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.

How do I become a resident of Florida?

The **Property Appraiser's Office** web page 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 <u>prior</u> 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 <u>declaration of domicile</u> can prove Florida residency.

What Property Tax Exemptions are Available?

- Under the Florida Homestead Exemption law, no municipal or county taxes are levied against <u>the first $25,000</u> 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.