

## **INTRODUCTION**

A tax exemption is a discharge from the obligation to pay all or a portion of a tax. Exemptions are conferred by the Legislature on particular categories of persons or property.

Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F of section 5 of Chapter 59 provide exemptions to certain veterans (and their spouses or surviving spouses) who were not dishonorably discharged and who meet certain residency requirements.

## **APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be filed annually with the local assessors in the city or town where the property is located on or before December 15th, or three months after the actual tax bills are mailed, whichever is later. Filing an application does not entitle the applicant to a delay in tax payment.

## **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

An individual must (1) have been a Massachusetts domiciliary prior to entering the service or (2) have lived in Massachusetts for not less than 2 years prior to filing for exemption or, in those communities which have accepted the alternative local option provision, for not less than 1 year prior to filing.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

An applicant for an exemption must provide to the assessors whatever information is reasonably required to establish eligibility. This information may include, but not limited to:

- 1 Certification of a war-service connected disability from the Veterans Administration or the branch of service from which separated.
- 2 Evidence of domicile and occupancy.

## **DOMICILE**

The veteran must occupy the property as his or her domicile on July 1 of the tax year.

## **OWNERSHIP**

- 1 A qualifying applicant must possess a sufficient ownership interest in the domicile. To satisfy this ownership requirement, the person's interest must be worth at least \$2,000. The person may own this interest solely, as a joint owner or as a tenant in common.
- 2 The holder of a life estate satisfies the ownership requirement.
- 3 If the domicile is held in a trust, a person can only satisfy the ownership interest if he:
  - a) Is a trustee or co-trustee of that trust .
  - b) Possesses a sufficient beneficial interest in the domicile through that trust. (Splitting the interest between multiple trusts does not qualify).

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTION AMOUNTS FOR EACH CLAUSE**

### Clause 22 - \$400

This exemption is available to the following classes of persons:

- 1 Veterans with a war-service connected disability of 10% or more as determined by the Veterans Administration or the branch of service from which separated.
- 2 Veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.
- 3 Gold Star mothers and fathers
- 4 Spouses (where domicile is owned by the veteran's spouse) and surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of veterans entitled to exemption .

### Clause 22A - \$750

This exemptions is available to veterans (and their spouses or their surviving spouses) who:

- 1 Suffered in the line of duty the loss or permanent loss of use of one foot or one hand or one eye.
- 2 Received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross.
- 3 Were prisoners of war.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$750 which corresponds to the segment occupied by the veteran will be allowed.

Clause 22B - \$1,250

This exemption is available to veterans (and their spouses or their surviving spouses) who suffered in the line of duty the loss or permanent loss of use of both feet or both hands or both eyes.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$1,250 which corresponds to the segment occupied by the veteran will be allowed.

Clause 22C - \$1,500

This exemption is available to veterans (and their spouses or their surviving spouses) who (1) suffered total disability in the line of duty and (2) who received assistance in acquiring "specially adapted housing" which they own and occupy as their domicile.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$1,500 which corresponds to the segment occupied by the veteran will be allowed.

Clause 22D - Full Exemption

This exemption is available to surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of soldiers and sailors whose proximate cause of death was an injury or illness suffered during active duty.

Clause 22E - \$1,000

This exemption is available to veterans (and their surviving spouses) who suffered 100% disability in the line of duty.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$1,000 which corresponds to the segment occupied by the veteran will be allowed.

Clause 22 F - Full Exemption

This exemption is available to veterans and the surviving spouses of such veterans who are certified by the Veterans Administration as paraplegic from an injury received while in the service and in the line of duty or 100% disabled due to service-connected blindness.

**WARTIME SERVICE**

Wartime service is service performed by a *Spanish War veteran*, a *World War I veteran*, a *World War II veteran*, a *Korean veteran*, a *Vietnam veteran*, a *Lebanese peace keeping force veteran*, a *Grenada rescue mission veteran*, a *Panamanian intervention force veteran*, a *Persian Gulf veteran*, or a member of *WAAC*. The dates for each qualifying military action are set out in G. L. Ch. 4 sec. 7(43).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Town of Oak Bluffs  
Assessing Department  
PO Box 1327  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557  
508-693-3554 x150**



**Property Tax Exemptions for Qualifying Veterans**

**TAXPAYER'S GUIDE TO REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

- CLAUSE 22
- CLAUSE 22A
- CLAUSE 22B
- CLAUSE 22C
- CLAUSE 22D
- CLAUSE 22E
- CLAUSE 22F

**Note all first time filers must supply a copy of their DD214 Discharge Papers**