

Form PTAX-343 General Information

What is the Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities?

The Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities (HEPD) (35 ILCS 200/15-168) provides an annual \$2,000 reduction in the equalized assessed value (EAV) of the property owned and occupied as the primary residence on January 1 of the assessment year by a person with a disability who is liable for the payment of property taxes.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for the HEPD you must

- have a disability during the assessment year (*i.e.*, cannot participate in any "substantial gainful activity by reason of a medically determinable physical or mental impairment" which will result in the person's death or that will last for at least 12 continuous months),
- own or have a legal or equitable interest in the property on which single-family residence is occupied as your primary residence on January 1 of the assessment year, and
- be liable for the payment of the property taxes.

If you previously received the HEPD and now reside in a facility licensed under the ID/DD (intellectually disabled/developmentally disabled) Community Care Act, Nursing Home Care Act, Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act of 2013, or MC/DD (Medically Complex for the Developmentally Disabled) Act you are still eligible to receive the HEPD provided your property

- is occupied by your spouse; or
- remains unoccupied during the assessment year.

If you are a resident of a cooperative apartment building or life care facility as defined under Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities Act you are still eligible to receive the HEPD provided you occupy the property as your primary residence and you are

- liable by contract with the owner(s) of record for the payment of the apportioned property taxes on the property; and
- an owner of record of a legal or equitable interest in the cooperative apartment building. Leasehold interest **does not** qualify for this exemption.

What documentation is required?

You must provide **one** of the following items to qualify for the HEPD. The proof of disability must be for the **assessment year** shown on Line 3 of this application.

- A Class 2 Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. Class 2 or Class 2A qualifies for this exemption. Class 1 or 1A does **not** qualify.
- Proof of Social Security Administration disability benefits which includes an award letter, verification letter or annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) letter (only COLA Form SSA-4926-SM-DI). If you are under full retirement age and receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits, proof includes a letter indicating SSI payments (COLA Forms SSA-L8151, SSA-L8155, or SSA-L8156).
- Proof of Veterans Administration disability benefits which includes an award letter or verification letter indicating

you are receiving a pension for a non-service connected disability.

- Proof of Railroad or Civil Service disability benefits which includes an award letter or verification letter of total (100%) disability.
- If you are unable to provide any of the items listed above as proof of your disability, each year you must submit Form PTAX 343-A, Physician's Statement for the Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities to your Chief County Assessment Officer (CCAO). This form must be completed by a physician. You may be required to provide additional documentation. **You are responsible for any physicians' costs.**

Can I estimate the amount of my exemption?

Yes. Multiply the \$2,000 reduction in EAV by the total tax rate shown on your most recent property tax bill.

Example: \$2,000 EAV X 7% = \$140 estimated exemption

When will I receive my exemption?

The year you apply for this exemption is referred to as the assessment year. The County Board of Review while in session for the assessment year has the final authority to grant your exemption. If your exemption is granted, it will be applied to the property tax bill that is paid the year following the assessment year.

When and where must I file this Form PTAX-343?

Contact your CCAO at the telephone number or address below for assistance and to verify your county's due date.

Note: To continue to receive this exemption, you must file Form PTAX-343-R, Annual Verification of Eligibility for the Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities, each year with your CCAO.

File or mail your completed Form PTAX-343:

Lake County Chief County Assessment Office
18 N. County St. 7th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085

If you have any questions, please call: (847) 377- 2050

Can I designate another person to receive a property tax delinquency notice for my property?

Yes. Contact your CCAO for information on how to designate another person to receive a duplicate of a property tax delinquency notice for your property.

Are there other homestead exemptions available for a person with a disability?

Yes. However, only one of the following homestead exemptions may be claimed on your property for a single assessment year

- **Veterans with Disabilities Exemption**
- **Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities**
- **Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities**

Official use. Do not write in this space.

Date received: ___/___/___

Verify Proof of Disability: 1 2 3 4 5

Expiration date: ___/___/___

Board of review action date: ___/___/___

Approved Denied

Reason for denial _____