State Tax Form 96
Revised 7/2011

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

17	22	37	41	42&43
Assessors' Use only				
Date Received				
Application No.				
Parcel Id.				

_____
Name of City or Town

SENIOR -- SURVIVING SPOUSE OR MINOR -- VETERAN -- BLIND
FISCAL YEAR _____ APPLICATION FOR STATUTORY EXEMPTION
General Laws Chapter 59, § 5

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

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.
Exception: Seniors must file by the **earlier** abatement application deadline if local option Clause 41C½ accepted. See Assessors.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all sections that apply. If you qualify under more than one category, you will receive the exemption that provides the greatest amount of assistance. 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☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐ Other——

Did you own the property on July 1, _____ ? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, were you: Sole Owner☐ Co-owner with Spouse Only ☐ Co-owner with Others ☐
Was the property subject to a trust as of July 1, _____ ? Yes ☐ No
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☐	GRANTED☐	Assessed Tax $ _____
Occupancy☐	DENIED ☐	Exempted Tax $ _____
Status ☐	DEEMED DENIED☐	Adjusted Tax $ _____
Income ☐		
Assets ☐		Board of Assessors
Date Voted/Deemed Denied	_____	_____
Certificate No.	_____	_____
Date Cert./Notice Sent	_____	_____
Exemption: Clause		Date:

FILING THIS FORM DOES NOT STAY THE COLLECTION OF YOUR TAXES

THIS FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

B. EXEMPTION STATUS. Check each status that applies to you and complete the questions that follow.

☐ **BLIND PERSON**

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.

IF NO OTHER STATUS APPLIES TO YOU, GO ON TO SECTION E

☐ **VETERAN**

☐ **VETERAN'S SPOUSE**

Veteran's Name _____

Was the property the veteran's domicile as of July 1, _____?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, where does the veteran reside? _____

☐ **VETERAN'S SURVIVING SPOUSE/ PARENT**

Deceased Veteran's Name _____

If first year of application, attach copy of death certificate.

If you are surviving spouse, have you remarried? Yes ☐ *No* ☐

Date Enlisted/Inducted _____ Date Discharged _____

Type of Discharge _____ *If first year of application, attach copy of discharge papers.*

Military Decorations or Awards _____

Did the veteran live in Massachusetts at least 6 months before entering the service? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, list places and dates where the veteran was domiciled during the last 6 years. (2 years if local option adopted - See Assessors)

Address	Dates

Continue list on attachment in same format as necessary.

Was the servicemember killed or presumed killed in a combat zone? Yes ☐ No ☐ *If yes, date of death* _____

Was the servicemember's/veteran's death a proximate result of a combat injury or disease? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes and first year of application, (1) attach documentation from U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, branch of service or doctor ***and*** *(2) list above places and dates surviving spouse lived during the last 6 years (2 years if local option adopted – See Assessors)*

Does the veteran have a service-connected disability? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes and first year of application, attach Certificate of Disability from U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs or branch of service.

If yes and exemption granted previously, attach certificate only if disability rating is 100% or has changed.

Has the veteran acquired "specially adapted housing?" Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the veteran a paraplegic? Yes ☐ No ☐

IF NO OTHER STATUS APPLIES TO YOU, GO ON TO SECTION E

☐ **SURVIVING SPOUSE** Deceased Spouse's Name _____

Date of Death _____

Have you remarried? Yes ☐ No ☐ *If yes, date of remarriage* _____

☐ **MINOR WITH PARENT DECEASED** Deceased Parent's Name _____

Date of Death _____

If first year of application, attach a copy of death certificate.

Are you a surviving spouse or a minor child of a firefighter or a police officer killed in the line of duty? Yes ☐ No ☐

IF NO, AND NO OTHER STATUS APPLIES TO YOU, GO ON TO SECTION D

If yes, and this is the first year of application, provide circumstances of death.

_____

_____

GO ON TO SECTION E

☐ **SENIOR 70 OR OLDER (65 or older by local option- See Assessors)** Date of Birth _____

If first year of application, attach copy of birth certificate.

Have you owned and occupied the property as your domicile for at least 11 years? Yes ☐ No ☐
(6 years if local option under Clause 41C½ adopted - See Assessors)

If no, list the other properties you owned and/or occupied during the past 11 years (6 years if local option under Clause 41C½ adopted - See Assessors.)

Address	Dates	Owned	Occupied
		☐	☐
		☐	☐

Continue list on attachment in same format as necessary.

GO ON TO SECTION C

C. GROSS RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES IN PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR.

Complete this section if you are a senior. Copies of your federal and state tax income returns, and other documentation, may be requested to verify your income.

	Applicant & Spouse	Co-owner(s) & Spouse(s)
Retirement Benefits (Social Security, Railroad, Federal, MA & Political Subdivisions)		
Other Pensions and Retirement Allowances.....		
Wages, Salaries and other Compensation		
Net Profits from Business, Profession or Property Rental		
Interest and Dividends		
Other Receipts (Capital Gains, Public Assistance, etc.)		
TOTALS		

GO ON TO SECTION D

D. VALUE OF ALL PROPERTY OWNED ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR. Complete this section if you are a (1) surviving spouse, (2) minor child of a deceased parent, or (3) senior. Documentation may be requested to verify your assets.

Real Estate	Assessed Valuation	Amount Due on Mortgage	Value
Domicile			
Other			
Personal Estate			
Bank Accounts: Name & Address of Bank			
Stocks, Bonds, Securities, etc.: Description & Amount			
Motor Vehicles & Trailers: Year, Make & Model			
Other Non-exempt Personal Property: Kind & Description			
		TOTAL	

GO ON TO SECTION E

E. 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.

Signature _____ Date _____

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

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:

- Blind
- Veteran with a service-connected disability
- Surviving spouse
- Minor child of 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.