

Application for Residential Homestead Exemption Instructions

Please call our office at (512) 834-9138 if you need a Homestead Exemption form in Spanish.

General Residential Homestead Exemption: There is **NO FEE** to file for a Residential Homestead Exemption. An exemption removes part of the value of your property from taxation and lowers your property taxes. For example, if your home is valued at \$50,000 and you qualify for a \$15,000 exemption, you pay taxes on your home as if it was worth only \$35,000. You may only apply for residence homestead exemption on one property in a tax year. To qualify for homestead exemption, you must own and reside in your home on January 1 of the tax year. If you temporarily move away from your home, you still can qualify for an exemption if you don't establish another principal residence and you intend to return in a period of less than two (2) years. Homeowners in military service or in a facility providing services related to health, infirmity or aging may exceed the two-year period. Fill out the application for homestead exemption completely and submit to the Appraisal District before the filing deadline. If you have trouble filling out this form, call the appraisal district at (512) 834-9138.

Over-65 or Disability Exemptions. You may receive over-65 or disability homestead exemption immediately upon qualification for the exemption(s). You must apply before the first anniversary of your qualification date to receive the exemption in that tax year. For example, if you turn 65 or are disabled on June 1 of the current year, you have until May 31 of the next year to apply for the current tax year's over-65 or disability exemption. This special provision only applies to over-65 or disability exemptions and not to other exemptions for which you may apply.

Tax Limitations. The over-65 exemption for school taxes includes a school tax limitation, or ceiling. Other types of taxing units - county, city, or special district - have the option to grant a tax limitation on homesteads of homeowners 65 years of age or older. You may transfer the same percentage of school taxes paid to another qualified homestead in the state. If the county, city or special district grants the limitation, you may transfer the same percentage of taxes paid to another qualified homestead with that same taxing unit.

Surviving Spouse Age 55 or Older. You qualify for an extension of this exemption if (1) you are 55 years of age or older on the date your spouse died and (2) your deceased spouse was receiving the over-65 exemption on this residence homestead or would have applied and qualified for the exemption in the year of the spouse's death. You will not receive the school tax limitation for the over-65 exemption unless your spouse died on or after December 1, 1987.

Filing Deadlines. File this application between January 1 and no later than April 30. You may file a late homestead exemption application if you file it no later than one year after the date taxes become delinquent. See the over-65 or disability exemptions section above for additional information on late filing.

Re-filing. If the chief appraiser grants the exemptions, you do not need to reapply annually. You must reapply, however, if the chief appraiser requires you to do so by sending you a new application asking you to reapply. You must notify the chief appraiser in writing if and when your right to any exemption ends or your qualifications change. You must reapply if you qualify for additional exemptions based on age or disability in the future. Tax Code Section 11.43(m) allows a person who qualifies for a general homestead exemption to receive the 65 or older person exemption without applying when he/she becomes age 65 as shown on the application in the districts records.

Step 1: Owner Information. Please enter the following information. Phone numbers work/home, birth date, and Drivers license number, Personal ID Certificate, or Social Security Number. *Section 11.43 of the Tax Code authorizes this office to request this information to determine tax compliance. The Chief Appraiser is required to keep the information confidential and not open to public inspection, except to appraisal office employees and as authorized by Section 11.48(b) Tax Code.*

Step 2: Describe your property. Please answer all questions in this section.

Step 3: Check exemptions that apply to you. Complete by checking the boxes that apply. If you check the disability exemption, attach documents verifying your disability. If a surviving spouse age 55 or older, enter the information requested. The appraisal district may request documents on date of spouse's death.

Step 4: Check if late. If you were eligible for an exemption last year, check the box for late filing.

Step 5: Sign and date the application. You must sign and date this application. Making false statements on your exemption application is a criminal offense.