

## \$25,000 Homestead Exemption

### Who is Eligible?

Florida Statute 196.031 tells us that "Every person who has legal or equitable title to real property in the State of Florida and who resides on the property on January 1 and in good faith makes it his or her permanent home is eligible for a homestead exemption."

If property is held by the entireties, one spouse may file as agent for the other. In other words, if title is held by the husband alone, a wife may file for him, with his consent, and vice-versa.

### Filing Deadline and Instructions:

As homeowner(s) you may apply anytime throughout the year. The deadline for applying is March 1st, of the year in which you want to receive the homestead exemption. Although the applicant is given until March 1st to make application, it must be demonstrated that the home was occupied on, or before, New Years Day.

### If filing for the first time, be prepared to answer questions concerning:

- The name and address of each owner not residing on the property.
- The date you last became a permanent resident in the State of Florida.
- The date you occupied your property as a permanent resident. There is a distinction to be made between permanent residency and occupancy. For example: You may have become a permanent resident in Indian River County prior to actually owning and occupying your home.

### You will need to provide the following for all owners applying for the exemption:

- **Florida Driver's License:** You'll be asked to produce a regular Florida driver's license, for you and your spouse, if married. The Property Appraiser does not accept "Florida Only" Driver's Licenses as proof of permanent residency.
- **Vehicle Registration:** Do you have a Florida license plate on your car? The Property Appraiser's staff will make photocopies of your vehicle registration(s).
- **Voter's Registration:** You are not required to be a registered voter. If you are, however, you must be registered in Indian River County.
- **Current Utility Bill:** For service in your name prior to January 1.
- **Social Security Number:** We cannot grant the exemption without the social security numbers for all applicants, and their spouses, who have been issued a number (required by Florida Statute).
- If you have permanent resident alien status, you will be asked to provide the Property Appraiser's Office with proof displaying your immigration number.

You must be able to show that you were living in the home on, or before, January 1st.

Information provided on this page is a synopsis and should serve as a guideline offered to assist the general public. For detailed information please refer to the Florida Constitution (applicable Amendments) and the Florida State Statutes.