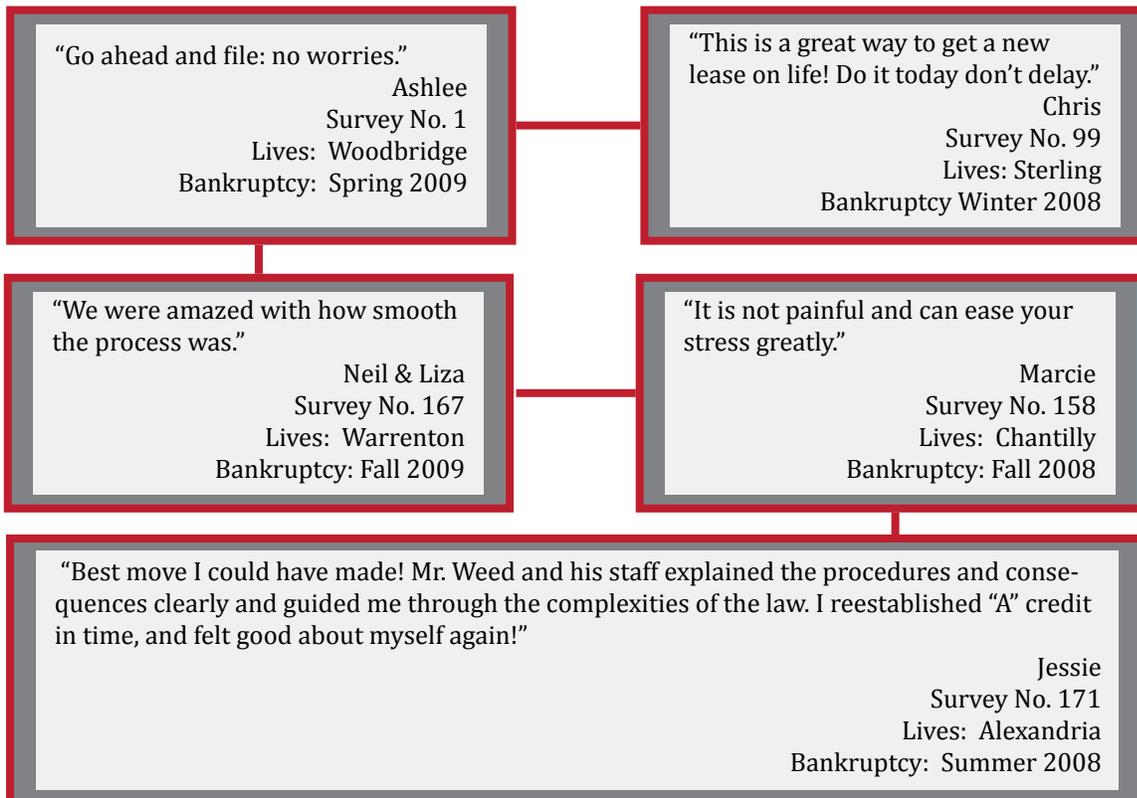
# QUESTION:

Has your bankruptcy come up in a way that embarrassed you in any way?

Fear of embarrassment is a big reason people shy away from bankruptcy. People expect it to be a painful process, but for most people, it's not. Seventy five percent told us bankruptcy never came up in a way that embarrassed them.



Instead, people told us the bankruptcy process was painless.



# QUESTION:

Are you glad you selected the Law Office of Robert Weed?

An almost unanimous 97.8% of those surveyed told us they were glad they selected the Law Office of Robert Weed. That's even higher than the number who said their life was better because they filed bankruptcy!

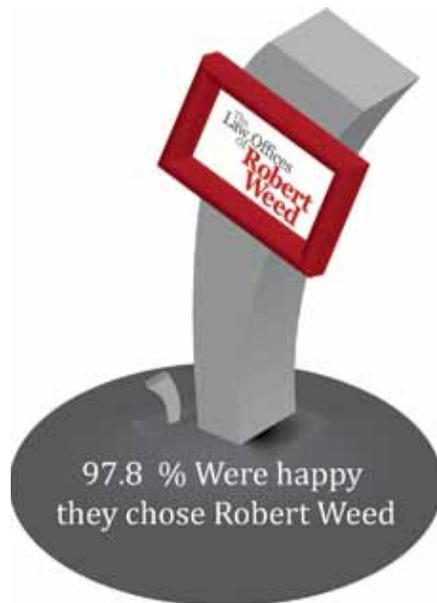
Jamie (Survey 129) said that "Mr. Weed and his staff were very patient and compassionate."  
Lillia (Survey 117) said "The staff is friendly, efficient, and extremely professional."

Alejandro (Survey 97) said "They had tremendous advice and really knew the law."

Clinton (Survey 65) called Robert Weed "very understanding."

Marylou (Survey 85) said, "Mr. Weed and his staff helped me every step of the way."

Edwin (Survey 98) said, "Great people to work with and always helpful."



# SUMMARY:

Matthew (Survey 47) summed up the feeling of many people in the survey, saying, "Do what you have to do to financially protect yourself and your family . . . I wish I had consulted Robert Weed sooner."

# A WORD FROM ROBERT WEED

I was very happy to get the results of this survey from SurveyMonkey.com. I'm glad my clients felt good about me and my team. But I was even happier that they felt good about themselves. I tell men and women every day, the purpose of bankruptcy is to help you.

I love being a bankruptcy lawyer, because I can help nearly every person who comes to see me.

Everyone's situation is different, but for most people, bankruptcy works. Please call us, if you want to find out if bankruptcy will work for you. Our number is **703-335-7793**. Or email me, **robertweed@robertweed.com**.

We'll spend lots of time with you to understand you and your situation in detail, and suggest the plan that's best for you and your family.

Do you need to take control of your life again? Then, I hope to see you soon.

## Note on Methodology

The surveys were anonymous, so the first names attached in this report are changed. They are from a random name generator, and do not necessarily reflect whether the respondent was male or female. The date of the bankruptcy and home towns of the respondents were provided by the survey methodology.

One of the verbatim responses in this report was translated from Spanish into English.

