

## How Do I Find A Professional Organizer Who Is Right For Me?

*Below are some questions and ideas to consider when searching for a professional organizer who will fit your needs.*

### Assessment

Clarify your needs to help you find an organizer who is right for you.

- What kind of organizing help do you need? There is a wide range of organizing specialties. Some organizers specialize in residential or business organizing. Some organize papers while others orchestrate moves. Some organizers are generalists while others specialize in working with clients affected by chronic disorganization.
- What are your organizing challenges?
- Do you need assistance with a single, short-term project such as organizing a closet or filing system, or do you need help with a more complex long-term project and ongoing support such as organizing an entire household?
- Do you have the time and financial resources to invest in your organizing goals?
- Has organizing always been a challenge for you? If so, consider hiring an organizer that specializes in working with chronically disorganized clients.

### Contact

Pay attention to initial conversations, which can be indicators for the future success of your relationship.

- Did you find the organizer through a referral, an ad, a professional association, an article, or Internet search?
- When you first communicated with the organizer, were they responsive?
- Did they answer all of your questions?
- Did they understand your unique challenges and organizing goals?
- Was the organizer non-judgmental?
- Did you feel comfortable with them?
- Would you enjoy working with them?

### Availability

Be aware of the options. While organizers are client-focused and in a service industry, organizing businesses are structured differently with varying offerings.

- Are your schedules compatible?
- Can the organizer accommodate your scheduling preferences?
- Is the organizer available to begin or complete the work in your desired timeframe?

- Do you want to work with the organizer evenings or weekends? Is the organizer available then?

## Research

Explore further, which will enable you to make a more informed decision.

- Did you interview more than one organizer? Organizers have different personalities, business practices, and methodologies, so it might be beneficial to contact several organizers to compare the differences.
- Did you ask the organizer for references? If so, consider the type of work the organizer did with those clients and the longevity of the relationship. What insights did the client share?
- Does the organizer have a website? If so, did you review it to learn more about them and their business? What impressions did you have?

## Intuition

Let your insights help guide you.

- What does your inner voice tell you about the organizer?
- Were you able to communicate easily with the organizer?
- Did you feel hopeful or hopeless after talking with them?

## Education & Experience

Recognize that the level of the organizer's education and experience can affect your organizing success.

- What type of special education or training does the organizer have?
- How long have they been in business as an organizer?
- What did they do before they became an organizer?
- Do they continue to educate themselves on organizing issues and trends?
- Do they have resources such as other professionals, publications or products that they will share with you?
- Do they belong to any professional organizing associations such as ICD? The more involved the organizer is with their industry, the more value they can offer to the client.

There are thousands of organizers in the world, and each is as unique as the clients they serve. Like you, organizers want the relationship to be successful. If they are not well suited for you, they should be able to refer you to another organizer who can better meet your needs. By considering some of these questions, you can find the organizer who is the right fit for you.