

First Issue

Why Our Home Is “Also” A Business Organization

*References Appear At End Of This Guide

Preview

Foremost, we can expect the word “business” to be used very, very often in this homeowner’s guide. Afterall, this is what it is all about. So with that in mind, here is an interesting question: have we ever considered that besides home being our central abode, that it is also a bona fide business? Usually, when we hear something like “ They own a business,” we normally envision people running some sort of enterprise disassociated from the home setting. Often we may have the concept that business means doing something to make money. Although this is often true, earning a living by offering services and products *is not* the sole essence of the meaning. Let us be practical about this.

We can start by not allowing our sense for making reasonable judgment to be dictated by common descriptions which have absolutely nothing to do with juggling all the things we have to do around the house. We may not want to turn to a dictionary or search online: “Business – definition.”

Here is what was found online when “Business – definition” was entered:

“A business is defined as an organization or enterprising entity engaged in commercial, industrial, or professional activities .” (Google, 9/4/2021).

On sight, for quite a few, this is a “true” definition of the word. Unfortunately, this can handicap our ability to evaluate its authentic nature or underlying function. That is to say, for example, when we are told that our home is *also* a business, some recoil at the thought:

“What?! No-No-No-No! Home’s where we live – unless we’re talking about a *home business*.”

Naturally there are similar reactions since we are regularly indoctrinated to the effect that there is a universal fundamental difference between the environment of the home and that of what we customarily regard "business."

In this homeowner's guide, we are going to "get down to basics." Here we will see, although there are some distinctions, there are marked practices which are indisputably - identical.

Getting Down To Business

Let us first establish what is generally regarded core practices for successful concerns in the "business world." Then we can make sensible comparisons to prove how and why our home is also a legitimate business operation.

The popular business website, Investopedia, lists a number of priorities which are vital to implement in order to ensure the best possible success. Here, when "success" is mentioned, we are referring to ways and means we use for being certain everything works toward our best interest. Here is an excerpt:

To achieve business success you need to be organized. It will help you complete tasks and stay on top of things to be done. A good way to be organized is to create a to-do list each day. As you complete each item, check it off your list. This will ensure that you're not forgetting anything and completing all the tasks that are essential to the survival of your business.

From "How To Grow A Successful Business," Investopedia, 9/1/2021

This is how the article opens, under the subheading "Organization." It is the first on a list of nine essential items which are recommended to be in place as insurance against failing the "purpose" of the business. Yet as we read on we catch familiar elements we use at home as to "complete tasks (chores)" in order to "stay on top of things." We do these according to our "to-do list." Whether physically or mentally, as each is done, we "check it off." We work towards "completing all the tasks/chores that are essential to the survival/stability of *our* business/home."

Here, we lay the framework for where we live to be as manageable as possible. This is our main objective for having house rules. They are designed around the concept of creating and maintaining an environment most suitable to our most cherished desire and necessity for contentment. Whatever the nature of this targeted satisfaction - all a matter of whatever we choose. Subsequently, in order for this to be realized on a daily basis, it must be just as often supported and sustained. What we do or how we operate is our measure (as it is for any other entity) for actively staying on track to ensure our objectives and guidelines are adhered to. This is as true around the house as it is with any other business. The priorities: thrive and survive.

Main Objective On The Overall

Also like traditional businesses (those outside the home), there are things we hope to accomplish. There are always more than a few things we know must be done in order to maintain an environment suitable to how we choose to live. In the standard retail organization this is otherwise translated: doing what must be done to support its reason for having the business in the first place. However, in both cases, we do what we believe is necessary to guarantee the greatest degree of fulfillment.

Focus On The Home Setting

Since our primary attention is on the business-factor of our household, we may want to place more emphasis here. Have we ever sat back and deeply considered all the things which need to be done in our dwelling? If we were to list every detail this could prove quite mind-boggling. But for simplification, let us consider but a few of the basics:

- * **Ongoing Bills** (mortgage, property taxes, homeowner’s insurance, mortgage insurance, utilities, et al)

- * **Acquired Bills** (interior/exterior,home maintenance, improvements, refurbishments,

- * **Chores** (house cleaning, garbage disposal, dishwashing, DIY maintenance, decluttering, guest and visitor control, “pet things,” etc).

These are among the three most major concerns. If we sat around waiting for them to get done – that will not happen – unless we have someone else do it. We start with those who are also part of the household. Normally we develop house rules around that. Who will do what – and when are they expected to do it? Our expectation is that everyone who is or becomes able pitches in. Why? The reason is that it is our home and this is a way we show our appreciation for not just where we live but for each other. When we do things to help out, regardless of what our initial feelings are to avoid it, we feel better about ourselves and where we live. And of course, when it comes to the garbage and bathrooms being well attended as well – breathe a lot better. We feel great! But it is a cycle. Yet the more we do whatever it is we have, the more “expert” we become. That includes “hopping to” home chores against our stubbornness to avoid them – until some later time. But, of course, procrastination hardly ever works to our advantage. A great technique, practically fail-proof, is to organize our time around ensuring we “just do it” according to plan – regardless a tendency we can often have to delay.

A Moment For Home-Related Priorities

It is plausible that we will agree that there are more than enough things to do around the home. We mentioned a few earlier in this guide. But of all we have "on our plate," as far as the house is concerned, which is most important?:

- a. Keeping our home?
- b. Paying our bills on time?
- c. Being certain the home service personnel (such as contractors) we hire can and will deliver?
- d. Maintaining and improving our living situation?

Inescapably, the consensus on which item is most critical: "a. " – Keeping our home. Immediately following is very likely "b." – Paying our bills on time. In the average household these two are the MOST essential. If not for successfully addressing these, quite probably, we would have no physical dwelling to maintain, nor cause for improving. Let alone having any need for electricians, carpenters, handypersons, appliance or other installers, etc.

Essentially, in order to remain where we are, we have to be ready to meet related financial requirements on schedule. In effect, we *organize* our time to have funds ready by a specific date. Whether we are working or not, we must be fully prepared on a continuing basis to meet these deadlines. What happens if we do not meet them? In the event, we face a slew of consequences among which can entail losing the home.

In short, we are *literally driven* to meet the schedule for paying the mortgage and related bills to allay forfeiting our right to be there. Yet, when we earnestly take a closer view of this passion we have for being punctual about meeting our bills, this can also be interpreted as doing our best to avoid negative consequences. We succeed getting it done each time because we have developed working system. We have *arranged* the effort in such a way as to enable us to get the required results: another chance to keep the house. That is obviously accompanied by a wholesome sense of pride and accomplishment. However, we can also call this another fruit of our *organizational* skills!

Organization Revisited

No doubt, when we consistently pay bills before or as they are due, this is a manifestation of being well organized. But little we may think of all the other things we may have done in relation which inevitably resulted in averting negative ramifications.

Among other activities we may have also initiated before paying our bills are checking with our financial institution for funds availability, confirming we had enough, being certain we did not have to raise more money, or having to bolster funds to match the debt, working overtime/two jobs, etc...

Whatever the case, as they may apply, we do a number of things in self-prescribed sequence before arriving at actually making full payment. Taken by itself, all which we have done to get to that point are “operations.” Likewise are all the things we do around the home which must be done.

Our home is notably a “social entity.” There are chores/jobs. Each has its own set of requirements: one for timing, the other for doing it correctly. Garbage, laundry, cleaning, “pet things,” car wash, cooking, general help around the house, etc.... Each an operation in itself. These are best done at certain times. But which should be done when? What if we just let everything which makes home comfortably more livable go unattended? Then, colloquially speaking, it would be a foul-smelling “dump.” Even more poignant – a flophouse. That is a place where people just sleep and do not have to do anything else. They do not “live” there. There is no obligation to do anything but leave on time. Is this what we want our home to resemble? Definitely not. This is the reason we have house rules – whether for our family members, guests, or ourselves, alone.

Home: Bona Fide “Social Business Organization”

When we look around to see all which has to be done, we are sensible enough to realize that they cannot be achieved at once. In effect, the most reasonable choice may be to split these into groups. Which should be tackled on what days? When should the Christmas lights be strung outside? How often should the refrigerator be cleaned? When should we mow the lawn? Who can we trust to replace the gutters? When? Ironically, many of these things are already deeply ingrained in our home *policies*. Why? The reason is that they have proven to be in the best interests of this remarkable place of ours.

As we continue designating to certain periods special attention to one chore or home need after another, we are obviously engaged in “organizational operations.” Technically, we are doing nothing different from other business establishments. That is to say, as the basis of their performance is to navigate and successfully overcome challenges to the company’s integrity, stability and contentment – so is it ours. However, when it comes to the *specific nature of purpose* for existence, ours is *socially personal*, theirs -- *publicly impersonal*.

Summary

According to **Merriam-Webster**, the term *organization* is dissected into three parts:

1. a company, business, club, etc., that is formed for a particular purpose.
2. the act or process of putting the different parts of something in a certain order so that they can be found or used easily.
3. the act or process of planning and arranging the different parts of an event or activity.

Our focus is to re-phrase:

1. - a business that is possessed for particular *purposes*: to own a home, enjoy personal privacy which comes with that, and to continually works toward it thriving towards being an even more glorious place to be.
2. - the act or process of placing and keeping items in certain locations around the home where they can be easily accessed.
- 3.- the act or process of planning and arranging things for special events or activities at home and elsewhere.

Notice the parallel with a *domestic twist*. Although we may not openly say:

“Our home is really a business *social business organization* in disguise,” functionally, that is exactly what it is. We may want to keep that in focus whenever we are dealing with home service visitors (such as contractors) who expect us to trust them at their word. Chances are that whatever they say may be worthless. We may want to incorporate more of a “business mode” each time. This can be especially useful for strange contractors (a faction of building trades persons) working in home improvement. Maybe we can hand them an application to fill out, FIRST (see “Helpful References, below).

HGRBS offers online a free application form to download. It is specifically created for contractors not known for doing great work in the community. We may want to know as much as we possibly can about them before any serious consideration is given them for hiring. It is a matter of ethics. After all, it is standard practice for most successful businesses.

HOME IS THE BEST WONDER OF THE WORLD!

**Edited with special assistance from D. Madden*

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Helpful References

SERVICE VALIDATION FORM (Contractor's Application For Work)

Mandatory Contractor Application Page 1 of 2

Note: Contractor Is Required To Complete This Application Off-Premises
And To Return It On Mutually Agreed Date And Time.

**SERVICE VALIDATION
APPLICATION**

All Information Must Be VALIDATED Prior To Further Project Discussion

1. Date _____ 2. County Work Is To Be Performed _____
3. Contractor's License/Registration# _____ 4. Issuing County _____
5. Issuing State _____ 6. Date Issued _____ 7. Date Expires _____
8. Full Name of Contract Firm/Contractor _____
9. County _____ 10. Address _____
11. City _____ 12. State _____ Zip Code _____

14. On this document the term "Contractor" / "Principal" / or the phrase "Principal Contractor" refers to person who is authorized to bid for this work and to take full responsibility for commencing, performing, and completing specific to expectations of homeowner or duly authorized tenant, and to be held liable for any resulting damages or unanticipated expenditures relative to the contract.

15. Principal's Legal Name _____ (whether Self or Contract Firm)
16. Position with Contract Firm _____ 17. Bond Company _____
18. Principal's Landline Area Code & Phone# () _____ est _____
19. Principal's Wireless Area Code & Phone# () _____ est _____
20. Firm's E-mail _____
21. Work Sought (Please, clearly specify): _____

Below Section Completed (ONLY After This Application Is Returned Properly Filled In By Contractor)
By signing this document, I, the Principal/Lead General Contractor, gives the undersigned resident my full authorization to contact government agencies, related personal references, and other sources to verify any and all information I have entered here or have otherwise conveyed to undersigned resident.

Principal's Signature _____
Resident's Signature _____

ACCESS

*The private home setting is a social business organization. An intact application process for contractors serves to remind residents that our homes are legitimate business operations. In turn, we are reminded, like commercial businesses, we should take special care to ensure that those we hire are the right fit for our organizational objectives. The application process is the beginning for accessing this vital information. [HGRBS]

Other Links

How To Grow A Successful Business - Investopedia

<https://www.investopedia.com/articles/pf/08/make-money-in-business.asp>

Understanding The Basics of Business – Small Business BC

<https://smallbusinessbc.ca/article/understanding-basics-business/>

10 Expenses of Homeownership – The Ascent – A Motley Fool Service

<https://www.fool.com/the-ascent/mortgages/expenses-of-home-ownership/>

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