



Harris County  
Appraisal District

FORM 11.13 (03/08)

# Application for Residential Homestead Exemption

Account Number:

Tax Year:

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM ARE ON THE BACK OF THE FORM.** Return to Harris County Appraisal District, P. O. Box 922012, Houston, Texas 77292-2012. The district is located at 13013 Northwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77040. For questions, call (713) 957-7800.



**Step 1:  
Owner's  
Name and  
Address  
(attach  
sheets if  
needed)**

Owner's Name: (person completing application):

Current Mailing Address(number and Street):

City, State, ZIP code:

Phone (area code and number):

Drive's license, Personal ID Certificate, or Social Security Number :

Birth Date:

Percent Ownership in Property:

Check here if Ownership or Mailing address has changed and should be updated

Date you first occupied the home:

Other Owner's Name(s) (if any):

Other Owner's Percent Ownership:

**Step 2:  
Describe  
your  
Property**

Street address if different from above, or legal description if no street address: include property account number if available (optional):

**MOBILE HOMES** - Give make, model and identification number:

Attach a copy of document of statement of ownership and location issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs if home is 8' by 40' or larger, or attach a verified copy of the purchase contract that shows you are the owner of the mobile home unless your title information appears on the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' Web site. If so, the appraisal district may use the Web site documents to verify your eligibility.

Number of acres (not to exceed 20) used for residential purposes (yard, garden, garage, etc.) if the land and the structure have identical ownership \_\_\_\_\_ acres

**Step 3:  
Check  
Exemptions  
that apply to  
you**

**GENERAL RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION:** You qualify for this exemption if (1) you owned this property on January 1; (2) you occupied it as your principal residence on January 1; and (3) you or your spouse have not claimed a residence homestead exemption on any other property.

**OVER-65 EXEMPTION:** You qualify for this exemption if you are 65 years of age or older. This exemption also includes a school tax limitation, or ceiling and may include a city or county tax ceiling if either offers one. You can't claim a disability exemption if you claim this exemption. You must apply within one year of the date you acquired the home, if you were 65 or older when you acquired and occupied the home as your principal residence, or within one year of the date of your 65th birthday, if you already owned the home and turned 65 after January 1. **Attach proof of age (copy of driver's license, DPS identification card, birth certificate)**  
Please call the appraisal district if you will transfer a tax ceiling from your last home.....  YES  NO

**DISABILITY EXEMPTION:** You qualify for this exemption if you are under a disability for the purposes of payment of disability benefits under the Federal Old Age, Survivor's and Disability Insurance Act OR you meet the definition of disabled in that Act. You can't claim an over-65 exemption if you claim this exemption. This exemption includes a school tax limitation. You must apply within one year of the date you acquired the home if you were disabled when you acquired the home or within one year of the date you became disabled if you became disabled after you acquired the home. **(see instructions)**

**OVER-55 SURVIVING SPOUSE:** If you are applying because your spouse has died, and your deceased spouse was receiving or qualified for the over-65 exemption at death, you may be entitled to receive the exemption, as well as the school tax ceiling, if you were 55 years of age or older on the date of your spouse's death. If your deceased spouse received the disability exemption and not the over-65 exemption, you may be eligible for continuation of a tax ceiling granted by a city, county, or junior college, but you are not eligible for the disability exemption or the school tax ceiling. **Note: You will not receive the school tax limitation unless your spouse died on or after December 1, 1987. Attach proof of your age (copy of driver's license, DPS identification card, birth certificate) and copy of spouse's death certificate.**

Deceased Spouse's Name

Date of Death

**Step 4:  
Answer if  
applies**

**COOPERATIVE HOUSING RESIDENTS:** Do you have an exclusive right to occupy this unit because you own stock in a cooperative housing corporation? .....  Yes  NO

**Step 5:  
Check if late**

**Application for homestead exemption for prior tax year \_\_\_\_\_**

Note: You must have met all of the qualifications checked above to receive the prior year tax exemption.

**Step 6:  
Sign and  
date the  
application**

By signing this application, you state that you are qualified for the exemptions checked above. You state that the facts in this application are true and correct. You also state that you do not claim an exemption on another residence homestead. You must notify the chief appraiser if and when your right to the exemptions ends. You swear or affirm that you have read and understand the penalty for filing a false statement.

Sign  
Here

Authorized Signature

Date

**If you make a false statement on this application, you could be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor or a state jail felony under Texas Penal Code Section 37.10.**

# Application for Residential Homestead Exemption

More Information:

## Tax Exemptions, Limitations and Qualification Dates

•**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 that you actually use in the residential use (occupancy) of your home. Arbitrary factors that are unrelated to that use, such as acreage limits, matching legal descriptions, and contiguous parcels, may not be considered in determining if the land qualifies. To qualify for a homestead exemption, you must own and reside in your home on January 1 of the tax year. 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 outside the U.S. or in a facility providing services related to health, infirmity or aging may exceed the two year period.

•**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.

**Disability Exemptions.** You are entitled to the exemption if you meet the Social Security Administration's tests for disability. In simplest terms:

- 1) You must have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment;
- 2) The impairment must prevent you from engaging in **any** substantial gainful activity; and
- 3) The impairment must be expected to last for at least 12 continuous months or to result in death.

Alternatively, you will qualify if you are 55 or older and blind and cannot engage in your previous work because of your blindness.

To Verify your eligibility, attach a copy of your disability determination letter from Social Security (or other recognized retirement system), or have your physician complete and mail us the HCAD form titled **Physician's Statement Verifying Eligibility for Disability Homestead Exemption.**

•**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.

•**Surviving Spouse Age 55 or Older:** Aged 65 or older – You qualify for an extension of this exemption if (1) you are 55 years 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. Disabled: You will not qualify for a disability 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 application 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, you need not re-file for the aged 65 or older exemption. To ensure the earliest possible qualification without reapplication, the oldest spouse should complete the application for a married couple.

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

Instructions:

## How to Complete the Application

Fill out the other side of this application completely.

If you have trouble filling out this form, call the appraisal district.

*\*A list of taxing units and the exemptions they offer is listed below or attached to this application.*

### Step 1: 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 your 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.*