

# Disability Homestead Exemption: Information and Requirements

## Who is a disabled person for the purposes of this exemption?

The Texas Property Tax Code provides that you are entitled to the exemption if you meet the Social Security Administration's test 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, if you are over the age of 55 and due to blindness are unable to engage in substantial gainful activity in which you previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time.

## Do I have to be receiving disability benefits to qualify?

You do not have to be receiving disability benefits, but you must meet the definition of disabled given above. If you receive disability benefits under the Federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Program through the Social Security Administration you will automatically qualify. Disability benefits from any other program do not automatically qualify you for this exemption.

## How do I claim the exemption?

To claim the exemption, you must file an application with the appraisal district. The application must include documentation of your disability. The application form is entitled "**Application for Residential Homestead Exemption.**" This form (50-114) can be obtained from the Texas State Comptroller website or from our office located at 103 E. Bailey, Cuero, Texas 77954. In it, you should complete all applicable information. Be especially certain to mark the box that recognizes your claim for the disability exemption. The most common reason for denial of this exemption is failure to provide adequate documentation.

## What kind of documents should I include?

The best form of documentation, if you are receiving Social Security Disability, is a copy of your disability determination letter issued by the Social Security Administration. If you are not receiving Social Security Disability, then have your physician complete and return DCAD's Verification of Disability Form or attach information from a recognized retirement system verifying your permanent disability. It is very important that if you are submitting the Verification of Disability form, your physician must mail it to the appraisal district. This form will not be accepted if simply attached to your application.

## Where do I file my application?

Once you have completed the application and secured appropriate documentation, you need to file your application with the chief appraiser. You may mail or file your request directly with the appraisal district at the address given on this form. Action on your application usually will occur within four to six weeks from the date it is received. In the event the Appraisal district disagrees with your request, you will be notified and offered an opportunity to protest this decision. For any questions or additional assistance, you are encouraged to call our office at 361-275-573 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.