

# Property Tax Benefits for Disabled Veterans

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*Veterans with service related disabilities are provided certain property tax exemptions.*

Prepared by: Cherokee CAD



## Who can qualify for a Disabled Veterans Exemption?

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First, in order for anyone to be entitled to the exemptions described by this pamphlet, you must be a resident of the State of Texas. Second, for Veterans, you must be a veteran of the armed services of the United States and classified by the Veterans Administration as having a service related disability.

## How do I apply for a Disabled Veterans Exemption?

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You must contact the appraisal district and request an application for Disabled Veterans Exemption. Otherwise, the CAD will not know you qualify. **You will need to bring a copy of your letter from the Veterans Administration that states your disability rating.** The application is simple to complete and the CAD staff will be glad to assist you. THERE IS NO FEE FOR THE APPLICATION!

## What is the amount of exemption for Disabled Veterans?

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The exemption amount varies based on the percentage of disability determined by the V.A. The following chart outlines the amounts:

<u>Exemption</u>		<u>Disability Rating</u>		<u>Disability Rating</u>
<u>Amount</u>		<u>At Least</u>		<u>But Less Than</u>
\$ 5,000		10%		30%
\$ 7,500		30%		50%
\$ 10,000		50%		70%
\$ 12,000		70%		--

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### **Is a 70% rating the only way I can get the maximum benefit?**

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No. A Disabled Veteran who has at least a 10% rating and who is age 65 or older qualifies for the maximum \$12,000 exemption.

Additionally, a Disabled Veteran who is totally blind in one or both eyes, or who has lost the use of one or more limbs also qualifies for the maximum exemption.

### **May I apply my Veterans Exemption to any property I own?**

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Yes. Unlike other exemptions that may only accompany your homestead, the Disabled Veterans Exemption may be applied to any one property that you own. This includes your homestead, raw land, commercial property or a business personal account.

### **There are also benefits for Survivors of Disabled Veterans...**

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If an individual who qualified for a Disabled Veterans Exemption passes away, the surviving spouse is entitled to the amount of exemption received by the deceased at the time of death. The surviving spouse is able to retain this benefit so long as they remain unmarried.

If the spouse does not survive the veteran, the qualified veteran's children may receive this benefit. In order to qualify, the children must be under the age of 18 and unmarried. The amount of their exemption is calculated by the amount received by the veteran at the time of death, divided by the number of qualified children. The children may apply their exemption to any property that they own.

### **If a service member dies while on active duty...**

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The surviving spouse will qualify for an exemption in the amount of \$5,000 on any property the survivor owns and designates.

Also, any surviving children under the age of 18 and unmarried may receive an exemption in an amount calculated by dividing \$5,000 by the number of qualified children. This may be applied to any property the child owns and designates.

### **Am I able to combine the Disabled Veteran Exemption with other property tax related exemptions?**

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Yes. The Disabled Veteran Exemption may be combined with your general homestead exemption and over 65 exemption on your homestead.

### **There was a Constitutional Amendment making some Vets total exempt. Is this true?**

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Yes. There is now a total exemption for Vets who are 100% service connected disabled or that have an Individual Unemployable rating may qualify. See our brochure titled:

**"Total Property Tax Exemption for some Disabled Veterans"**

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**Please contact us with any questions or concerns you might have.**