

PENN CAMBRIA S.D.
201 6TH STREET
CRESSON PA 16630

Dear Property Owner:

The Taxpayer Relief Act, Act 1 of Special Session 1 of 2006, was signed into law by Governor Rendell on June 27, 2006. The Taxpayer Relief Act provides for property tax reduction allocations to be distributed by the Commonwealth to each school district. Property tax reduction will be through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion."

Under a homestead or farmstead property tax exclusion, the assessed value of each homestead or farmstead is reduced by the same amount before the property tax is computed. Homeowners are not guaranteed a homestead or farmstead exclusion unless and until an additional income tax for purposes of granting a homestead or farmstead exclusion is approved by voter referendum or sufficient funds have been collected to permit property tax reduction allocations to be made by the Commonwealth. Initial property tax reductions funded by allocations from the Commonwealth took effect July 1, 2008.

To receive school property tax relief for tax years beginning July 1 or January 1, an application for homestead or farmstead exclusions must be filed by March 1. School districts are required to notify homeowners by December 31 of each year if their property is not approved for the homestead or farmstead exclusion or if their approval is due to expire.

Enclosed is the application and instructions for its completion. The deadline to submit applications for property tax relief is March 1, 2020. Send your completed application to: BLAIR COUNTY ASSESSMENT OFFICE
423 ALLEGHENY ST SUITE 041
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648-2022

You will receive notification regarding your approval/denial from the county assessor within 120 days after the filing deadline for your application. If for any reason your application is denied, you will be given an opportunity to appeal the county's determination.

If you have any questions please contact Jill M Francisco at 814-886-8121.

Sincerely,
Jill M Francisco

The deadline to submit applications for property tax relief is March 1, 2020

INSTRUCTIONS...PROPERTY TAX RELIEF APPLICATION FOR HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD EXCLUSIONS

The Taxpayer Relief Act, Act 1 of Special Session 1 of 2006, was signed into Law by Governor Rendell on June 27, 2006. The Law provides for property tax reduction allocations to be distributed by the Commonwealth to each school district, and the state funds must then be used to reduce local residential school property tax bills. Property tax reduction will be through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion". Under a homestead or farmstead property tax exclusion, the assessed value of each homestead or farmstead is reduced by the amount of the exclusion before the property tax is computed.

To receive school property tax relief for tax years beginning July 1, 2020, or January 1, 2020, this form must be filed by March 1, 2020. Your school district is required to notify you by December 31 of each year if your property is not approved for the homestead or farmstead exclusion or if your approval is due to expire.

1. Review your name and name of other owners of record, such as your spouse or a co-owner of the property. If this is incorrect, fill in the correct name under "Name/Address Correction". The application must be signed by an owner for whom the property is his or her primary residence. If the property has more than one owner, signatures of additional owners are not required.
2. Review the address of the property for which you are seeking a Homestead Exclusion. If this is incorrect, fill in the correct address under "Name/Address Correction".
3. Review your municipality. If you are not sure what your municipality is, contact your local tax collector or county assessment office.
4. Review your school district. If you are not sure what your school district is, contact your local tax collector or county assessment office.
5. Review your mailing address. If this is incorrect, fill in the correct address under "Name/Address Correction".
6. Please list phone numbers where you can be reached.
7. Only a primary residence of an owner of the property may receive the homestead exclusion. This is where you intend to reside permanently until you move to another home. You may be asked to provide proof that this property is your primary residence, such as your driver's license, your voter registration card, your personal income tax form or your local earned income tax form.
8. Do you have another residence which you claim as your primary residence? For instance, do you claim another state as your primary residence, or another county in Pennsylvania? The Homestead Exclusion can only be claimed once for a place of primary residence. You may not claim this property as your primary residence if you claim another property as a primary residence or if you receive a homestead tax abatement or other homestead benefit from any other county or state.
9. If you live in a unit of a cooperative and you pay all or a portion of your real property taxes jointly through a management agent or association, rather than paying your taxes separately from other units, check yes. If you answered yes, please indicate your proportionate share of ownership. You may be asked to provide a contact to confirm this information.
10. Check yes if the property for which you are seeking a homestead exclusion is used for other purposes, such as a business or rental property. For example, do you claim part of your home as a home office or deduct expenses for the business use of your home on your state or federal tax? If you answered yes, indicate what percentage of the property is used for business or rental property.
11. Review the _____ number of the property for which you are seeking a homestead exclusion. You can also find the number on your real property tax bill. If this is incorrect, call your local tax collector or county assessment office.
12. Only buildings and structures on farms which are at least ten contiguous acres in area and used as the primary residence of the owner are eligible for a farmstead exclusion. Land is not eligible for the farmstead exclusion. If your property includes at least ten contiguous acres of farm land, check yes.
13. Check yes if the buildings or structures are used primarily to:
 - a. Produce or store farm products produced on the farm for the purpose of commercial agricultural production.
 - b. House animals raised or maintained on the farm for the purpose of commercial agricultural production.
 - c. Store agricultural supplies or machinery and equipment used on the farm in commercial agricultural production.
14. Check yes if any farm buildings or structures receive an abatement of property tax under any other law.

Change in Use

If your property is approved as homestead or farmstead property and the use changes so that the property no longer qualifies for the homestead or farmstead exclusion, property owners must notify the assessor within 45 days of the change in use. If the use of your property changes and you are not sure if it still qualifies for the homestead and farmstead exclusion, you should contact the assessor.

False or Fraudulent Applications

The assessor may select, randomly or otherwise, applications to review for false or fraudulent information. Any person who files an application that contains false information, or who does not notify the assessor of a change in use which no longer qualifies as homestead or farmstead property, will be required to:

- Pay the taxes which would have been due but for the false application, plus interest.
- Pay a penalty equal to 10% of unpaid taxes.
- If convicted of filing a false application, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree and be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$2,500.

This application must be signed by an owner for whom this property is his or her primary residence. If the property has more than one owner, signatures of additional owners are not required. By signing this application, the applicant is affirming or swearing that all information contained in the application is true and correct.

