



ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS

- Will this fit in my new space?
- Is it beautiful, useful, important or loved? Or am I just keeping it out of habit?
- Will it still be useful or functional in my new home?
- Can this item or piece of furniture save space by serving two functions?
- Is it easy to care for, or does it require special attention?
- Is it comfortable for my physical condition or stage of life?

HELPING FAMILY MEMBERS

- Be understanding -- downsizing is a difficult process
- Don't push or rush -- offer as much help and guidance as needed
- Stay focused on completing one small area at a time
- Make a couple of passes through if it can't be done all at once
- You can even put things in storage temporarily if needed

MAKING IT EASIER TO LET GO

- Lay out items that need to go and invite loved ones to pick what they want
- When giving treasured keepsakes to family and friends, share with them the story behind the piece
- Donate serviceable items to charities that help the less fortunate
- Have an estate sale and use the proceeds to purchase pieces for your new home or donate profits to your favorite charity

STEP-BY-STEP

- Start with the rooms in your house you aren't using
- Make decisions about big pieces of furniture before tackling smaller items
- Give yourself plenty of time to make good decisions
- Take lots of breaks and ask friends and family to help
- Remember the goal is to simplify
- Have packing supplies, boxes and bags on hand to pack as you make decisions
- Schedule the donation truck to come over as soon as you are done

©Ramona Creel. Ramona Creel is Professional Organizer, NAPO Golden Circle Member, and the founder of OnlineOrganizing.com. LINK: www.RamonaCreel.com