

APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INSTRUCTIONS

General Residence Homestead Exemptions. You may only apply for residence homestead exemptions on one property in a tax year. A homestead exemption may include up to 20 acres of land you actually use in the residential use (occupancy) of your home. Arbitrary factors that are unrelated to the use, such as acreage limits, matching legal description, and contiguous parcels, may not be considered in determining if the land qualifies. To qualify for homestead exemptions, you must own and reside in your home on January 1 of the tax year. **You will be asked to provide proof of residence at this address for January 1. Cameron Appraisal District uses your and your spouse's Texas Driver License or Texas personal ID (if not not a licensed driver) as proof of residence.** 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. If you have trouble filling out this form, call the appraisal district.

Age 65 or Older or Disability Exemptions. You may receive age 65 or older or disability homestead exemptions immediately upon qualification for the exemption(s). If you have not provided your birth date on this application, you must apply before the first anniversary of your qualification date to receive the exemption(s) 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 age 65 or older or disability exemption(s). This special provision only applies to age 65 or older or disability exemptions and not to other exemptions for which you may apply. You must provide a disability letter or other documentation under Federal Old-Age Survivors, and Disability Insurance to qualify for a disability homestead exemption. Call the appraisal district for information about the district's requirements.

Tax Limitations. The age 65 or older or disability exemption for school taxes includes a school tax limitation or ceiling. Other types of taxing units - county, city or junior college - have the option to grant a tax limitation on homesteads of homeowners who are disabled or 65 years of age or older.

100% Disabled Veterans: Beginning in 2009, certain disabled veterans are eligible for 100% exemptions for their residence homesteads. Documentations from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must be submitted to prove that the veteran receives full VA compensations and is either rated as 100 % disabled or has a determination of unemployability from the VA.

Surviving Spouse: You qualify for an extension of this exemption if (1) you are 55 year of age or older on the date your spouse died and (2) your deceased spouse was receiving the age 65 or older exemptions 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 age 65 or older exemption unless your spouse died on or after December 1, 1987. You will not qualify for a disability exemption or a 100% disabled veterans exemption claimed by your deceased spouse. You are not entitled to continue the school tax limitation; however, you will be entitled to continue the local option county, city or junior college limitation.

Filing Deadlines. File this applicatin between January 1 and 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 age 65 or older or disability exemptions section above for more 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. If, however, your application information indicates that your age is 65 or older, or the appraisal district has access to other information that proves you qualify, your need not re-file for the age 65 or older exemption. To ensure the earliest possible qualification without reapplication, the older spouse should complete the application for the married couple.

Transfer of Tax Limitation or Ceiling. Please call the appraisal district if you will transfer a tax ceiling to you new home.

Step1. Owner's Name and Address. Enter the following information:

- Name of the owner completing this application.
- This owner's current mailing address and phone number.
- Driver's license number, personal identification number, or Social Security number of this owner (kept confidential).
- Percentage of ownership by this owner.
- This owner's birth date.
- Names of other owners and their percentage of ownership. Attach additional sheets if needed.

Step 2. Describe the property. Enter the information requested. Attach the mobile home statement of ownership and location or sales contract. Enter the number of acres used for residential purposes.

Step 3. Check exemptions that apply to you. Complete by checking the boxes that apply. If you check the disability exemption, attach documents verifying you 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. Answer if applies. If the property is cooperative housing complete Step 4.

Step 5. Check if late. If you were eligible for an exemption last year, check the box in Step 5 for late filing for the prior tax year.

Step 6. Sign and date the application. You must sign and date this application. Making false statements on your exemption application is a criminal offense.

The following table lists each taxing jurisdiction that offers residential homestead exemptions:

JUSISDICTIONS	STATE MANDATED HOMESTEAD	LOCAL OPTION HOMESTEAD	STATE MANDATED OVER 65 HS	LOCAL OPTION OVER 65 HS	STATE MANDATED DISABILITY
BROWNSVILLE I.S.D.	15,000		10,000	4,620	10,000
HARLINGEN C.I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
LA FERIA I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
LOS FRESNOS I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
POINT ISABEL I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
RIO HONDO I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
SAN BENITO I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
SANTA MARIA I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
SANTA ROSA I.S.D.	15,000		10,000		10,000
CITY OF BROWNSVILLE				6,000	
CITY OF COMBES				10,000	
CITY OF HARLINGEN				4,000	
TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA				3,000	
CITY OF PORT ISABEL				3,000	
CITY OF PRIMERA	0	5,000		5,000	
TOWN OF RANCHO VIEJO	0	5,000			
CITY OF SAN BENITO				5,000	
TOWN OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND	0	20%		3,000	
CAMERON COUNTY				12,000	
LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT	0	20%		3,000	