Florida Residency Requirements, Property Tax and Homestead Exemptions

*NOTE: Please consult an attorney for exact procedures to follow. These are **guidelines only** and are subject to change. Information on this webpage is believed to be accurate, but is not guaranteed.*

How do I become a resident of Florida?

Please refer to the **Property Appraiser's Office** web page, which displays the following "Proof of Florida Residency" requirements (www.indian-river.fl.us/government/propappr/hmexemp.html) if applying for homestead exemption:

1. Voter's registration
   - Minimum 18 years old
   - U.S. Citizen
   - Legal Resident of Florida *(by law, you can't be a registered voter in two places at once)*
2. Florida Driver's License (must have prior to registering a vehicle)
3. Florida Vehicle Registration
4. Current Electrical Receipt for Service in your name prior to January 1
5. Recorded Deed for Property
6. Social Security Number ***(This requirement for exemption is not a proof of residency)***

It further states that all items must be obtained (with the exception of item 6) prior to January 1 of the year for which the exemption is being applied. If a person does not vote, own or drive a car, a declaration of domicile can prove Florida residency.

What Property Tax Exemptions are Available?

- Under the Florida Homestead Exemption law, no municipal or county taxes are levied against the first $25,000 of valuation of a home **occupied** by its owners except for special assessments.
- A **Veteran** who is totally and permanently disabled with a service-connected disability, or any person who is totally blind, a quadriplegic or a paraplegic may be eligible for other exemptions.
- A $500 widow/widower exemption is available.
- A person 65 or older who meets certain income requirements is eligible to file annually for a $2,500 additional exemption.

Why is it important to file for homestead exemption?

Most residents enjoy the fact that their taxes may not be raised more than 3% per year, effective January 1, 1994 by the authority in Amendment 10.

Please contact the Property Appraiser's Office at (772) 567-8000, extension 1580 for further details.