

RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I, as a homeowner, get a tax break from property taxes?

You may apply for homestead exemptions on your principal residence. Homestead exemptions remove part of your home's value from taxation, so they lower your taxes. For example, your home is appraised at \$100,000, and you qualify for a \$25,000 exemption (this is the amount mandated for school districts), you will pay school taxes on the home as if it was worth only \$75,000. Taxing units have the option to offer a separate exemption of up to 20 percent of the total value.

Do all homes qualify for homestead exemptions?

No, only a homeowner's principal residence qualifies. To qualify, a home must meet the definition of a residence homestead: The home's owner must be an individual (for example: not a corporation or other business entity) and use the home as his or her principal residence on January 1 of the tax year. If you are age 65 or older, or disabled, the January 1 ownership and residency are not required for the age 65 or disabled homestead exemption.

What is a homestead?

A homestead can be a separate structure, condominium or a manufactured home located on owned or leased land, as long as the individual living in the home owns it. A homestead can include up to 20 acres, if the land is owned by the homeowner and used for a purpose related to the residential use of the homestead.

What homestead exemptions are available?

There are several types of exemptions you may receive.

- School taxes: All residence homestead owners are allowed a \$25,000 homestead exemption from their home's value for school taxes.

- County taxes: If a county collects a special tax for farm-to-market roads or flood control, a residence homestead is allowed to receive a \$3,000 exemption for this tax. If the county grants an optional exemption for homeowners age 65 or older or disabled, the owners will receive only the local-option exemption.
- Age 65 or older and disabled exemptions: Individuals age 65 or older or disabled residence homestead owners qualify for a \$10,000 homestead exemption for school taxes, in addition to the \$25,000 exemption for all homeowners. If the owner qualifies for both the \$10,000 exemption for age 65 or older homeowners and the \$10,000 exemption for disabled homeowners, the owner must choose one or the other for school taxes. The owner cannot receive both exemptions.
- Optional percentage exemptions: Any taxing unit, including a city, county, school, or special district, may offer an exemption of up to 20 percent of a home's value. But, no matter what the percentage is, the amount of an optional exemption cannot be less than \$5,000. Each taxing unit decides if it will offer the exemption and at what percentage. This percentage exemption is added to any other home exemption for which an owner qualifies. The taxing unit must decide before July 1 of the tax year to offer this exemption.
- Optional age 65 or older or disabled exemptions: Any taxing unit may offer an additional exemption amount of at least \$3,000 for taxpayers age 65 or older and/or disabled.

How do I get a general \$25,000 homestead exemption?

You may file an Application for Residential Homestead Exemption (PDF) with your appraisal district for the \$25,000 homestead exemption up to two years after the taxes on the homestead are due. Once you receive the exemption, you do not need to reapply unless the chief appraiser sends you a new application. In that case, you must file the new application. If you should move or your qualification ends, you must inform the

appraisal district in writing before the next May 1st. A list of appraisal district addresses and phone numbers is available online.

What is the deadline for filing for a homestead exemption?

You may file for any homestead exemption up to two years after the delinquency date. The delinquency date is normally February 1st.

May I continue to receive the residence homestead exemption on my home if I move away temporarily?

If you temporarily move away from your home, you may continue to receive the exemption if you do not establish a principal residence elsewhere, you intend to return to the home, and you are away less than two years. You may continue to receive the exemption if you do not occupy the residence for more than two years only if you are in military service serving inside or outside of the United States or live in a facility providing services related to health, infirmity or aging.

If I own only 50 percent of the home I live in, do I qualify for the residence homestead exemption on the home?

Yes. However, if you qualify for a homestead exemption and are not the sole owner of the property to which the homestead exemption applies, the exemption you receive is based on the interest you own. For example, if you own a 50 percent interest in a homestead, you will receive only one-half, or \$12,500, of a \$25,000 homestead offered by a school district.

Residence Homestead Exemption Application

Form 50-114

Appraisal District's Name _____

Appraisal District Account Number (if known) _____

Do you own and live in the property for which you are seeking this residence homestead exemption? Yes No Tax Year _____

GENERAL INFORMATION: Property owners applying for a residence homestead exemption file this form and supporting documentation with the appraisal district in each county in which the property is located (Tax Code Sections 11.13, 11.131, 11.132, 11.133, 11.134 and 11.432). **Do not file this form with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.**

SECTION 1: Exemption(s) Requested (Select all that apply.)

General Residence Homestead Exemption Disabled Person Person Age 65 or Older (or Surviving Spouse)

100 Percent Disabled Veteran (or Surviving Spouse) Is the disability a permanent total disability as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under 38 C.F.R. Section 4.15? Yes No

Surviving Spouse of an Armed Services Member Killed in Action Surviving Spouse of a First Responder Killed in the Line of Duty

Donated Residence of Partially Disabled Veteran (or Surviving Spouse) _____
Percent Disability Rating

Surviving Spouse: _____
Name of Deceased Spouse Date of Death

Cooperative Housing: Do you have an exclusive right to occupy this property because you own stock in a cooperative housing corporation? Yes No
If yes, state name of cooperative housing corporation: _____

Were you receiving a homestead exemption on your previous residence? Yes No

Are you transferring an exemption from a previous residence? Yes No

Are you transferring a tax limitation? Yes No

Previous Residence Address, City, State, Zip Code _____

Previous County _____

SECTION 2: Property Owner/Applicant (Provide information for additional property owners in Section 5.)

Select One: Single Adult Married Couple Other (e.g., individual who owns the property with others)

Name of Property Owner 1 Birth Date* (mm/dd/yyyy) Driver's License, Personal ID Certificate or Social Security Number**

Primary Phone Number (area code and number) Email Address*** Percent Ownership Interest

Name of Property Owner 2 (e.g., Spouse, Co-Owner/Individual) Birth Date* (mm/dd/yyyy) Driver's License, Personal ID Certificate or Social Security Number**

Primary Phone Number (area code and number) Email Address*** Percent Ownership Interest

Applicant mailing address (if different from the physical address) _____

SECTION 3: Property Information

Date you acquired this property Date you began occupying this property as your principal residence

Physical Address (i.e. street address, not P.O. Box), City, County, ZIP Code _____

Legal Description (if known) _____

Is the applicant identified on deed or other recorded instrument?
 Yes _____
Court record/filing number on recorded deed or other recorded instrument

No If no, required documentation must be provided. (see important information)

Is the property for which this application is submitted an heir property (see Important Information)? Yes No

Do other heir property owners occupy the property? Yes (affidavits required) No

SECTION 3: Property Information (Continued)

Manufactured Home Make _____ Model _____ ID Number _____
Is any portion of the property for which you are claiming a residence homestead exemption income producing? ... Yes No
If yes, indicate the percentage of the property that is income producing: _____ percent
Number of acres (or fraction of an acre, not to exceed 20 acres) you own and occupy as your principal residence: _____ acres

SECTION 4: Waiver of Required Documentation

Indicate if you are exempt from the requirement to provide a copy of your driver's license or state-issued personal identification certificate.
I am a resident of a facility that provides services related to health, infirmity or aging.

Facility Name and Address _____

I am certified for participation in the address confidentiality program administered by the Office of the Texas Attorney General under Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 58, Subchapter B.

Indicate if you request that the chief appraiser waive the requirement that the property address for exemption corresponds to your driver's license or state-issued personal identification certificate address:

- I am an active duty U.S. armed services member or the spouse of an active duty member.
I hold a driver's license issued under Transportation Code Section 521.121(c) or 521.1211. Attached is a copy of the application for that license.

SECTION 5: Provide Additional Information Here (If any)

If you own other residential property in Texas, please list the county(ies) of location.

SECTION 6: Affirmation and Signature

I understand if I make a false statement on this form, I could be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor or a state jail felony under Penal Code Section 37.10.

I, _____, _____, swear or affirm the following:
Property Owner/Authorized Representative Name Title/Authorization

- 1. that each fact contained in this application is true and correct;
2. that I/the property owner meet(s) the qualifications under Texas law for the residence homestead exemption for which I am applying; and
3. that I/the property owner do(es) not claim an exemption on another residence homestead or claim a residence homestead exemption on a residence homestead outside Texas.

sign here Signature of Property Owner/Applicant or Authorized Representative Date

* May be used by appraisal district to determine eligibility for persons age 65 or older exemption or surviving spouse exemptions (Tax Code §11.43(m))
** Social security number disclosure may be required for tax administration and identification. (42 U.S.C. §405(c)(2)(C)(i); Tax Code §11.43(f)). A driver's license number, personal identification number or social security number disclosed in an exemption application is confidential and not open to public inspection, except as authorized by Tax Code §11.48(b).
*** May be confidential under Government Code §552.137; however, by including the email address on this form, you are affirmatively consenting to its release under the Public Information Act.

Important Information

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This application is for claiming residence homestead exemptions pursuant to Tax Code Sections 11.13, 11.131, 11.132, 11.133, 11.134 and 11.432. Certain exemptions may also require Form 50-114-A. The exemptions apply only to property that you own and occupy as your principal place of residence.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File this form and all supporting documentation with the appraisal district office in each county in which the property is located generally between Jan. 1 and April 30 of the year for which the exemption is requested. **Do not file this document with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.** A directory with contact information for appraisal district offices is on the Comptroller's website.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Generally, the completed application and required documentation is due no later than April 30 of the year for which the exemption is requested.

The due date for persons age 65 or older; disabled; or partially disabled veterans with donated homesteads to apply for the exemption is no later than the first anniversary of the qualification date.

A late application for a residence homestead exemption may be filed up to two years after the deadline for filing has passed. (Tax Code Section 11.431)

If the chief appraiser grants the exemption(s), property owner does not need to reapply annually, but must reapply if the chief appraiser requires it, unless seeking to apply the exemption to property not listed in this application.

Property owners already receiving a general residence homestead exemption who turn age 65 in that next year are not required to apply for age 65 or older exemption if accurate birthdate information is included in the appraisal district records or in the information the Texas Department of Public Safety provided to the appraisal district under Transportation Code Section 521.049. (Tax Code Section 11.43(m))

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Attach a copy of property owner's driver's license or state-issued personal identification certificate. The address listed on the driver's license or state-issued personal identification certificate must correspond to the property address for which the exemption is requested. Property owners who reside in certain facilities or participate in a certain address confidentiality program may be exempt from this requirement. The chief appraiser may waive the requirements for certain active duty U.S. armed services members or their spouses or holders of certain driver's licenses.

Heir property is property owned by one or more individuals, where at least one owner claims the property as a residence homestead, and the property was acquired by will, transfer on death deed, or intestacy. An heir property owner not specifically identified as the residence homestead owner on a deed or other recorded instrument in the county where the property is located must provide:

- an affidavit establishing ownership of interest in the property (See Form 114-A);
- a copy of the prior property owner's death certificate;
- a copy of the property's most recent utility bill; and
- A citation of any court record relating to the applicant's ownership of the property, if available.

Each heir property owner who occupies the property as a principal residence, other than the applicant, must provide an affidavit that authorizes the submission of this application (See Form 50-114-A).

Manufactured homeowners must provide:

- a copy of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs statement of ownership showing that the applicant is the owner of the manufactured home;
- a copy of the sales purchase agreement, other applicable contract or agreement or payment receipt showing that the applicant is the purchaser of the manufactured home; or
- a sworn affidavit (see Form 50-114-A) by the applicant indicating that:
 1. the applicant is the owner of the manufactured home;
 2. the seller of the manufactured home did not provide the applicant with the applicable contract or agreement; **and**
 3. the applicant could not locate the seller after making a good faith effort.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUEST

The chief appraiser may request additional information to evaluate this application. Property owner must comply within 30 days of the request or the application will be denied. The chief appraiser may extend this deadline for a single period not to exceed 15 days for good cause shown. (Tax Code Section 11.45)

DUTY TO NOTIFY

Property owner must notify the chief appraiser in writing before May 1 of the year after his or her right to this exemption ends.

EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS

General Residence Homestead Exemption (Tax Code Section 11.13(a) and (b))

Property was owned and occupied as owner's principal residence on Jan. 1. No residence homestead exemption can be claimed by the property owner on any other property.

Disabled Person Exemption (Tax Code Section 11.13(c) and (d))

Persons under a disability for purposes of payment of disability insurance benefits under Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance. Property owners not identified on a deed or other instrument recorded in the applicable real property records as an owner of the residence homestead must provide an affidavit or other compelling evidence establishing the applicant's ownership interest in the homestead. (See Form 50-114-A) An eligible disabled person age 65 or older may receive both exemptions in the same year, but not from the same taxing units. Contact the appraisal district for more information.

Age 65 or Older Exemption (Tax Code Section 11.13(c) and (d))

This exemption is effective Jan. 1 of the tax year in which the property owner becomes age 65. Property owners not identified on a deed or other instrument recorded in the applicable real property records as an owner of the residence homestead must provide an affidavit or other compelling evidence establishing the applicant's ownership interest in the homestead. (See Form 50-114-A) An eligible disabled person age 65 or older may receive both exemptions in the same year, but not from the same taxing units. Contact the appraisal district for more information.

Surviving Spouse of an Individual Who Qualified for Age 65 or Older Exemption (Tax Code Section 11.13(q)):

Surviving spouse of person who qualified for the age 65 or older exemption may receive this exemption if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the qualifying spouse died. The property must have been the surviving spouse's residence homestead at the time of death and remain the surviving spouse's residence homestead. This exemption cannot be combined with an exemption under 11.13(d).

100 Percent Disabled Veterans Exemption (Tax Code Section 11.131(b))

Property owner who receives a 100 percent disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or individual unemployability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor. Documentation must be provided to support this exemption request.

Surviving Spouse of a Disabled Veteran Who Qualified or Would Have Qualified for the 100 Percent Disabled Veteran's Exemption (Tax Code Section 11.131(c) and (d))

Surviving spouse of a disabled veteran (who qualified for an exemption under Tax Code Section 11.131(b) at the time of his or her death or would have qualified for the exemption if the exemption had been in effect on the date the disabled veteran died) who has not remarried since the death of the veteran. The property must have been the surviving spouse's residence homestead at the time of the veteran's death and remain the surviving spouse's residence homestead.

Donated Residence Homestead of Partially Disabled Veteran (Tax Code Section 11.132(b))

A disabled veteran with a disability rating of less than 100 percent with a residence homestead donated by a charitable organization at no cost or at some cost that is not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the market value of the residence homestead as of the date the donation is made. Documentation must be provided to support this exemption request.

Surviving Spouse of a Disabled Veteran Who Qualified for the Donated Residence Homestead Exemption (Tax Code Section 11.132(c) and (d)):

Surviving spouse of a disabled veteran (who qualified for an exemption under Tax Code Section 11.132(b) at the time of his or her death) who has not remarried since the death of the disabled veteran and maintains the property as his or her residence homestead.

Surviving Spouse of a Member of Armed Services Killed in Action (Tax Code Section 11.133(b) and (c))

Surviving spouse of a U.S. armed services member who is killed in action who has not remarried since the death of the service member. Documentation must be provided to support this exemption request.

Surviving Spouse of a First Responder Killed in the Line of Duty (Tax Code Section 11.134)

Surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty who has not remarried since the death of the first responder. Documentation must be provided to support this exemption request.