



# TOWN of LONGMEADOW MASSACHUSETTS

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

20 Williams Street  
Longmeadow, MA 01106  
Telephone 413-565-4115

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Lawrence Rubin, Chair  
Carolyn Reed, MAA  
Michael Zeller

**ASSISTANT ASSESSOR**

Jessica Guerra

**ASSESSORS OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Alice Chenault

**TO: Sight Impaired/Blind Individuals** Receiving Personal Exemptions

**RE: Reduction in Real Estate Property Tax due to Exemption**

The State Legislature allows cities and towns to grant exemptions to certain individuals who meet the necessary qualifications. A tax exemption is a discharge from the obligation to pay a portion of a tax. In Massachusetts, assessors' offices are charged with administering these programs.

An applicant for an exemption **must**

- 1) Complete the appropriate form each year and,
- 2) Provide to the assessors whatever information is reasonably required to establish eligibility. If you qualify for a personal exemption, it will appear on either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter bill due February 1, 2019 or May 1, 2019.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the appropriate form, and explain what documentation is required for the Board of Assessors to make a decision to approve or deny the application. We will accept copies of the necessary information with the signed form. If you choose to bring in the documentation and have difficulty negotiating the stairs, please alert someone on the first floor that you would like assistance from one of the staff in the Assessors' office.

**BLIND/SIGHT IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS - YELLOW FORM****Clause 37 - \$437.50**

1. Fill in Section A on Page 1,
2. Fill in Section B on Page 2,
3. Sign and date form on Page 2,
4. If filing for the first time, provide a certificate from the **Commission for the Blind** attesting to a condition of legal blindness as of July 1, 2018, or provide a similar letter from your doctor indicating your status as of July 1, 2018.

Please call this office if you have questions or need assistance.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED BY APRIL 1, 2019**

37
Assessors' Use only
Date Received
Application No.
Parcel Id.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of City or Town

**BLIND**  
**FISCAL YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ APPLICATION FOR STATUTORY EXEMPTION**  
**General Laws Chapter 5, § 5**

THIS APPLICATION IS NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION  
(See General Laws Chapter 59, § 60)

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**Return to: Board of Assessors**

Must be filed with assessors on or before December 15  
or 3 months after actual (**not** preliminary) tax bills are  
Mailed for fiscal year if later. (Due April 1, 2019)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete the following. Please print or type.

**A. IDENTIFICATION.** Complete this section fully.

Name of Applicant _____				
Telephone Number _____	Marital Status _____			
Legal Residence (Domicile) on July 1, _____	Mailing Address (If different) _____			
_____				
No. Street	City/Town	Zip Code	_____	
Location of Property:			No. of Dwelling Units: 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Did you own the property on July 1, _____? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
If yes, were you: Sole Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner with Spouse Only <input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner with Others <input type="checkbox"/>				
Was the property subject to a trust as of July 1, _____? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
If yes, please attach trust instrument including all schedules.				

Have you been granted any exemption in any other city or town (MA or other) for this year? Yes  No   
If yes, name of city or town \_\_\_\_\_ Amount exempted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DISPOSITION OF APPLICATION (ASSESSORS' USE ONLY)**

Ownership <input type="checkbox"/>	GRANTED <input type="checkbox"/>	Assessed Tax \$ _____
Occupancy <input type="checkbox"/>	DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	Exempted Tax \$ _____
Status <input type="checkbox"/>	DEEMED DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	Adjusted Tax \$ _____
Income <input type="checkbox"/>		
Assets <input type="checkbox"/>		Board of Assessors
Date Voted/Deemed Denied _____	_____	_____
Certificate No. _____	_____	_____
Date Cert./Notice Sent _____	_____	_____
Exemption: Clause _____	Date: _____	

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**B. EXEMPTION STATUS.** Complete the questions that follow.

Were you legally blind as of July 1, \_\_\_\_\_?    Yes     No

Are you registered with Mass. Commission for the Blind?    Yes     No

*If yes, give Certificate Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date Registered \_\_\_\_\_ Attach copy of certificate.*

*If no, attach a letter from your doctor indicating status as of July 1.*

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**C. SIGNATURE.** Sign here to complete the application.

This application has been prepared or examined by me. Under the pains and penalties of perjury, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this return and all accompanying documents and statements are true, correct and complete.

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Signature

Date

If signed by agent, attach copy of written authorization to sign on behalf of taxpayer.

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## TAXPAYER INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

**PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS.** You may be eligible to reduce all or a portion of the taxes assessed on your domicile if you meet the qualifications for one of the personal exemptions allowed under Massachusetts law. Qualifications vary, but generally relate to age, ownership, residency, disability, income or assets.

You may be eligible for an exemption if you fall into any of these categories:

- Legally blind person
- Veteran with a service-connected disability
- Surviving spouse of a servicemember or national guard member who died in combat or from combat injury or disease
- Surviving spouse
- Minor child of a deceased parent
- Senior citizen age 70 and older (65 and older by local option)

More detailed information about the qualifications for each exemption may be obtained from your board of assessors.

**WHO MAY FILE AN APPLICATION.** You may file an application if you meet all qualifications for a personal exemption as of July 1. You may also apply if you are the administrator or executor of a person who qualified for a personal exemption on July 1.

**WHEN AND WHERE APPLICATION MUST BE FILED.** Your application must be filed with the Board of Assessors by December 15 or 3 months after the actual bills were mailed for the fiscal year, whichever is later. An application is filed when (1) received by the assessors on or before the filing deadline, or (2) mailed by United States mail, first class postage prepaid, to the proper address of the assessors, on or before the filing deadline, as shown by a postmark made by the United States Postal Service. **THIS DEADLINE CANNOT BE EXTENDED OR WAIVED BY THE ASSESSORS FOR ANY REASON. IF YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT TIMELY FILED, YOU LOSE ALL RIGHTS TO AN EXEMPTION AND THE ASSESSORS CANNOT BY LAW GRANT YOU ONE.**

**PAYMENT OF TAX.** Filing an application does not stay the collection of your taxes. In some cases, you must pay the tax when due to appeal the assessors' disposition of your application. Failure to pay the tax when due may also subject you to interest charges and collection action. To avoid any loss of rights or additional charges, you should pay the tax as assessed. If an exemption is granted and you have already paid the entire year's tax as exempted, you will receive a refund of any overpayment.

**ASSESSORS DISPOSITION.** Upon applying for an exemption, you may be required to provide the assessors with further information and supporting documentation to establish your eligibility. The assessors have 3 months from the date your application is filed to act on it unless you agree in writing before that period expires to extend it for a specific time. If the assessors do not act on your application within the original or extended period, it is deemed denied. You will be notified in writing whether an exemption has been granted or denied.

**APPEAL.** You may appeal the disposition of your application to the Appellate Tax Board, or if applicable, the County Commissioners. The appeal must be filed within 3 months of the date the assessors acted on your application, or the date your application was deemed denied, whichever is applicable. The disposition notice will provide you with further information about the appeal procedure and deadline.

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