

Form PTAX-341 General Information

What is the Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption (RVHE)?

The Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption (35 ILCS 200/15-167) provides a \$5,000 reduction in the equalized assessed value (EAV) of the veteran's principal residence for two consecutive assessment (tax) years, the tax year and the following year that the veteran returns from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States. The veteran must own and occupy the property as his or her principal residence on January 1 of each assessment year. A veteran who acquires a principal residence after January 1 of the year he or she returns home is eligible for the RVHE on the principal residence owned and occupied on January 1 of the next tax year.

Note: For purposes of the exemption, "occupy" means your principal place of dwelling which is "the place where a person has his or her true, fixed permanent home and principal establishment, and to which, whenever he or she is absent, he or she has the intention of returning."

Who is eligible?

To qualify for this exemption you must

- be an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard, or U.S. Reserve Forces,
- have returned from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the U.S.,
- have owned or had a legal or equitable interest in the land on which a single-family residence is situated and used as your principal place of residence on January 1 of the assessment years, and
- be liable for the payment of the property taxes.

Note: A representative can apply on behalf of a deceased veteran who has met the qualifications listed above.

Is the resident of a cooperative apartment eligible?

To qualify for this exemption, the resident must be

- the owner of record of a legal or equitable interest in the property,
- occupy it as a principal residence, and
- be liable by contract with the owner(s) of record for the property tax payments.

A resident of a cooperative apartment building who has a leasehold interest **does not** qualify for this exemption.

When will I receive my exemption?

You should apply for this exemption for the assessment year that you return home. The County Board of Review has the final authority to grant your exemption. If granted, your exemption will be applied to the property tax bills paid the two years following the assessment years.

Can I receive the exemption again?

The exemption applies "only for the tax year and the following tax year in which the veteran returns from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the U.S." You may be eligible for this exemption again if you return home from active duty in a subsequent year.

Do I need to provide documentation?

Your Chief County Assessment Officer (CCAO) will require documentation to verify your eligibility for this exemption.

If you were discharged from active duty service, you must provide

- the original Form DD 214; or
- a copy of Form DD 214 certified by the county recorder, recorder of deed's, IL Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, or the National Archives Record Center.

If you are still on active duty after returning home, you must provide

- Form DD 220; or
- military orders and travel voucher stating that you are returning from an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the U.S. within the tax year that you returned home.

When and where must I file Form PTAX-341?

You should apply for this exemption for the year when you return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States. You must reapply for this exemption if you continue to meet the eligibility requirements and change your principal residence. Contact your CCAO at the address and phone number stated below for assistance and the due date for filing for this exemption. Mail your completed Form PTAX-341 and supporting documentation to the address below.

If you have any questions, please call:

(815) 288-4483

Mail your completed Form PTAX-341 to:

Lee _____ County Chief County Assessment Officer

Lee County Courthouse 112 E Second St

Mailing address
Dixon _____ IL 61021
City ZIP

Official use. Do not write in this space.

Date received _____
Month / Day / Year

Verify proof of eligibility _____

Comments: _____

Board of review action date _____
Month / Day / Year

Approved Denied for _____
Year veteran returned home

Approved Denied for _____
Following year

Reason for denial: _____

