

# Town of Hopkinton

## FISCAL YEAR 2009 STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS & DEFERRAL

### FOR DISABLED VETERANS, SENIORS, SURVIVING SPOUSES AND MINORS

The Hopkinton Board of Assessors is offering advice for taxpayers regarding property tax exemptions and deferrals of property taxes.

The Assessors Office receives many inquiries regarding property tax exemptions from taxpayers on limited income who are coping with rising household expenses and property taxes. Fortunately, these are programs to help you meet your tax obligations. These programs, which provide either property tax exemptions or a deferral of taxes, are set forth in different clauses of Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

The Assessors have briefly outlined the following regulations pertaining to these exemptions:

#### **Clause 41C – Elderly Exemption (\$1,000 Tax Exemption)**

Must be 65 years of age by July 1.

For a Single Person: Income less than \$23,930 per year – Assets not to exceed \$40,000

For a Married Person: Income less than \$35,895 per year – Assets not to exceed \$55,000

**Assets** as of July 1, excluding assessed value of domicile, include bank accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, money market certificates, motor vehicles, boats and all other real estate. **Income** includes all sources, including wages, social security, pensions, interest, etc. Applicant must have owned and occupied real estate in MA for 5 years, and lived in MA for the last ten years. Surviving Spouse must have occupied the property for five years.

#### **Clause 17D – Seniors, Surviving Spouses and Minors (\$226.68 Tax Exemption)**

**Senior** must be 70 years of age by July 1. **Surviving Spouse, of any age, must** be a widow or widower by July 1. Minor is a child who has a deceased parent. Total worth may not exceed \$40,000 as of July 1, excluding assessed value of domicile. Income not considered when applying for Clause 17D Exemption.

#### **Clause 37A – Blind (\$500 Tax Exemption)**

Person must be considered legally blind as of July 1 and registered with the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

#### **Clause 22 – Veterans (Various Exemptions)**

Provides exemptions to certain veterans, their spouses or surviving spouses, who were not dishonorably discharged. Certification of a war-service-connected disability from the Veterans Administration or the branch of service from which separated is required.

22a	10% Disability	Exemption	\$ 400
22c	Purple Heart	Exemption	\$ 400
22d	Surviving Spouse	Exemption	\$ 400
22A	Loss of Limb or eye	Exemption	\$ 400
22E	100% Disability	Exemption	\$1,000

#### **Clause 41A – Tax Deferral**

Persons must be 65 years or older by July 1 of the year of application, and must have been a resident of Massachusetts for the preceding ten years. Applicants must have owned and occupied as domicile any real property in Massachusetts, including present property for five years. Gross annual income cannot exceed \$40,000 in preceding year. If the applicant meets the requirements, he/she can defer all or apportion of the taxes for the year. The interest on the amount deferred is five percent (5%) simple interest. The Town of Hopkinton imposes a lien on the property when the deferral is approved.

If you have any further questions or wish more information, please contact the Board of Assessors, 508-497-9720, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., or write to us at 18 Main Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748.

***Application deadline: Three (3) months from the date the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax bill is mailed (on or before January 1).***

**Application deadline is typically mid-March.**