

What to Ask a Prospective Professional Organizer

- ◇ **Are you trained?** Some Professional Organizers have studied the psychology behind disorganization, coaching, and working with certain populations. Many belong to the National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals, which requires three education courses before joining. Some members complete additional training to become a Certified Professional Organizer®. In addition, some Professional Organizers are members of the Institute for Challenging Disorganization, an educational association that disseminates information related to the organizing profession and working with particular clients. Unfortunately, many seemingly good organizers don't bother seeking any credentials or additional education.
- ◇ **What kinds of projects do you specialize in?** Some Professional Organizer work with the general population sorting and organizing closets, kitchens, and garages. Other organizers focus their work in specialty areas such as downsizing, photo organizing, or hoarding situations.
- ◇ **What does your typical work session look like?** If you are looking for an organizer to come in and do it for you, the organizer will bring or obtain containers and systems appropriate for your space and commence organizing without your input. Other organizers will want to find out more about you, then teach and coach you through finding the best systems, processes, and products necessary for helping you to maintain your spaces upon completion of your projects.
- ◇ **What and how do you charge?** Many Professional Organizers work on an hourly basis as every client is different and warrants an individual approach. Organizing products and hauling services would be additional. Some organizers may give you a set price for a project.
- ◇ **Can you provide references?** Ask for names and phone numbers of customers who have had projects similar to yours. You will want to know how the project turned out and if there were any limiting factors such as disabilities or health issues that may have affected how the projects were approached.