



Together again: "It happened almost by accident," says Yvette Betancourt of starting a company with ex-husband Martyn Verster.

[SNAPSHOT] Return Engagement

NOT YOUR TYPICAL TURN OF EVENTS WHEN SPLITSVILLE BRINGS AN EX-COUPLE TO BEGIN A BUSINESS

BY MARK HENRICKS **AFTER YVETTE** Betancourt and Martyn Verster divorced and sold the transportation business they'd started, the last thing they expected was to grow another startup. But Betancourt, 36, decided to start a real estate title and escrow office. And Verster, 50, an attorney, had experience doing real estate legal work. "Though the marriage had not worked, the business had always worked," Betancourt says. So in August 2004, three years after ending their 13-year marriage,

they opened The Closing Company Title and Escrow Services in Miami. Today, the company employs six and 2005 revenues are projected at \$1 million.

Work is peaceful, despite the fact that they share two children and are each involved in new relationships. "The things that we argued about when we were married don't entirely disappear," says Betancourt, the firm's president. "But by facing the reality that the only things that matter are the business and the children, it's made everything easier."