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Staging to Live: The Benefits of a Clutter-Free Home

One of the primary ways I serve my clients is helping them prepare their home for sale. This role assumes many forms but one of the most critical and often times emotional is the process of decluttering a client's home so prospective buyers can envision themselves living there.

It's also a key step in helping them move to a new place and it can be overwhelming, particularly for those who have lived in their home for several years and have accumulated many things.



A client's office before and after CMTO went to work.

Claudia McLaughlin owns and operates CMF Transitional Organization, a business she created 15 years ago to tend to these very matters. Serving as a concierge for life's transitions, she oversees the personal, delicate and diverse needs of people downsizing or relocating. In virtually all of her client interactions, their expressed regrets are not employing her services earlier so they could enjoy living in their home-- organized and clutter-free.

There's something cathartic and renewing about going through this process. Of eliminating the impediments that hinder us and weigh us down both consciously and unconsciously. Of course, we all have the opportunity to claim this

renewed sense of order of our homes and lives. Following is a list of the primary steps Claudia engages in while helping her clients edit their homes and prepare for their next chapter:

- Tackle minor repairs. Living with missing door knobs, leaky faucets or broken fixtures takes a toll. These little inconveniences add up and impact your sense of calm and happiness. Address them and gain an immediate feeling of accomplishment and peace of mind.
- Commit to a cohesive interior design. Deliberate and well-edited blending of styles can contribute to an eclectic, personalized home environment. But, furniture or art pieces that are clearly out of place can make an entire room feel that way. Remove them and regain cohesiveness in your home.
- Eliminate clutter. Start with one room, open up cabinets and purge, donate or sell contents you don't need, want or use.
- Refresh your home's look. Paint is key. Select a room and freshen it with a new paint color. If your floors need attention, consider refinishing them.

What draws buyers to a home are the same feelings that will make you happier in yours. If you or a family member is considering moving, CMTO offers a range of services specifically tailored to your circumstances. You can learn more at www.cmfto.com. If there is anything I may do to assist you, please don't hesitate to ask.

My very best,

Cadey

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