

**Offices of the
Pasco County Property Appraiser**

DADE CITY

East Pasco Government Center
14236 6th Street, Suite 101, Dade City, FL 33523
(352) 521-4433 Main No. (352) 521-4411 Fax
Hours: M – F / 8:00 – 5:00

Mailing Address: PO Box 401
Dade City, FL 33526-0401

WESLEY CHAPEL

Village Market Shopping Center
5325 Village Market, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
(813) 929-1390 Main No. (813) 929-1394 Fax
Hours: M,T,TH,F / 8:00 – 5:00
Extended Hours: W / 8:00 – 7:00

NEW PORT RICHEY

West Pasco Government Center
7530 Little Road, Suite 130
New Port Richey, FL 34654-5598
(727) 847-8151 Main No. (727) 847-8013 Fax
Hours: M – F / 8:00 – 5:00

GULF HARBORS

Gulf Harbors Tax Collector's Office
4720 U.S. Highway 19, New Port Richey, FL 34652
(727) 847-8151 Main No. (727) 834-3885 Fax
Hours: M,W,F / 8:30 – 5:00
Extended Hours:
T,TH / 7:30 – 6:00 SAT / 9:00 - 1:00

LAND O' LAKES

Central Pasco Professional Center
4111 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 206
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639
(813) 929-2780 Main No. (813) 929-2784 Fax
Hours: M – F / 8:00 – 5:00

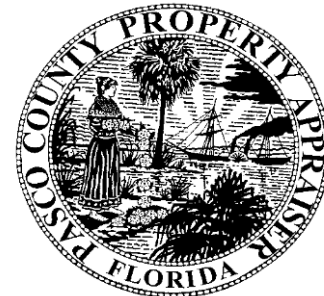
Internet Address:

<http://appraiser.pascogov.com>

**UNDERSTANDING
HOMESTEAD AND OTHER TAX
EXEMPTIONS**



Explaining Tax-Saving Methods



Presented by

**Mike Wells
Pasco County
Property Appraiser
Pasco County, Florida**

Mike Wells

Pasco County Property Appraiser

Dear Property Owner:

This brochure contains frequently asked questions about exemptions, and I trust you will find it informative.

As your Property Appraiser, I am charged with the responsibility of reviewing all applications for exemption from ad valorem taxation.

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Mike Wells
Pasco County Property Appraiser

THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

WHAT IS HOMESTEAD?

Homestead exemption is a constitutional guarantee that reduces the assessed value of residential property up to \$25,000 for qualified permanent residents.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION?

Every Florida resident who has legal or beneficial title in equity to real property in the State of Florida, who resides on said real property, and in good faith makes the same his or her permanent residence to the exclusion of all other places on or before January 1st of the year application is made, shall be entitled to an exemption from all taxation, except non-ad valorem taxes, up to the assessed valuation of \$25,000. Commercial usage of property is not subject to this exemption.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

In order to receive the benefit of the homestead exemption, widow or widower exemption and all disability exemptions, an initial application for the specific exemption must be filed with the Property Appraiser's Office. This requirement extends to all ownership changes, including title changes, and pertains to the exclusive property.

OUR OFFICE ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS ON A YEAR-ROUND BASIS AS FOLLOWS:

All applications must be in our office no later than the close of business on **March 1st** of the year in which the exemption is sought. A receipt will be supplied at the time of application. Applications prior to January 1st will be for the succeeding year. All applications taken in January and February will be for the current year. **New exemptions will be reflected annually on our web site no later than July.**

WHAT KIND OF DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED TO QUALIFY?

All the below listed information / documents are required at the time of application, if applicable.

If married, the following is required for you and your spouse:

- Recorded deed or tax bill for the real property to be homesteaded, which reflects the applicant as the owner on or before January 1st of the year for which an application is being filed.
- Florida driver's license.
- Florida vehicle registration.
- Social security number for the applicant and his / her spouse.
- Pasco County Voter Registration card.
- If not a U.S. citizen, a permanent visa and a declaration of domicile.
A declaration of domicile may be obtained through the Clerk of the Circuit Court.
- Mobile home registration or title, if your mobile home needs to be declared as real property.

NOTE: Not more than one residency-required exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit, in Florida or elsewhere. A Family Unit means a husband and wife who are legally married as recognized by the State of Florida.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER EXEMPTIONS IN ADDITION TO HOMESTEAD?

Yes, other exemptions are available for permanent Florida residents that can be applied to real property, personal property or non-homestead property owned by the eligible applicant.

For qualifying homeowners, under Florida Statute 193.703, the value of certain living quarters for parents or grandparents shall be excluded from the value of the property for purposes of ad valorem taxation. For further information please refer to the 'Exemptions' section on our web site.

\$500 WIDOW'S AND WIDOWER'S EXEMPTION

Any widow or widower who is a permanent Florida resident may claim this exemption. A death certificate must be presented at time of application. If the widow or widower remarries, he or she is no longer eligible. (If the husband or wife was divorced prior to death of the ex-spouse, he or she shall not be considered a widow or widower).

\$500 DISABILITY EXEMPTION / \$500 EXEMPTION FOR BLIND PERSONS

Every Florida resident who is totally and permanently disabled or who is blind may qualify for the above exemptions. If filing for the first time, please present at least one of the following as proof of your disability:

- If totally and permanently disabled, a certificate from one licensed Florida physician or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or from the Social Security Administration to reflect the total and permanent disability.
- If claiming an exemption based on blindness, a certificate from one licensed Florida physician, Optometrist, or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, certifying the applicant to be blind, or a certificate from Division of Blind Services. (**See Important Note on this page)

\$5,000 SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY EXEMPTION

Any ex-service member who is a permanent resident of Florida who was discharged under honorable conditions and is disabled by at least 10% in war or by service-connected misfortune is entitled to a \$5,000 exemption. If filing for the first time, please provide the following as proof of your disability:

- A certificate from the United States Government, or a certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or its predecessor.

An unremarried surviving spouse who had been married to the disabled ex-service member, at the time of death, for at least 5 years is also entitled to this exemption. Please provide the following at the time of application:

- A certificate from the United States Government or a certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or its predecessor, a marriage certificate, and a death certificate.

TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED PERSONS

An exemption is available for those Florida residents who meet the requirements for homestead exemption and who are totally and permanently disabled, which exempts them from all ad valorem taxation of qualifying real property.

- **For ex-military personnel**, a letter is required from the Veterans Administration or other military branch or from the U.S. Government stating that you are an honorably discharged veteran having a total and permanent service-connected disability. Under certain circumstances, this exemption may be extended to an unremarried surviving spouse.
- **For quadriplegics**, a letter from the Veterans Administration or a certificate from two unrelated licensed Florida physicians must be presented. (**See Important Note)
- **For paraplegics/hemiplegics and other totally and permanently disabled persons requiring the use of a wheelchair for mobility or who are legally blind.** A letter from the Veterans Administration or a certificate from two-unrelated licensed Florida physicians and a statement of gross income of all persons residing on the homestead property. The gross income limitation is adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.). Please call our office for current limitation amounts. (**See Important Note)

% DISCOUNT FOR DISABLED FL VETERAN'S

Any ex-service member who was a resident of the State of Florida upon entering military service, is 65 years of age or older, was discharged under honorable conditions and the disability is considered combat related, shall qualify to receive a percent discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax on homestead property. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability. Please provide the following:

- Proof of age on January 1 of year discount applied.
- Evidence the applicant was a resident of Florida upon entering military service (DD form 214).
- A certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs reflecting the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability.
- Evidence identifying the disability or portion of disability as combat related (EX: receipt of combat service medals).
- Proof of the veteran's honorable discharge.

IMPORTANT NOTE

**** For your convenience, Physician form (DR-416) or Optometrist form (DR-416B) are available on our web site or you may request by mail. <http://appraiser.pascogov.com>**

You may claim only one residency-required exemption, regardless of the number of residences owned in any other county, state or country.

Section 196.031 (6), Florida Statutes, states:

“A person who is receiving or claiming the benefit of an ad valorem tax exemption or a tax credit in another state where permanent residency is required as a basis for the granting of that ad valorem tax exemption or tax credit is not entitled to the homestead exemption provided by this section.”

Section 196.131 (2), Florida Statutes, provides that any person who knowingly and willfully gives false information for the purpose of claiming homestead exemption is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.