

Frequently Asked Questions: Colorado Property Tax for Veterans with a Qualifying Disability and Gold Star Spouses

When can I apply for the exemption?

January 1-July 1 of any given year.

Can I apply anytime of the calendar year?

Colorado Statue Title 39 states that applications can be received January 1-July 1.

Do I have to reapply every year?

Once the application has been approved, the veteran will NOT be required to resubmit an application until they move to a new property.

If I apply after the deadline of a given year, will you just hold the application until January 1?

No, applications are not retained. Any application that has been received after the July 1 deadline will be shredded once a letter has been generated & sent to the applicant. The letter will be mailed to the property on the application.

How do I submit my application on July 1 if it is a weekend or federal holiday?

Larimer County residents only: Applications can be faxed to 970-498-7070

Do I qualify if I am classified 100% for unemployability?

No. The definition in the Colorado Statue Title 39 defines a Qualifying Disabled Veteran as honorably discharged with a 100% service-connected permanent rating with the VA.

Do I need to do anything with the questions that do not apply to me?

The applicant can notate NA or draw a single line through the response section.

Can I submit my application by email?

No. Applications will not be accepted via email.

What do I need to provide with my application packet?

- *A complete application.*
- *VA Benefit Summary Letter or your Medical Separation Letter from a branch of service.*
- *A current Department of Defense Letter stating you lost your spouse in active duty.*

Do I need to submit a DD-214, my driver's license, social security card, tax statement, birth certificate, marriage license, etc.?

No, the only required documents are a complete application and a VA Benefit Summary Letter or your Medical Separation Letter from a branch of service.

Where do I submit the application packet?

Submit your application to the location stated on the top right-hand box of the application.

Both my spouse and I are Qualified Disabled Veterans. Do we both need to apply? Will we qualify for two exemptions on the same property?

Only one spouse can receive the exemption. Also, if the veteran is receiving the Senior Homestead Exemption they will not qualify for an increase in the exempted amount of taxes. A property can only have one exemption at a given time.

Do I have to be a Colorado resident to receive the tax exemption, or can I receive the tax exemption on my second home?

The veteran must be a Colorado resident living and paying income taxes in Colorado to receive the exemption. Only one exemption can be used by any person.

My deceased spouse received the exemption before they passed. How do I apply for the surviving spouse exemption?

*Complete the Gold Star Spouse application and submit it to your County Assessor. **Larimer County residents:** Larimer County Assessor, 200 W Oak St, P.O. Box 860, Fort Collins, CO 80522.*

I moved and my deceased spouse received the exemption before they passed. How do I reapply?

Unfortunately, the surviving spouse will not qualify for the exemption once they sell the property. If the spouse is a Qualified Disabled Veteran, they can apply during the January 1 - July 1 timeframe if they have lived in the new property on January 1 of the year the veteran is applying.

I remarried and my deceased spouse received the exemption before they passed. Do I still qualify?

Unfortunately, the spouse cannot continue to receive the exemption once they have remarried. However, if the spouse is a Qualified Disabled Veteran, they can apply January 1- July 1. If the spouse is not a Qualified Disabled Veteran but is over the age of 65 and has owned the home and has been their primary residence for more than 10 years, they can apply for the Senior Homestead Exemption.

I am the veteran with the Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption, but my former spouse has taken possession of our house in the separation. How do I notify the county?

***Larimer County residents only:** Contact the Larimer County Assessor's office at 970-498-7050.*

Do I have to include social security numbers for myself and my dependents?

Yes, it is on the application as required information.

Do I have to list all my dependents?

Yes, you need to list all the dependents who live at this property. It is on the application as required information.

How do I fill out question 5A if I am not married and live alone?

You can write in NA or draw a line through the blank space. You do not need to add the applicant to this section.

The VA letter has a back date of Do I qualify for reimbursement from the taxes I have paid?

No, the exemption is not retroactive.

I just bought the house after January 1 of this year. Do I qualify?

The veteran must own the home on or before January 1 of the year they are applying. The veteran may also qualify if the property has been owned by the spouse of the veteran and both the veteran and the spouse have lived at this primary residence since January 1. Primary residence is where the veteran lives 51% of the year.

I just bought a new house. Does the exemption transfer to the new house?

A new application will need to be submitted between January 1 and July 1 of the year that the veteran has lived in the house since January 1.

Do I qualify if I am a renter?

No. The applicant must own the property.

What does “Statement 3A would be true if not for the fact that ownership has been transferred to a trust, corporate partnership or other legal entity solely for estate planning purposes” mean?

Is the property in a trust, corporate partnership, or legal entity? If no, then mark no. If yes, complete the form with the information. You may include your legal documents with your application.

What does, “Statement 4A would be true if not for the fact that I am confined to a hospital, nursing home, or assisted living facility” mean?

Are you currently living in a hospital, nursing home or assisted living facility? If no, then mark no. If yes, then complete the form with the information. You may include your legal documents with your application.

When does the exemption take effect, and do I see the discount on my statement?

The exemption process can take several months to complete as the application moves through various government entities. Since Colorado pays taxes in arrears, the year that you are accepted is the tax year you will receive the discount. So, if you are approved in 2024, you will see the discount on your 2024 taxes to be paid in 2025. Because of the Colorado Open Rights Act, the counties will send recipients statements with the discount already accounted for. This will not be marked as line item.

Please briefly explain the application process.

- 1. The applicant submits the property tax exemption application.*
- 2. The county reviews the application.*
- 3. The Colorado Department of Revenue reviews the application*
- 4. The applicant is notified of the approval or denial.*

To learn more about your property taxes, please contact your county treasurer as taxes vary between counties, cities, school districts, etc.

Larimer County Treasurer & Public Trustee

200 W Oak Street, Suite 2100

P.O. Box 1250

Fort Collins, CO 80522

970-498-7020

www.larimer.gov/treasurer

Larimer County Assessor's Office

200 W Oak Street, Suite 2000

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