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1. VARYING DEFINITIONS OF HOARDING:

- A Public or Popular Definition _____
- Television Definition of a Hoarding _____
- Professional Organizer's Definition _____
- Public Health Definition _____
- A Landlord's Definition _____
- Desperate Family Member's Definition _____
- Individual with the Hoarding Problem _____
- A Child's Perspective about Hoarding _____

WHAT'S YOUR DEFINITION?

2. WHAT DETERMINES "DELICACY" IN THIS POPULATION?

- A. Mental: _____
- B. Physical Health and Well Being: _____
- C. Financial Impact: _____
- D. Trauma: _____
- E. Lack of Trust: _____



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3. OTHER SUB-FACTORS

- Major depressive disorder
- Bipolar disorder / mania
- Anxiety disorder
- Obsessive / compulsive disorder
- ADHD
- Sexual dysfunction
- Eating disorder
- Panic disorder
- Phobias
- Schizophrenia
- Delusional thinking
- Suicidal thoughts or actions*

4. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

1. Determine your definition of hoarding and which population you are representing: _____
2. Be direct and clear to all those involved - for whom you are conducting the intervention: _____
3. Get a clear distinction of what the delicacies of your client are around this project: _____
4. Understand for yourself which of the disorders / consequences are not a fit for you (i.e. are you prepared to work closely with someone who has suicidal tendencies?): _____
5. Set up for your own personal support system, physical and mental health care: _____
6. Finally Say yes. _____



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5. OTHER CRITERIA TO CONSIDER:

- Timing (are there Eviction deadlines or child protective services deadlines)
- Public Health Hazard (is your client facing fines and prosecution by city officials)
- Limited Alternatives (look there is just no other answer – this is it!)
- What's the Level of Pain Endured by Family (both in and out of the home)
- Availability of Support for our client (can we get the proper teams to help)
- Another Financial Aspect - (are there financial resources to pay for such a venture)
- Mental Health (how many people's mental health will improve health by this intervention)?
- Is this a question of Critical Choice (this is not just about the individual who hoards but the critical masses – children, animals, family, neighbors, communities, public health system)
- Legal Ramifications – Will jail time be served if this is not handled? Will conservators take over the decision making of our clients?
- The Child's Outlook on the situation

6. HOW TO GUIDE THE PEOPLE IN NEED:

- A. Garner their trust
- B. Be straight about the expected outcome (repeatedly)
- C. Be firm
- D. Remain detached from the outcome
- E. Interposition yourself between the victim and others
- F. Have goals in
- G. Particular suggestions for children & parents



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7. GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED VS. PERSONAL CHOICE:

Government

Fines & citations
Mental Health tests
Prosecution
Jail time
No say in the matter (action w/o agreement)

Personal Choice

Loss of finances & job
Ostracized by family & friends
Persecution by the public
Isolation
No say in the matter (paralysis)

8. IMPACT ON PUBLIC SYSTEM

Hoarder	Defense Attorney
Fire Department	Judge
Landlord	Volunteers
Neighbors	Human Rights Counsel
Family	Professional Organizer
Building & Safety	Judge
Social Worker	City Council
DMH	Police – serve court order
MD – Medication	Waste Management
Vector Control	Community Development Commission
Environmental Health	Lien holders (banks, etc)
Prosecuting Attorney	Conservator

9. WHAT IS NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD?

- Is there family support?
- Can a therapist be involved?
- Are medications readily available for treatment?
- Is there a project timeline with dates and tasks in place
- Is a solution in place prior to the intervention?
- Is there a clear understanding of benefits & consequences?
- Do you have proper assistance?
- What supplies are needed?



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10. WHO CAN REALLY HELP?

Therapist	Social worker
Clergy	Animal Control
Veterinarians	Child Protective Series
Adult Protective Services	Police
Building and Safety	Housekeeping teams
Junk removal teams	Pest control
Hazmat cleanup crews	Car towing services

Resources for More Information

BOOKS

Urschel, H. (2009). *Healing the addicted brain*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks.

Prentiss, P., & Prentiss, C. (2007). *The alcoholism and addiction cure*. Los Angeles, CA, Power Press.

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Tompkins, M.A., & Hartl, T.L. (2009). *Digging out: helping your loved one manage clutter, hoarding & compulsive acquiring*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications.

Breining, D (2013). *Stuff Your Face or Face Your Stuff*, Health Communications, Inc.