

4 Crucial Phases To Effective Contractor Screening

[Simplifying Phases For Implementing The “Home Service Validation System”]

LEARNING PARAMETERS FOR RETURNED PAPERWORK

(Phase 2)

[4 Crucial Steps To Effective Contractor Screening]

Preview

In this moment, we are considering the second crucial phase for bolstering our potentials towards making the safest and wisest decisions about contractor candidates. In Phase 1, as you recall, we considered the importance of being ready, willing, and able to present the contractor with paperwork to fill out. Of course, in an age where tablets are widely used, it may serve us well to consider the fact that there are times when good old fashioned paperwork is the best, most reliable means for recording information and taking unhindered research notes. But as it is with anything else in this world, there is a time for one thing, then for another. There is a time for using tablets, a time for laptops, a time for desktops, and a time for good old fashioned paperwork. And, it is granted that these are often used interchangeably. Yet for obtaining the best possible results towards what we would like to achieve, we may want to discover the best mix which will and does work best for us.

Nevertheless, here we are considering paperwork of the “SERVICE VALIDATION FORM” which is used for gathering essential information from contractor candidates and devoting time required to validate every single thing. Therefore, here in Phase 2 we may want to focus on the paperwork. We will variously refer to the “SERVICE VALIDATION FORM” as “the form” and the “screening document.” Most importantly, it may be helpful to bear in mind that in the process of considering use of the “the form,” it can serve us well to also include *residential references*.

Residential References In Relation To The Form

This is also a very significant part of the system. The system does not only require contractor candidates to fill out our screening documents *clearly and completely*, but also requires them to submit these WITH *residential references from five different residents* for whom the contractor *claims to have done* the same or similar work. This is significant in that, we can run a complete check on all the information a contractor enters in our screening document, and we may find that the contractor is *bonded, insured, and aptly licensed or registered*, but without getting feedback from reputable residential references, we ONLY know about the contractor’s credentials. Yet credentials alone do not establish a contractor’s *productive and relational demeanor* with other residents for whom the contractor says he has done the same or similar work.

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Although the contractor’s credentials are very important, it is not to our advantage to settle on that factor alone for making our decisions. He must have *favorable references*. These are residents with whom we can actually communicate. The means of contact could be by *email, phone, or personally*. And for emphasis, this has to be relative to the contractor doing the *same or similar nature of work*. We may want to also consider the *volume/size* of that work since replacing a few shingles is not quite the same as replacing an entire roof. Or, a reference for the contractor *mowing the lawn or hanging a door* when our project entails *refurbishing/renovating a garage or repairing our driveways*, are not realistic or practical qualifiers.

The nature of references we require are from those residents (just like us) for whom contractors claim to have done the same or similar work...not references from others which really have no bearing on the nature of project we need accomplished. In this view, we may want to bear that in mind when we think of contractors returning our screening documents. And, to reiterate, it is not *just the screening document* we expect contractor candidates to submit to our attention, but also the essential *residential references*. Additionally, it is not advisable to accept or otherwise hold on to the form pending contractors’ returning with the residential references they should have had with the form. It is a deviation from what they were required to bring back with them.

***Best Suggestion:** *Under these latter circumstances, do not accept the form. Cancel the meeting and reschedule it for a later date when contractors will have both to bring. However, we may not want to promise “holding a spot” for them. Do not wait on contractors to produce residential references they should have had when they returned with the form.*

***Emphasis:** It is a major requirement of the system for contractors to return the form WITH those five (5) recent residential references. It follows that if a contractor does not have these along with the fully completed form, then it is supposed that he does not have any credible references and needs more time to *fabricate* them. However, we would much rather have a *residentially tried, proven, and confirmed* contractor in relation to what we have available than to have a *residentially unproven and unconfirmed* one.

In short, the five (5) residential references are highly essential ingredients for our *validating* the contractor’s *personal and productive reputation*. Please take special note of that.

Contractor Returns The Form

The contractor returns to us the screening document. Quite amazingly, it is 100% filled in and easy to read. Of course, all inclusive with that is the five (5) recent residential references consistent with our requirements. Bravo.

All seems to be in order. But according our system, it is recommended that we do not settle for this alone as a basis for our decision. Instead, we can kindly thank him for dropping off the information, and promise to get back to him on the following day or at some later time.

But, what if he is short on the entries? What if the form is not completely filled out? Or what if he is unable to produce the five (5) recent residential references? Maybe the other contractors can. Why not wait until all the other contractors return their forms along with their references?

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Maybe, we will have to do it all over again for five(5) different contractors. Maybe not. But it may be important for us to always be ready to start all over again for better people since all the contractors we first considered may be unsuitable for what we have in mind.

Reinforcing Our Personal Standards

As we see, there is quite a bit more entailed in the *validating process* than solely paperwork and the references. Foremost, these include our personal standards for hiring the most suitable contractors trained in what we need done who have reliable residential references we KNOW about. These standards we have and those we incorporate to conduct our affairs as near as possible to the given recommendations of the system, enable us to be far more likely to be better prepared and more successful authorizing contractor support for our home projects. Who knows, maybe out of the five (5) contractors recommended for us to interview, only one will score 100% on all points. Perhaps all the information he entered in our screening document will check out, and so will all the recommended references. There may be only three (3), instead of five (5). But that could be more than what the other contractors produced ... if any. Then, we make our BEST decision.

Our premise is that the system is only a fundamental guide for practicing/resorting to *personal standards* towards honing the safest possible protocol against being defrauded. This system is specifically engineered, taking into consideration and incorporating a wide variety of related and credible sources which actually increase our capabilities for controlling the outcomes of each and every one our home projects. The reason is that, when followed (leaving room for adjustments), although it does not eliminate all margins for error, it drastically reduces them.

The System “Perfect Enough”

Since we are human, and by that virtue, incapable of creating *perfect* systems, we often can and do create those which are functionally *perfect enough* for what we would like to accomplish. We are not able to create perfect motor vehicles, boats, jets, and space shuttles, yet, on the overall, we have created them perfect enough to accomplish our objectives.

*The same is applicable to the system. It is not, by itself perfect, but it is *perfect enough* as a strategic tool which we can *use* as well as *customize* to produce comparable results most suitable towards accomplishing our hiring objectives within the limitations of its imperfections.

A great comparison for us to *the system* is something as elementary as a *bicycle*. By itself, that is *all* it is. In order for it to be useful to us, it is important that it is in ride-able condition. If it is not, but we need it to be, depending on our level of familiarity, we work on it until it is suitable enough for us to ride. But we have to know how. If we do not and we really want to learn, *we will*.

If on the other hand we can, we just hop on and ride! Yet not only that, but we *make* the bike do all sorts of things consistent with what *we are able to make it do*. Still neither we nor bikes are perfect, but for what we need to accomplish, we treat them in such ways so as to cause them operate *perfect enough* to enable us to do what is within our abilities.

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Likewise, the system is not perfect, but it is designed as a bike in that it has a *special function* and *relative potential* to be made to do things consistent with its design and more! We are in the perfect position to make it work perfectly enough to establish and maintain the sort of insight and leverage we require to control the outcome of each and every one of our home projects!

Summary

As we near the end of this personal guide, we may want to also consider a very significant *law* about success and failure with our contractor-related home maintenance and improvement projects. These are summarized in the *Universal Law of Home Project Success & Failure*:

“ *The leading reason for most successful contract-related home projects is that residents do thorough enough service validations on contractors; the leading reason for most unsuccessful contract-related home projects is that residents ‘do not do’ thorough enough service validations on contractors.*”

The system represents the *leading reason for most successful contract-related home projects* in OUR lives. This is accomplished through proactively encouraging contractors towards filling out and returning our screening documents, and handing over to us those residential references for *validation*. This enables us to access the information we need for doing thorough enough research/service validations them.

Looking Ahead To PHASE 3

In our third crucial phase of this tricky business of contractor validations **“*The Necessity Of Delay Pending Full Research,*”** it can be exceptionally advantageous for us to be especially attentive to *validating* all information contractors entered in our screening documents along with all five (5) residential references for whom contractors claim to have *recently* done the same or similar work.

It is important for us not to skip a single beat. Also, when we do not have the time to perform the *service validation* on the contractors ourselves, it is strongly recommended that we *delegate*. This is especially so if we are *seniors with home care assistance* or if we have *ombudsmen* to represent our interests. In such cases, we can make this part of the *job description*.

We may want to seriously consider incorporating a priority for delegation of this task as part of our back up system. The reason is that there are times when something or another pops up and we are not able to do certain other things on our list of priorities (and our latest project may be one of them). We can perhaps line up our backup people just in case. They can be trusted friends, associates, or even our own children who are old enough, aptly educated, and sufficiently savvy to *properly validate* contractor candidates.

This is no social affair. Our home projects are *business operations*. They are *business operations* within the *total business operations of our homes, consistent with our requirements towards maximizing our comforts and conveniences*.

Homeowner's Guide USA – Phase 2 – Learning Parameters For Returned Paperwork
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Conclusively, we have a business to run. But, it becomes very difficult to impossible to do if for some reason or another we become sympathetic about enforcing the requirements of the contractor screening system we have opted to use. Time and again it is proven that in order to successfully manage and regulate the operations of any business, we must have effective hiring protocol.

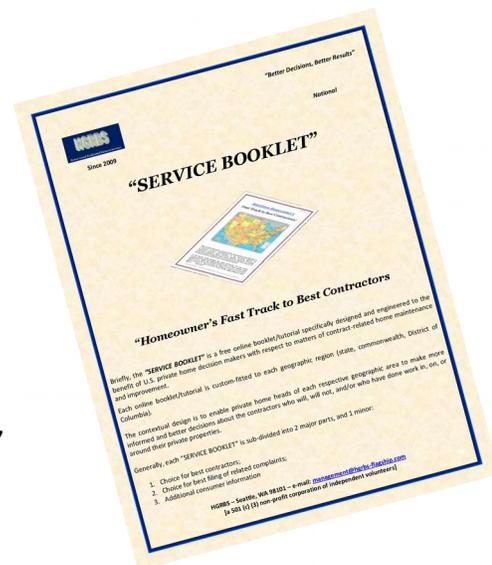
Although contractors are not employees, they are nonetheless expected to be honest, courteous, trustworthy, and productive within expectations. Hence, the most successful businesses have a reliable screening process. That normally requires quite a bit longer than 48 hours. Invariably, our responsibilities for effectively managing and operating the business of the home should be no different. Contractors must fill out the paperwork. The paperwork must be “run.” We must know whom and what they are, and if whether or not they are worth it. Bottom line.

The system offers us better than an opportunity to be that kind of enforcer. We may not want to be so careless as to entertain the premise of these guides being only for *learning*. Instead they are based on *learning in order to enforce and reinforce what we are learning through conscientious implementation*. It is only when we do these things *each time* the situation warrants, that we are sincerely self-empowered and guided towards making the best possible decisions, for the best possible contractors, and getting the best possible results. WE VALIDATE!

Here is a most essential tool we can use for that edge: the The HGRBS Service Booklet!

The "SERVICE BOOKLET" for Your Geographic Area Contains Strategic Tips Along with Special Hyperlinks to Crucial Private and Government Offices. The Hyperlinks Are Also Instrumental In Providing You with Accurate, Up-to-Date Data to Enable You to "Validate" the Legal Status of Contractors Who Want to Work in Your Home/On Your Property, in Your Respective Area. There Are Also Useful Tips for Dispute Resolution, and Other Resident-Friendly Information.

<https://www.american-homeowners-fast-track.org/service-booklet.php>



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