

Supervisor of Assessments
Ford County, IL

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 careful to be sure you are receiving all the exemptions you are entitled to.

OWNER OCCUPIED HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: This exemption amount can be found on your tax bill next to "General Homestead". The amount of the exemption is determined by comparing the difference between the 1977 equalized value and the current assessed value. The maximum amount of the exemption is \$6,000, but can be less than that. This amount is subtracted from the "Total Assd Valuation" (along with any other exemptions you are entitled to) to determine your "Taxable Value".

HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENT EXEMPTION: This exemption is found next to "Home Improvements" on your tax bill. Any improvement that increases your assessment on your owner occupied property 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 Assd Valuation" along with your other exemptions to determine your "Taxable Value".

SENIOR CITIZENS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: This exemption can be found next to "Senior Homestead" 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 limited to \$5,000.

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 next to "SCAFHE". The amount of the exemption varies depending upon your base amount that you establish the first year you qualify for the exemption.

DIASBLED PERSONS EXEMPTION: This exemption provides a reduction of up to \$2,000 in a property's taxable value. To qualify the 100% disabled owner/occupant of a property must provide documentation and apply for the exemption. This exemption can be found on the tax bill under "Disabled Persons". 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 "Disabled Veterans" on your tax bill. This exemption is 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 for a service-connected disability of 30% to less than 50% is up to \$2,500. The reduction for a service-connected disability of 50% but less than 70% is up to \$5,000. A service-connected disability of 70% or more is 100% exempt from property tax. You can find this exemption under "Disabled Veterans (Standard)" 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 up to 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 "Returning Veterans".

If you did not get credit for an exemption on your tax bill which you are entitled to receive, 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.