



## **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS WITH HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**

### **RELOCATING DUE TO RECEIVING PCS ORDERS**

Active duty homeowners, who are currently receiving Homestead Exemption and subsequently receive PCS (Permanent Change of Station) orders relocating them away from Okaloosa County, are eligible to keep their exemption(s) on their home **and** rent it out while stationed away. Below is a list of ALL eligibility & renewal requirements that must be met each year while stationed away, in order to renew the exemption(s):

1. Owner must be active duty as of January 1 of the year in which you are applying.
2. Keep our office supplied with most recent set of PCS orders at all times, per F.S. 196.015 (2).
3. Have the intention of returning to the homestead property immediately upon retirement, separation from active duty or upon receipt of PCS orders relocating you back to this area, per F.S. 196.012(17).
4. You (nor your spouse, if married) can be receiving any type of residency based property tax benefit, discount, credit or exemption on any other property, nationwide. *\*This rule applies even if spouse is NOT listed as an owner on the exempted property here.*
5. Maintain at least 2 forms of FL residency while stationed away.
  - Examples of FL residency documents: valid FL driver's license, vehicles tagged/titled in FL, active voter's registration in Okaloosa County, etc. **NOTE:** *Having FL listed as your "Home of Record" on L.E.S. is not an eligible form of FL residency for exemption purposes, per F.S. 196.015.*
  - Please contact our office if you plan to relinquish your FL license & obtain a different state's DL while stationed away, as that could affect your continued exemption eligibility.
6. Submit response to the annual Military Homestead Exemption form – they are mailed the first week of January and are due back by the filing deadline of 1 May. Your homestead exemption cannot be renewed without the completed form each year.
7. Maintain a **current** mailing address throughout your time away. Addresses can be updated by sending either an email, the Military Exemption form or by using our Address Change Form.

### **DEPLOYMENTS**

***The statutory filing deadline for the deployed exemption is 1 March of the year following the days deployed.***

If you were deployed outside the continental US, Alaska or Hawaii in the previous year and it was in support of an approved operation, then you may be eligible for the additional Deployed Exemption. You can visit the "Deployed Services Member Info" link on our website (under the "Downloadable Forms" tab under "Quick Links" on home page) for more information. There, you will find a deployed exemption info packet which includes a Deployed Handout giving you all the eligibility & filing requirements, and then 2 of the 3 forms you will need to submit when applying - a blank Okaloosa County Memo for Record ("OCPA MFR") and DR501M (deployed application). Please be sure to contact our office, prior to the filing deadline, if you should have any questions.

***NOTE:*** *Deployed Handouts or OCPA MFR's with a revision date PRIOR to 10 May 2022 are no longer valid. Operation names are periodically added or removed from the approved list by the Department of Military Affairs. Because of this, it is imperative that you always refer to and use the most recent revisions of both forms to ensure your eligibility.*

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All military & deployed exemption inquiries, documents, etc., can be submitted to Mrs. Chambers via email (preferred method), fax, mail service of choice, or dropped off at either office location. All her contact information is located in the upper right corner of this handout.