

Please read before you complete the application

What is the Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans?

The homestead exemption provides a reduction in property taxes to qualified disabled veterans or a surviving spouse, on the dwelling that is that individual's principal place of residence and up to one acre of land of which an eligible individual is an owner. The reduction is equal to the taxes that would otherwise be charged on up to \$50,000 of the market value of an eligible taxpayer's homestead.

What Your Signature Means: By signing the front of this form, you affirm under penalty of perjury that your statements on the form are true, accurate, and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief and that the documentation you have presented is genuine and was received from the Department of Veterans Affairs, its predecessor or successor.

Qualifications for the Homestead Exemption for Real Property and Manufactured or Mobile Homes: To receive the homestead exemption you must be (1) have been discharged or released from active duty, (2) be determined to have a total service-related disability or be receiving compensation for a service-related disability at a level of 100% following a determination of individual unemployability by the Department of Veteran's Affairs or its predecessor or successor, or be surviving spouse (see definition at right), (3) have been discharged or released under honorable conditions, and (4) own and have occupied your home as your principal place of residence on January 1 of the year in which you file the application. A person only has one principal place of residence; your principal place of residence determines, among other things, where you are registered to vote and where you declare residency for income tax purposes. If the property is being purchased under a land contract, is owned by a life estate or by a trust, or the applicant is the mortgagor of the property, you may be required to provide copies of any contracts, trust agreements, mortgages or other documents that identify the applicant's eligible ownership interest in the home.

Current Application: If you qualify for the homestead exemption for the first time this year (for real property) or for the first time next year (for manufactured or mobile homes), check the box for *Current Application* on the front of this form.

Late Application: If you also qualified for the homestead exemption for last year (for real property) or for this year (for manufactured or mobile homes) on the same property for which you are filing a current application, but you did not file a current application for that year, you may file a late application for the missed year by checking the *late application* box on the front of this form. You may only file a late application for the same property for which you are filing a current application.

Definition of a Surviving Spouse: An eligible surviving spouse must (1) be the surviving spouse of a person who was receiving the homestead exemption for the year in which the death occurred, and (2) must have occupied the homestead at the time of the veteran's death and (3) must acquire ownership of the homestead or, in case of a homestead that is a unit in a housing cooperative, continue to occupy the homestead. The surviving spouse remains eligible for the exemption until the year following the year in which the surviving spouse remarries.

Qualified Disabled Veteran: In order to qualify for the exemption you must be a veteran of the armed forces of the United States, including reserve components thereof, or of the National Guard, who has been discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions, and who has received a total disability rating (100%) or a total disability rating for compensation (100%) based on individual unemployability, for a service-connected disability or combination of service-connected disabilities.