

COUNTY OF KANE

COUNTY ASSESSMENT OFFICE

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County Government Center

719 South Batavia Avenue, Building C

Geneva, Illinois 60134-3000

(630) 208-3818

www.KaneCountyAssessments.org

Dear Senior Taxpayer:

This is your 2011 application for the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption. Please take this opportunity to **file this form immediately for the 2011 (taxes payable 2012) assessment year**. You will not receive another application for this exemption. Please note:



Use this form ONLY to apply for the Senior Freeze.



If you are applying based on a Life Estate in a property, the life estate must be conveyed in a document that has been recorded with the Kane County Recorder.

If at least one of the owners of your household is 65 or older by December 31, 2011 and you have household income no greater than \$55,000 in 2010, please complete this entire form; it must be signed and notarized as well.

Please return the completed form to my office at the address above. If you have questions or need assistance filling out these forms, there are several options:

- The County Assessment Office staff will be available to assist you during our normal business hours (8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). They are available at (630) 208-3818, as well as in person at the above address. We have a **free notary service** if you file in person.
- Senior Services of Aurora (which serves Kane County south of South Elgin) will be available (by appointment only) from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Their telephone number is (630) 897-4035.
- Senior Services of Elgin (which serves the northern half of Kane County and South Elgin) will be available (by appointment only) from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Mondays. Their telephone number is (847) 741-0404.
- If you are homebound, call Senior Services and someone will make an appointment to come to your home.

If you are eligible for the Senior Freeze, **you should file this form by July 1, 2011**. Remember, you do not need to renew your Senior Exemption, just the Senior Freeze. Finally, please know that the benefits of all homestead exemptions are yours to keep; no tax dollars saved by homestead exemptions will ever need to be repaid!

Very truly yours,

Mark D. Armstrong, CIAO

Our Mission: An equitable assessment for every parcel.

Senior Citizen/Senior Freeze Homestead Exemption Frequently Asked Questions

What is the “Senior Freeze” Exemption?

The *Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption* reduces the EAV of a home by the difference between the 2011 EAV and the EAV of the “Base Year”. The base year generally is the year prior to the year the taxpayer first receives the exemption. **This exemption does not freeze the amount of a property tax bill, which could change if the tax rate changes.** The assessment and tax bill may increase if improvements are added to the home. However, if the EAV of the home decreases in the future, the taxpayer will benefit from any reduction.

Who is eligible?

To qualify to renew the *Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption*, one of the owners of the property must:

- Be 65 years old no later than December 31, 2011; and
- Own the property or have an equitable interest in it by written instrument, or had a leasehold interest in the single family home (*if the ownership is via a life estate, the instrument that grants the life estate must be recorded with the Kane County Recorder*); and
- Use the property as your principal residence on both January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011; and
- Have a total household income \$55,000 or less in 2010.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

- *If your property is assessed under the mobile home privilege tax, you do not qualify for this exemption.*
- *If your spouse died in 2011 and would have qualified for the exemption in 2011, and you meet all requirements except the age requirement, you are eligible for this exemption in 2011.*
- *If the qualifying taxpayer received the Senior Freeze in the past, but is now a resident of a facility that is licensed under the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act, the Nursing Home Care Act, or the MR/DD Community Care Act, **and** your property is unoccupied or is occupied by the spouse of the qualifying taxpayer, the property may be eligible if the other requirements are met.*
- *If you are a resident of a cooperative apartment building or cooperative life-care facility, you may qualify for this exemption if you are liable for the payment of property taxes on your residence and meet the other eligibility requirements.*

What is a household?

A household means the applicant, the applicant’s spouse, and **all** persons who use the residence of the applicant as their principal dwelling place on January 1, 2011, whether they pay rent or not.

What is included in household income?

Household income includes your income, your spouse’s income, and the income of **all** persons living in the household. Examples of income are listed below. (For specific questions, see P. 3, Part 2)

- Alimony or maintenance received
- Annuity benefits
- Black Lung benefits
- Business income, including capital gains (See the specific instructions on page 3 for lines 8, 9 and 10)
- Cash assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services and/or any other governmental cash assistance
- Cash winnings from such sources as raffles, lotteries, and gambling
- Civil Service benefits
- Damages awarded in a lawsuit for nonphysical injury or sickness (for example, age discrimination or injury to reputation)
- Dividends
- Farm income
- Illinois Income Tax Refund (only if you received Form 1099-G)

- Interest, including interest received on life insurance policies
- Long term care insurance (*federally taxable portion only*)
- Lump sum Social Security payments
- Miscellaneous income from rummage sales, recycling aluminum, baby sitting, etc.
- Military retirement pay based on age or length of service
- Monthly insurance benefits
- Pension and IRA benefits (*federally taxable portion only*)
- Railroad Retirement benefits (*Including Medicare deductions*)
- Rental income
- Illinois Cares Rx rebate (only if you took an itemized deduction for health insurance on your prior year federal income tax return)
- Social Security income (*including Medicare deductions*)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- Unemployment compensation (all)
- Wages, salaries, and tips
- Workers’ Compensation Act Income
- Workers’ Occupational Diseases Act income

What is not included in household income?

Examples of income that are not included in household income are listed below (For specific income questions, see P. 3, Part 2)

- Cash gifts and loans
- Child support payments
- Circuit Breaker grants
- COBRA Subsidy Payments
- Damages paid from a lawsuit for a physical injury or sickness
- Energy Assistance payments
- Federal economic stimulus payments
- Federal income tax refunds
- IRAs “rolled over” into other retirement accounts, unless “rolled over” into a Roth IRA
- Lump sums from inheritances or insurance policies
- Money borrowed against a life insurance policy or from any financial institution
- Reverse mortgage payments
- Spousal impoverishment payments
- Stipends from Foster Parent and Foster Grandparent programs
- Veterans’ benefits

What if I have a net operating loss or capital loss carryover from a previous year?

You cannot include any carryover of net operating loss or capital loss from a previous year. You can include only a net operating loss or capital loss that occurred in 2010 up to the maximum allowed by the government for federal tax returns.

Will my information remain confidential?

All information received from your application is confidential and may be used only for official purposes.

When must I file?

If you are eligible for the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption, you should file this form with the County Assessment Office by **July 1, 2011**. You must file an application **every year** to continue to receive the Senior Freeze. The eligibility requirements listed under “Who is eligible?” must be met each year. *Additional documentation (i.e., birth certificates, tax returns, etc.) may be required by the County Assessment Office to verify the information in this application.*

What if I need additional assistance?

If you have questions about this form, please contact the Kane County Assessment Office at (630) 208-3818.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Filing this Form

Part 1: Complete the following information

Application Data—Type or print your name, address, and Driver's License or State ID number, date of birth, and phone number.

Lines 1 through 3—Follow the instructions on the form.

Line 4—Write the names, relationship to the applicant and date of birth for **all other individuals, including your spouse**, who used the property for their principal residence on January 1, 2011. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

Part 2: Complete the 2010 income information for the entire household

"Income" for this exemption means 2010 federal adjusted gross income, **plus** certain items subtracted from or not included in your federal adjusted gross income. These include tax-exempt interest, dividends, pensions, annuities, net operating loss carryovers, capital loss carryovers, and Social Security benefits. Income also includes public assistance payments from governmental agency, Supplemental Security Income, and certain taxes paid. These step-by-step instructions provide federal return line references and reporting statement references, whenever possible. *The amounts written on each line must include your 2010 income and the income of all the individuals living in the household.*

Line 1—Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits Write the total amount of any retirement, disability, or survivor's benefits (including Medicare deductions) the entire household received from the Social Security Administration. (Shown in box 5 of Form SSA-1099.) You must also include any Supplemental Security Income (SSI) the entire household received and any benefits to dependent children in the household. Do not include reimbursements under Medicare/Medicaid for medical expenses. *Note: The amount deducted for Medicare (\$1,326.00 yearly or \$110.50 per month, per person) is already included in the amount in box 5 of Form SSA-1099 (also shown on line 20a on the Federal 1040 or line 14a on the Federal 1040A).*

Line 2—Railroad Retirement benefits Write the total amount of any retirement, disability, or survivor's benefits (including Medicare deductions) the entire household received under the Railroad Retirement Act (shown on Forms SSA-1099 and RRB-1099).

Line 3—Civil Service benefits Write the total amount of any retirement, disability, or survivor's benefits the entire household received under any Civil Service retirement plan (shown on Form 1099-R).

Line 4—Other pensions and annuity benefits Write the total income the entire household received as an annuity, endowment, life insurance contract or similar contract or agreement (shown on Form 1099-R). Include only the federally taxable portion of IRAs, IRAs converted to Roth IRAs, and pensions (shown on Federal 1040, Line 15b and 16b, Federal 1040 A, Line 11b and 12b). IRAs are not taxable when "rolled over", unless "rolled over" into a Roth IRA.

Line 5—Human Services and other governmental cash public assistance benefits Write the total amount of Human Services and other governmental cash public assistance benefits the entire household received. If the first two digits of any member's Human Services case number are the same as any of those in the following list, you must include the total amount of any of these benefits on Line 5.

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 01—aged | 04 and 06— temporary assistance to |
| 02—blind | needy families (TANF) |
| 03—disabled | 07—general assistance |

To determine the total amount of the household benefits, multiply the monthly amount each person received by 12. You must adjust your figures accordingly if anyone in the household

did not receive 12 equal checks during this period. Food stamps, medical assistance and Circuit Breaker benefits anyone in the household may have received are not considered income and should not be added to your total income.

Line 6—Wages, salaries, and tips from work Write the total amount of wages, salaries, and tips from work, for every household member (shown in box 1 of form W-2).

Line 7—Interest and dividends received Write the total of all interest and dividends the entire household received from all sources, including any government sources (shown on Forms 1099-INT, 1090-OID, and 1099-DIV). You must include both taxable and nontaxable amounts.

Line 8—Net rental, farm, and business income or (loss) Write the total amount of any net income or loss from rental, farm, business sources, etc., the entire household received, as allowed on Federal 1040, Lines 12, 17 and 18. **Attach IRS Schedule C and/or E to the application if you are claiming a loss. You cannot use any net operating loss (NOL) carryover in figuring income.**

Line 9—Net capital gain or (loss) Write the total amount of any taxable capital gain or loss the entire household received in 2010, as allowed on Federal 1040, Lines 13 and 14, or Federal 1040A, Line 10. **Attach IRS Schedule D to the application if you are claiming a loss. You cannot use a net capital loss carryover in figuring income.**

Line 10—Other income or (loss) Write the total amount of any other income or loss not included in Lines 1 through 9 that is included in federal adjusted gross income, such as alimony received, unemployment compensation, taxes withheld from oil or gas well royalties. **You cannot use any net operating loss (NOL) carryover in figuring income.**

Line 11—Add Lines 1 through 10.
Line 12—Subtractions You may subtract **only** the reported adjustments to income totaled on Federal 1040 Line 36 or Federal 1040A, Line 20:

- Educator expenses
- Health savings account deduction
- IRA deduction
- Student loan interest deduction
- Tuition and fees deduction
- Jury duty pay you gave to your employer
- Archer MSA deduction
- Moving expenses
- One-half of self-employment tax
- Self-employed health insurance deduction
- Self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans
- Penalty on early withdrawal of savings
- Alimony or maintenance paid
- Domestic production activities deduction

Line 13—Total household income Subtract Line 12 from Line 11. If this amount is greater than \$55,000, **you do not qualify for this exemption.**

Part 3: Complete this affidavit

Lines 1 through 6—Read the affidavit carefully. Check any statements that pertain to you; all statements **must** be marked.

→**Note:** You **must** sign your application and this form must also be notarized. Return your completed form to:

**Kane County Assessment Office
Kane County Government Center, Building C
719 South Batavia Avenue
Geneva, Illinois 60134-3000**

Part 3: Complete the Affidavit (Must check all that apply).

1 On January 1, 2010 **and** January 1, 2011 (both must apply), the property listed in Part 1, Line 1, is a permanent structure that was:

- used as my principal residence, **or**
- a residence on which I have previously received this exemption before becoming a resident of a facility that is licensed under the Illinois Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act, the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act, or the Illinois MR/DD Community Care Act **and** the residence is unoccupied or is used as the principal residence of my spouse.

Name of Licensed Facility _____

Address _____ Date entering facility _____

2 On January 1, 2010 **and** January 1, 2011 (both must apply), for the property listed in Part 1, Line 1:

- I was the owner of record for the property as evidenced by a deed; **or**
- I was the owner of record for the property via a recorded life estate (Doc. No. _____) **or**
- I had legal or equitable interest in the property by a written instrument (*attach copy*); **or**
- I had a leasehold interest in the property that was used as a single-family residence (*attach copy*).

3 In 2011, either:

- I am or will be 65 years of age or older, **or**
- My spouse, who died in 2011, would have been age 65 or older. If my spouse died in 2011,

3a The name of my deceased spouse was _____

3b The date of death of my deceased spouse was _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

4 I am liable for paying real property taxes on the property listed in Part 1, Line 2.

5 I am not receiving any homestead exemptions on any property other than this property, either in Kane County, or elsewhere.

6 The total household income for 2010, shown in Part 2, Line 13, is \$55,000 or less; this includes the income of my spouse, (whether the spouse resides on this property or not) and any other person residing on this property.

Under penalties of perjury, I swear (or affirm) that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this affidavit is true, correct, and complete. I understand that the Kane County Supervisor of Assessments may conduct an audit to verify that I am eligible to receive this exemption.

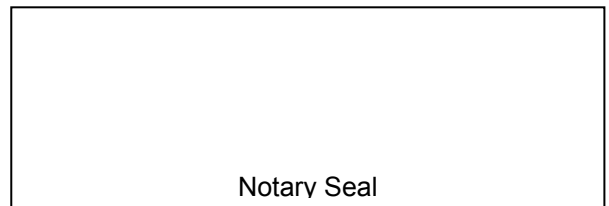
Signature of applicant is **required**

_____/_____/_____
Date

Notary required

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

_____ day of _____, 20____.



Notary Public

Do not write in space below

Approved Denied

BASE YEAR _____

Notes _____

BASE EAV \$ _____

EXPIRED HIE \$ _____

TOTAL EAV (LESS FARM) \$ _____

By _____

Date _____

Entered by _____ Date _____

**KANE COUNTY ASSESSMENT OFFICE
Kane County Government Center
719 South Batavia Avenue, Building C
Geneva, Illinois 60134-3000**

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**This is your 2011 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze
Homestead Exemption application.**