

**Re-Issue**

## **Residents: Ultimate Home Project Managers**

### **[Significance Of Managing Home Affairs Well]**

**\*References Appear At The End Of This Guide**

#### **Preview**

In this guide, we are emphasizing the inescapable fact that in the moment we take possession of the dwelling, we have the inherent accountability for managing it well. This responsibility is often extended to the surrounding plot or acreage on which it rests.

Subsequently, when we consider enlisting contractor support for our home projects, we are inadvertently anticipating conditions for more responsibility toward decision-making. How we manage this is largely dependent on our frame of priorities. Do we think if applicants are licensed that we need to look no farther? Or if adequately skilled, that should suffice for hiring? If the person has small children, is this indicative of a reliable, honest, caring professional?

#### **Focus**

We may want to consider our focus. Traditionally, management of the home project was left in the hands of the people hired to engage the actual physical aspects of the projects: residential contractors or those who are selected and hired to maintain and improve residential properties. Of course, when we normally think in terms of home improvement, many of us do not consider the fact that our projects, in most cases, must be adequately managed from “within.” In other words, the best way to ensure we get our money’s worth (or more) from those we opt to hire is for us to have intact protocol to that effect. No doubt, it is crucial that we have a standard procedure firmly in place for researching contractors for our own protection. It has to be a working set of *house rules* for guiding our decision-making.

Most importantly, we must follow it to enforce our priorities for making best decisions. It is not enough to *only have* reasonable precautions in place. For them to be effective it is most important for us to regularly *implement* them. A truism: No matter how simple or elaborate our system of making only the best choices, when we fail to proactively apply it, this is the equivalent to the *absence* of one. For sure, we do well to nurture focus on enforcing our home priorities.

### **Conscientious Acceptance Of Management Role**

Is this adage familiar? “*The more things change, the more they remain the same?*”

That is as much profound as it is true in a great deal of situations. Although our access to information is greater than ever, very few take advantage of this practically limitless supply. Yet it is true that the most successful individuals in our society are those who tap into this vast resource of easily accessible information for continually accomplishing objectives. Unfortunately, as has always been the case, most individuals settle into a *comfort zone* and remain there for the balance of our lives. We refuse to change or upgrade our perspectives for making better decisions for our home setting and living better lives.

Invariably, this is true with most private home heads about managing our home. We are so focused on *running* our households that we apparently think we are inherently *expert* at enlisting contractor support. But we are not. Being *head-of-household* has never been comparable to automatically making the *best decisions*. This is especially so when we consider hiring contractors. Hiring contractors is a managerial function. But we may want to ask ourselves:

*How can we manage hiring well when, in this regard, we are not managing our thoughts well?*

We are not just heads-of-household – We are the manager. We are responsible for the outcome of every decision we make. If we continue hiring based on solely *good impressions* (which is paramount in most documented cases of contractor improprieties), many of us will continue experiencing *bad results*. Subsequently, irrespective of how much we strive to get excellent results, when there is no authentic change in *excellence* of our thinking, we are invariably only promoting different episodes of the same nature of contractor- related disappointment others have experienced. This can be regarded as a form of *relative insanity*.

Famed scientist Professor Albert Einstein is noted for these practical words of wisdom in this regard:

“... *Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting ‘different’ results.*”

That simply means that when we continue doing all the same things which have left many private home heads dejected from contractor betrayal, it is absolutely absurd to think the outcomes for *ourselves* will be different. That is the crux of the matter. Going into anything blind is not necessarily an *insightful* thing to do. In this view, we may want to reassess our thinking, especially when anticipating contractor assistance. This begins with our openly acknowledging the fact that we are *the manager* of the dwelling and that it is *our* responsibility to manage well.

### **Manage Our Thoughts & Actions Well - Plan Ahead**

Evidently, managing our thoughts and actions well is relative to our ensuring that we have a well-crafted system in place for selecting and hiring contractors. How are we going to make the right choice? Which parameters should we have for being certain we are making the wisest possible decision? When our thinking is along these lines, we have only to accommodate it with working out the details. These are managerial preparations we make and have firmly in place *prior to* actually connecting with them.

### **Be Certain To Stay In Control**

The advanced preparations we make incorporating *the standard* for hiring contractors can also include not doing what many residents have later regretted: Turning all related operations over to a contract firm or individual contractors and releasing advance funds. More distinctly, after conceptualizing what we needed done around our homes, without having a working system for first validating their competence and reliability, we made hiring decisions. What is worse, we made “start-up” disbursements, and were humbly certain to *stay out of the way*.

Foul! This is a big mistake because under the circumstances, we have negligently relinquished all control for the project. Although, it is granted that we were the source for the funds, ultimately, the one who has most control over the project is the one with the most control over the funds. Better yet, the one with the most control over the project is the one with the most control over how much will be spent, when it will be spent, and for what. In this case, it was now the contractor.

### **Escapism – A Leading Reason For Relinquishing Control**

A leading reason many residents avoid first devoting necessary time for an in depth reputation check (service validation) on contractors is that we would much rather avoid the *hassle*. It is much less thought-provoking to settle for the *impression*. Actually this is voluntary managerial neglect for ensuring our hiring decision is a wise one. This is a very serious form of *escapism*. Outside the home setting, are we employers or other key personnel with authority to hire talent? Why do we do it? Certainly, there is some sort of mandatory protocol.

Frankly, do we hire candidates or authorize hiring for any special recreational reasons? Do we do this because it makes us look good? Do we consent to hiring because we love giving jobs to people who are needy? Why do we hire extra talent? We do it to enhance the positive values of operations. It is hardly likely we will have made that decision without first doing a very careful background check. We have turned away quite a few *impressive* candidates because through our reputation check on them we found they were *unimpressively* dishonest.

Now, as for our home project. Who ordered it? We or the contractor? Answer implied! Therefore, this is a project where the nature of results is defined by us. But to get them consistent with our expectations, it is important to *pop-in* occasionally to monitor and *manage* progress. That is *our job*. In this view, it is strongly suggested that, before this project is underway, that we exercise our managerial prerogative and responsibility for having *the standard*.

We Are The Ultimate Home Project Managers!

## ***HOME IS THE BEST WONDER OF THE WORLD!***

*\*Edited with special assistance from D. Madden*

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## **HELPFUL REFERENCES**

Please download “Residents – Ultimate Home Project Managers” and learn more about customizing priorities for being an even better home manager in resident-contractor relations! Share the link!

[\*\*ACCESS!\*\*](#)

