

Optional Adjusted Elderly Exemption Requirements, conditions and instruction

I. **RSA 72:39a provides the following exemptions based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers: AGE AS OF APRIL 1**

- For a resident 65 years of age up to 74 - \$25,000 off of the assessed value.
- For a resident 75 years of age up to 79 - \$50,000 off of the assessed value
- For a resident 80 years of age or older - \$100,000 off of the assessed value

II. **Requirements and Conditions**

- A. Applicant must have been a resident of New Hampshire for at least five (5) years preceding April 1st of the year in which the exemption is claimed.
- B. Property cannot have been transferred to the applicant, from a person under the age of 65, and related to the applicant by blood or marriage within the past 5 years. Own the real estate individually, jointly, or if his or her spouse owns the real estate, they must have been married and living together for at least 5 years. If the applicant is the true and lawful beneficial interest owner of a trust, that qualifies under the same guidelines as any other owner of property. They must satisfy the Board of Selectmen that they are the true beneficiaries of the trust.
- C. The taxpayer must have a net income (**including Social Security**) of less than \$18,400 if single, or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$26,400 in the year preceding said April 1st. **ALL FIGURES LISTED FOR INCOME MUST BE FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR. Please supply your SSA-1099 statement for Social Security wages.**

VERIIFICATION OF ALL INCOME MUST BE SUBMITTED

- D. Own net assets of \$50,000 or less, excluding the value of the person's actual residence and the value of a minimum single family lot or 2 acres, whichever is greater. Additional units in multi-family housing are not excluded and should be listed as an asset. Income from units should be listed under rental income.

YOU MUST SUBMIT COPIES OF YOUR YEAR-END BANK STATEMENTS

Definition of Net Income: Income from any source including **Social Security or pension** excluding the following:

- a) Life insurance paid on the death of an insured; however will be considered an asset for the following year.
- b) Expenses and costs incurred in the course of conducting a business enterprise.
- c) Proceeds from the sale of assets; however will be considered an asset for the following year.

Definition of Net Assets: The value of all assets, tangible and intangible excluding the following:

- a) The value of the persons' actual residence and the land upon which it is located up to the greater of 2 acres or the minimum family residential lot size specified in the local zoning ordinance.
 - b) The value of any good faith encumbrances.
- E. The application for exemption must be filed on or before April 15th after the final tax bill.

III. Eligibility

- A. In order for the Board of Selectmen to examine the application we will need you to submit copies of the following with your application so we can confirm the right to the exemption. If this Documentation is not submitted, your application will not be reviewed.

- Federal Income Tax return form for previous (if you have to file)
- State interest and dividend tax form (if you have to file)
- Property Tax Inventory form filed on property owned in another town/city
- Copies of your bank statements (savings & checking, which ever apply)
- Documents verifying all income (including Social Security, Wages, etc)

The Board of Selectmen also reserves the right to request a true copy of your driver's license.

- B. Any documents submitted shall be considered to be confidential to protect the privacy of the applicant and kept with the application in an area separate from public documents.
- C. The Board of Selectmen shall grant the exemption provided:
The taxpayer qualifies in all categories.
- 1. They are satisfied that the applicant has not willfully made any false statements in the application for the purpose of obtaining the exemption.
 - 2. The applicant cooperated with the Board of Selectmen's request for further documentation if it applies.

IV. Filing

- A. An application and information sheet may be obtained from the Gorham Selectmen's Office. An annual update form will be mailed to all taxpayers currently on the exemption list. This form **MUST** be filled out completely, signed and returned to:

Town of Gorham
20 Park Street
Gorham, NH 03581

The official deadline for filing an Elderly Exemption application is April 15th after the final tax bill.