

A Homestead Exemption



lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its taxable value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$25,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$25,000.

And when you receive a homestead exemption, the taxable value of your home cannot increase by more than ten percent each year.

Who qualifies for a homestead exemption?

Anyone who owned a home on January 1st (and used it as their primary residence on that date) is entitled to a \$25,000 homestead exemption to lower their school taxes this year...and it doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium, or mobile home.

Are other exemptions available?

Yes, some of the local taxing units have adopted local option exemptions for the general homestead owners as well as for the elderly and disabled. A

complete list of exemptions available in your area is printed on the back of this pamphlet.

Are there any exemptions for the elderly or disabled?

Yes, if you are disabled--or if you're 65 years old or older--you are entitled to an additional \$10,000 school tax exemption on your home.

And if you qualify for the over-65 exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. (The ceiling does not apply to county or city property taxes, and those entities may offer other exemptions.) The over-65 homeowner's exemptions and school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home.

Over-65 homeowners also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's over-65 school tax ceiling, to a new home.

And don't forget that some of the local taxing units have adopted local option exemptions for the elderly and disabled too. A complete list of local option exemptions available in your area is printed on the back of this pamphlet.

What about disabled veterans?



If you are a disabled veteran with a 100% service connected disability, you are entitled to an exemption that will totally exempt your home from taxation.

If you are **the surviving spouse of a 100% disabled veteran**, you can apply to continue receiving the exemption on your homestead (as long as you do not remarry). And if you choose to move to another house, you can transfer the *value amount* of your exemption to your new home (as long as you don't remarry).



If you turn 65 this year and if you have already provided birth date information on your

homestead application, your over-65 exemption will be automatically applied to your home.

If you became disabled this year, you need to file for the disabled person's exemption.

How do I get the exemption?

In order to receive the exemption, you must first file an application form with the appraisal district. Texas law now requires you to provide proof of residency prior to approval of the exemption.

How do I prove my residency?

In order to qualify for a residential homestead exemption you must provide the appraisal district with a copy of your:

- Texas driver's license or
- Texas ID Card.

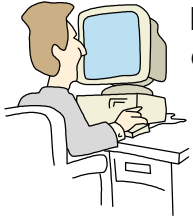
Remember: Your physical street address must match the address on your driver's license or state ID card. All three must have the same address.



600 E Main = 600 E Main

If the address information on your form does not match the physical address of your homestead property, the exemption request will be denied until the information has been updated.

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Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home last year, you won't need to reapply this year unless the chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home--or if you've moved to a new home--you'll need to file for an exemption this year.

Where can I get the application form?

Application forms are available at the appraisal district office or on our website:

www.freestonecad.org

Give us a call. We will be happy to put one in the mail to you.

Freestone Central Appraisal District
218 N. Mount
Fairfield, Texas 75840
903-389-5510
Fax 903-389-5955



The following information is provided to assist you in updating the information on these additional documents.

Update Texas Driver's License Information

If you have a current Texas driver's license and you move to a new location in Texas you have 30 days to change the address on your driver's license. The simplest way to do this is online. Go to www.txdps.state.tx.us and follow the instructions for changing your address. *You will need to have a valid credit card for paying the \$10.00 fee, and you will need access to a printer so that you can print out your temporary receipt.* Otherwise, call or go in person to a Texas DPS.

For a new Texas driver's license (first time license or moving to Texas from out of state) go in person to a DPS location. You will need to complete an application, provide proof of identity (proof of Social Security, birth certificate, or an out of state driver's license), provide proof of vehicle registration, consent to be photographed, fingerprinted, and provide a signature. You will need to pass a vision examination.

First time applicants need to schedule a time for taking the driving test and pass both the driving and written test. Out of state applicants should apply within 90 days after entry into the state and need to be prepared to surrender their valid out of state driver's license upon application.

Texas DPS Fairfield Office
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, TX
(903) 389-5050

(Open 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesdays only)

Texas DPS Statewide Information (512) 424-2600

Homestead Exemption Availability Chart

Jurisdiction	General	Over 65	Disability	065 or Disability Surviving Spouse	100% Disabled Vet	Surviving Spouse of 100% Disabled Vet
Freestone County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
City of Fairfield		Yes		065	Yes	Yes
City of Streetman					Yes	Yes
City of Teague		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
City of Wortham					Yes	Yes
Buffalo ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corsicana ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dew ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fairfield ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mexia ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oakwood ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Teague ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wortham ISD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fairfield Hosp Dist	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Teague Hosp Dist					Yes	Yes