

Candice D. Short
Supervisor of Assessments
Ford County Courthouse
200 W State Room 104
Paxton, IL 60957
217 379-9430

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

The following must exist to qualify for the homestead exemptions:

1. The property must be your principle residence.
2. You must own or lease the property.
3. You must be responsible for the payment of the property tax.
4. You may only receive homestead exemptions on one property, your principle residence. You cannot receive homestead exemptions in Ford County if you are receiving homestead exemptions in another county or another state.

You may qualify for one or more of the following exemptions. Examine your tax bill carefully to be sure you are receiving all the exemptions you are entitled to.

OWNER OCCUPIED HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (aka *General Homestead*): This exemption can be found on your tax bill under "Owner Occupied". The amount is determined by subtracting the 1977 equalized value from the current assessed value up to a maximum of \$6,000. This amount is subtracted from the "Total Assessed" (along with any other exemptions you are entitled to) to determine your "Taxable Value".

SENIOR CITIZENS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: This exemption can be found under "Homestead/Veteran" next to your Owner Occupied exemption on your tax bill. You must be 65 years old and fill out an application in the assessment office to receive this exemption. You may apply any time during the year in which you turn 65. The amount of the reduction from your assessed value was increased to \$5,000 in 2013.

SENIOR CITIZENS ASSESSMENT FREEZE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (SCAFHE): To be eligible for this exemption, you must first qualify for the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption and your household income must be \$55,000 or less. The exemption freezes the assessed value of your property, not the amount of your taxes. Your tax bill will vary due to changes in the tax rate. You can find this exemption on your tax bill under "SCAFHE".

HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENT EXEMPTION: This exemption is found under "Improvement Exemption" on your tax bill. Any improvement on your owner occupied property which increases your assessment is eligible for a home improvement exemption. The exemption is good for four years starting the year the assessment is increased. The amount of the increase, up to \$25,000, is subtracted from your "Total Assessed" along with your other exemptions to determine your "Taxable Value".

DIASBLED PERSONS EXEMPTION: This exemption provides a \$2,000 reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a person who is 100% disabled during the assessment year. This exemption can be found on the tax bill under "Disabled". Application forms are available in the assessment office and must be filed annually with appropriate documentation.

DISABLED VETERANS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: This exemption can be found under "Homestead/Veteran" on your tax bill. "Veteran" refers to an exemption for disabled veterans who have altered their home to accommodate their disability. This exemption is established through the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and is approved by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

DISABLED VETERANS STANDARD HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: This exemption provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability certified by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The reduction is \$2,500 for a disability of at least 50% but less than 70% and a \$5,000 homestead exemption for a disability of 70% or more. You can find this exemption under "Disabled Veteran" on your tax bill. Forms are available in the assessment office and must be filed annually with appropriate documentation.

RETURNING VETERANS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: This exemption provides a \$5,000 reduction in a property's equalized assessed value to qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States. To receive this exemption, the veteran must file an application upon their return home. This exemption can be found on the tax bill under "Return Veteran".

If you did not get credit for an exemption on your tax bill which you are entitled to a Certificate of Error can be prepared by the Assessment Office to reduce the "Taxable Value" and the total amount of taxes due. An application form will need to be completed along with any required documentation. Upon approval of the Assessment Office, the original tax bill will be amended by the Treasurer's Office. Only current tax bills can be adjusted. Since all tax dollars are distributed to each taxing district listed on your tax bill at the end of each taxing year refunds for previous tax years are not available.