



*Lake County, Ohio*



**EDWARD H. ZUPANCIC**  
**COUNTY AUDITOR**

SECRETARY OF  
BUDGET COMMISSION  
BOARD OF REVISION

ADMINISTRATOR  
DATA PROCESSING DEPT.

**LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER**

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## **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS**

### **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION**

In July 2013, the law governing the Homestead Exemption was changed to an income based program for homeowners who were 65 years of age or totally disabled (if less than 65) and owned and occupied their home as of January 1st. The new law exempts the first \$25,000 of value, thus reducing the amount of taxes on your property.

- 1). You must be 65 years of age (or turn 65) in the year you are applying for or be permanently or totally disabled regardless of age, as certified by the Social Security Administration.
- 2). The income is based on your Ohio Adjusted Gross Income. The total amount of income for tax year 2013 must be under \$30,500. This income based program applies to homeowners that are turning 65 in 2014 as well as those persons qualifying under the disability exemption. **Proof of this income must be submitted with the application.**
- 3). You must own your home and/or manufactured home as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year for which you are applying and you must be occupying it as your primary place of residence at the time of application. In other words, it must be your voting and mailing address.
- 4).\*\*\* In Lake County, **PROOF OF AGE IS A REQUIREMENT**. A **photocopy** of one of the following is acceptable; a driver's license (current or expired), State of Ohio ID card, birth certificate or passport (current or expired) and **must be included with your application.** The application must be filed by Monday, June 2, 2014.
- 5).\*\*\* If your home is currently in a Trust or Life Estate, please submit **A COPY OF THE PAGE OF THE TRUST (OR PAGES) THAT SHOW THE TYPE OF TRUST WITH YOUR APPLICATION**. Per Ohio Law, certain Irrevocable Trusts do not allow you to qualify for the exemptions.
- 6). If you would of qualified for Homestead in 2013 and did not apply, please check the "Late application for prior year" box on the application as well as current application box. If you are filing a Late application, then the only requirement that you must follow, is sending in a copy of your proof of age (see the requirement above.).

For more information or questions, please contact us at (440) 350-2536.

## Homestead Exemption Application for Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons and Surviving Spouses

**File with the county auditor after the first Monday in January and on or before the first Monday in June.**

**Please read the instructions on the back of this form before you complete it.** Disabled applicants must complete form DTE 105E, Certificate of Disability for the Homestead Exemption, and attach it or a separate certification of disability status from an eligible state or federal agency to this application. See Late Application in the instructions on page 3 of this form.

- ☐ Current application
- ☐ Late application for prior year
- ☐ Application of person who received homestead reduction for 2013 or for 2014 for manufactured or mobile homes. Form DTE 105G must accompany this application.
- ☐ Application of person who received the homestead reduction for 2006 that is greater than the reduction calculated under the current law. Form DTE 105G must accompany this application.

### Type of application:

- ☐ Senior citizen (must be at least age 65 by Dec. 31st of the year for which the exemption is sought)
- ☐ Disabled person (must be permanently and totally disabled on Jan. 1 of the year for which exemption is sought)
- ☐ Surviving spouse (must have been at least 59 years old on the date of the spouse's death and must meet all other homestead exemption requirements)

### Type of home:

- ☐ Single family dwelling
- ☐ Unit in a multi-unit dwelling
- ☐ Condominium
- ☐ Unit in a housing cooperative
- ☐ Manufactured or mobile home
- ☐ Land under a manufactured or mobile home

Applicant's name \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

County in which home is located \_\_\_\_\_

Taxing district and parcel or registration number \_\_\_\_\_  
from tax bill or available from county auditor

### FOR COUNTY AUDITOR'S USE ONLY:

Taxing district and parcel or registration number \_\_\_\_\_

First year for homestead exemption \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor's application number \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Granted ☐ Denied

Date filed \_\_\_\_\_

Name on tax duplicate \_\_\_\_\_

Taxable value of homestead: Taxable land \_\_\_\_\_ Taxable bldg. \_\_\_\_\_ Taxable total \_\_\_\_\_

Tax commissioner income verification (year) \_\_\_\_\_ Income \_\_\_\_\_

Meets or is below threshold \_\_\_\_\_ Exceeds threshold \_\_\_\_\_ No information returned \_\_\_\_\_

In order to be eligible for the homestead exemption, the form of ownership must be identified. Property that is owned by a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other legal entity does not qualify for the exemption. Check the box that applies to this property.

**The applicant is:**

- ☐ an individual named on the deed
- ☐ a purchaser under a land installment contract
- ☐ a life tenant under a life estate
- ☐ a mortgagor (borrower) for an outstanding mortgage
- ☐ trustee of a trust with the right to live in the property
- ☐ the settlor, under a revocable or irrevocable inter vivos trust, holding title to a homestead occupied by the settlor as a right under the trust
- ☐ a stockholder in a qualified housing cooperative. See form DTE 105A – Supplement for additional information.
- ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

If the applicant or the applicant's spouse owns a second or vacation home, please provide the address and county below.

Address	City	State	ZIP code	County
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**The taxpayer is only required to answer the following two lines if the applicant's income cannot exceed the amount set by law:**

Ohio adjusted gross income (line 3 of Ohio income tax return) for applicant and spouse for year preceding year of application (see instructions):

Have you or do you intend to file an Ohio income tax return for last year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I declare under penalty of perjury that (1) I occupied this property as my principal place of residence on Jan. 1 of the year(s) for which I am requesting the homestead exemption, (2) I currently occupy this property as my principal place of residence, (3) I did not acquire this homestead from a relative or in-law, other than my spouse, for the purpose of qualifying for the homestead exemption, and (4) I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, this application is true, correct and complete.

I (we) acknowledge that by signing this application, I (we) delegate to both the Ohio tax commissioner and to the auditor of the county in which the property for which I am seeking exemption is located, and to their designated agents, the authority to release my tax and/or financial records and to examine and consult regarding such records for the purpose of determining my eligibility for the homestead exemption or a possible violation of the homestead laws. Such records shall not contain any federal tax information as defined in I.R.C. 6103 and received from the Internal Revenue Service. I expressly waive the confidentiality provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, including O.R.C. 5703.21 and 5747.18, which may otherwise prohibit disclosure, and agree to hold the Ohio tax commissioner and county auditor harmless with respect to the limited disclosures herein. Except as authorized by law, the parties to which this authority is delegated shall maintain the confidentiality of the information received and the information shall not otherwise be re-disclosed.

Signature of applicant	Signature of spouse
Mailing address	Date
Phone number	E-mail address

## Please read before you complete the application.

**What is the Homestead Exemption?** The homestead exemption provides a reduction in property taxes to qualified senior or disabled citizens, or a surviving spouse, on the dwelling that is that individual's principal place of residence and up to one acre of land of which an eligible individual is an owner. The reduction is equal to the taxes that would otherwise be charged on up to \$25,000 of the market value of an eligible taxpayer's homestead.

**What Your Signature Means:** By signing the front of this form, you affirm under penalty of perjury that your statements on the form are true, accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief and that you are authorizing the tax commissioner and the county auditor to review financial and tax information filed with the state. A conviction of willfully falsifying information on this application will result in the loss of the homestead exemption for a period of three years.

**Qualifications for the Homestead Exemption for Real Property and Manufactured or Mobile Homes:** To receive the homestead exemption you must be (1) at least 65 years of age during the year you first file, or be determined to have been permanently and totally disabled (see definition at right), or be a surviving spouse (see definition at right), and (2) own and have occupied your home as your principal place of residence on Jan. 1 of the year in which you file the application. For manufactured or mobile home owners, the dates apply to the year following the year in which you file the application. A person only has one principal place of residence; your principal place of residence determines, among other things, where you are registered to vote and where you declare residency for income tax purposes. You may be required to present evidence of age. If the property is being purchased under a land contract, is owned by a life estate or by a trust, or the applicant is the mortgagor of the property, you may be required to provide copies of any contracts, trust agreements, mortgages or other documents that identify the applicant's eligible ownership interest in the home.

If you are applying for homestead and did not qualify for the exemption for 2013 (2014 for manufactured homes), your total income cannot exceed the amount set by law. "Total income" is de-

fined as the adjusted gross income for Ohio income tax purposes (line 3 of Ohio income tax return) of the owner and the owner's spouse for the year preceding the year for which you are applying. If you do not file an Ohio income tax return, adjusted gross income includes compensation, rents, interest, fees and most other types of total income. Certain Social Security and disability benefits are not included in adjusted gross income. If you are unsure of what income is included, contact your county auditor. You may be required to produce evidence of income.

**Current Application:** If you qualify for the homestead exemption for the first time this year (for real property) or for the first time next year (for manufactured or mobile homes), check the box for *Current Application* on the front of this form.

**Late Application:** If you also qualified for the homestead exemption for last year (for real property) or for this year (for manufactured or mobile homes) on the same property for which you are filing a current application, but you did not file a current application for that year, you may file a late application for the missed year by checking the late application box on the front of this form. You may only file a late application for the same property for which you are filing a current application.

**Definition of a Surviving Spouse:** An eligible surviving spouse must (1) be the surviving spouse of a person who was receiving the homestead exemption by reason of age or disability for the year in which the death occurred, and (2) must have been at least 59 years old on the date of the decedent's death.

**Permanent Disability:** Permanent and totally disabled means a person who has, on the first day of January of the year for which the homestead exemption is requested, some impairment of body or mind that makes him/her unfit to work at any substantially remunerative employment which he/she is reasonably able to perform and which will, with reasonable probability, continue for an indefinite period of at least 12 months without any present indication of recovery, or who has been certified as totally and permanently disabled by an eligible state or federal agency.