Changes to TEXAS PROPERTY TAX & HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS



The Texas homestead exemption, a cherished benefit for homeowners in the Lone Star State, has recently seen updates with the introduction of a **5-year renewal rule**, aiming to streamline the process while ensuring continued eligibility. This would be the result of the passing of Senate Bill 1801 that went into effect September 2023 amending the old rule that only required a one-time filing. This renewal rule mandates that homeowners must renew their homestead exemption **every five years** to maintain its benefits.

Under this new regulation, homeowners will need to submit a renewal application for their homestead exemption within the designated timeframe, typically prior to the expiration of their current exemption. This application process involves providing updated information about the property and any changes in ownership or occupancy status that may have occurred since the initial exemption was granted. Additionally, homeowners may be required to provide documentation such as **proof of residency and identification to verify their eligibility.**

One significant change accompanying the renewal rule is the increased emphasis on digital submission options. Recognizing the convenience and efficiency of online platforms, Texas has expanded its online resources to facilitate the renewal process. Homeowners can now conveniently submit their renewal applications through the state's official website or designated online portals, streamlining the process and reducing paperwork.

However, if you receive a letter from your appraisal district, **DO NOT** discard or ignore it! The letter may contain important instructions and requests for information regarding your homestead exemption.

Not all homeowners will be affected by these new regulations so homeowners need to stay informed about these changes and adhere and comply with the renewal requirements to continue enjoying the benefits of the homestead exemption. Failure to renew within the specified timeframe may result in the lapse of the exemption, subjecting the homeowner to potential increases in property taxes.

Maintaining your homestead exemption is now a more proactive process. Stay vigilant and respond promptly to any letters received from your appraisal district.

Kaufman Central Appraisal District

Denton Central Appraisal District

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT WITH QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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SMITH COUNTY

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*Mail sent to the physical address will not be delivered