

### General Homestead

You have an ownership interest in the property and use the property as your principal residence; however, you are required to state that you do not claim an exemption on another residence homestead in or outside of Texas.

You must own and reside in the home on January 1 of the tax year.

You must provide a Texas driver's license or state identification card and the homeowner's vehicle registration receipt. The address on the identification and the vehicle registration receipt MUST match the address for which the homestead exemption is requested.

If the owner does not own a vehicle they can send a current utility bill showing name and address along with an affidavit indicating non-ownership of a vehicle. The bill MUST match the address for which the homestead exemption is requested.

### Age 65 or Older Homeowners

If you are age 65 or older and you occupy your home, as your primary residence, you will qualify for the Over 65 Homestead Exemption.

You will qualify for a \$10,000 homestead exemption for the school taxes on your home's value, in addition to the \$15,000 exemption for all homeowners. If you qualify for both the \$10,000 exemption for over 65 homeowners and the \$10,000 exemption for disabled homeowners, you must choose one or the other. You cannot receive both exemptions.

Once you receive an over 65 homestead exemption, you qualify for a tax ceiling on your residence school taxes and your residence taxes for any other tax entity (*county, city, special district*) that has adopted the local option ceiling. The ceiling is set based upon the amount of tax you pay the year you qualify for the over 65 exemption or the year the entity adopted the local option ceiling. Your taxes cannot increase above the ceiling as long as you own and live in that home. The taxes will never be more than the amount of your ceiling.

However, your tax ceiling can go up if you improve your home; for example, if you add a garage, game room or swimming pool, your tax ceiling can go up. Also, your tax ceiling may change if you move to a new home.

### Homeowner with Disabilities

"Disabled" means either (1) you can't engage in gainful work because of physical or mental disability or (2) you are 55 years old and blind and can't engage in your previous work because of your blindness. If you receive disability benefits under the federal Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Program through the Social Security Administration, you will qualify.

To establish eligibility for the exemption, you will need to provide currently-dated letters from two physicians which state that your disability meets the Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Act definition and the date your disability began.

### Surviving Spouse

*(of someone with Over 65 or Disabled)*

When a homeowner who has been receiving the over 65 exemption and school tax ceiling dies, the exemption and ceiling transfer to the surviving spouse if the survivor is 55 or older and has ownership in the home.

The survivor must apply to the appraisal district for the transfer. The exemptions and ceiling remain in effect for as long as the spouse lives in the home.

### Disabled Veteran with 100% Disability

You may qualify for exemption if you both own and occupy the property on January 1 as your primary residence.

The veteran must receive 100 percent disability compensation from the VA due to the veteran's service-connected disability and the veteran must have a rating of 100 percent disabled or of individual unemployability from the VA or the veteran's service branch. Qualifying veterans are entitled to an exemption of the total appraised value of the home. They will NOT have to pay property taxes on the homestead to any tax entity.

### Disabled Veteran or Survivor

*(not limited to residence only)*

You may qualify for a disabled veteran property tax exemption if you are either (1) a veteran who was disabled while serving with the US armed forces or (2) the surviving spouse or child (*under 18 years of age and unmarried*) of a disabled veteran or a member of the armed forces who was killed while on active duty. You must be a Texas resident.

You must have documents from either the Veteran's Administration or the branch of the armed forces that show the percentage of your service-related disability. Your disability rating must be at least 10%. If you are a surviving spouse or child you must have the veterans' disability records. You may need other documents such as proof of marriage or age.

Exemption ranges from \$5,000 to \$12,000, depending on the extent of the disability. This exemption applies to any property you own on January 1—not limited to homes—however, you may only pick one property to receive the exemption.

*Information acquired from Tarrant Appraisal District.  
For more information, please visit [www.tad.org](http://www.tad.org).*

