

VETERAN EXEMPTION BASICS – TOWN OF ASHFORD

BASIC VETERANS EXEMPTION

As a veteran or currently active duty military with prior service periods and who resides in Ashford, you may be eligible for several exemption programs under the Connecticut General Statutes. In order to receive the basic exemption, the first step is to file an original long-form DD214 in the town clerk's office showing an honorable discharge. If you do not have a copy, one can be requested at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>. The town clerk takes a copy of the original. The basic reduction in the assessment with the exemption under §12-81(19) and §12-81g is 1,500.

If you are still serving and unable to appear in person, you may complete an affidavit annually, signed by your commanding officer, that is submitted to the assessor. See the statutory language on the back of this paper for the specifics.

DISABLED VETERANS EXEMPTION

You may be eligible for an exemption under §12-81(20) of the Connecticut General Statute, applicable to veterans with disabilities. The disability need not be service-related. The degree of disability, as determined by the Veteran's Administration, must be at least 10%. The exemption increases as the percent disability rises. If you are eligible, you will need a disability rating slip or letter from the United States Veterans' Administration. The documentation must specify the percentage of disability. You are only required to file it with the assessor once; if the VA changes your disability percentage, you will have to file the proof with the assessor again.

ADDITIONAL VETERANS EXEMPTION (INCOME BASED)

Under §12-81g, you may be eligible for the Additional Veterans exemption, an income-based exemption program. The income limits for the 2021 Grand List are \$37,600 or less if you are single and \$45,800 if you are married. The application period is February 1, 2021 – October 1, 2021. If you are 100% VA-determined disabled, the income limits are \$18,000 for unmarried households or \$21,000 if married.

Income for this program does not include VA disability benefits or economic stimulus payments.

If you have any questions, please call the Assessor's Office at 860 – 487 - 4403.

Unless otherwise specified, exemptions are applied to real estate. If you rent, the exemption will be applied to your motor vehicle. DD-214s must be recorded in the town clerk's office prior to October 1, 2021 to receive the exemption for the 2021 Grand List. Proof of disability must be provided by January 31, 2022 to receive the exemption as a disabled veteran on the 2021 Grand List.

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Sec. 12-93. Veterans' exemptions; proof of claim. Any person who claims an exemption from taxation under the provisions of section 12-81 or 12-82 by reason of service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States shall give notice to the town clerk of the town in which he resides that he is entitled to such exemption. Any person who has performed such service may establish his right to such exemption by exhibiting to the town clerk an honorable discharge, or a certified copy thereof, from such service or, in the absence of such discharge or copy, by appearing before the assessors for an examination under oath, supported by two affidavits of disinterested persons, showing that the claimant so served and received an honorable discharge or is serving or, if he is unable to appear by reason of such service, he may establish such right, until such time as he appears personally and exhibits his discharge or copy, by forwarding to the town clerk annually a written statement, signed by the commanding officer of his unit, ship or station or by some other appropriate officer, or where such claimant is currently serving in an active theater of war or hostilities, by the presentation of a notarized statement of a parent, guardian, spouse or legal representative of such claimant, stating that he is personally serving and is unable to appear in person by reason of such service, which statement shall be received before the assessment day of the town wherein the exemption is claimed. The assessors shall report to the town clerk all claims so established. Any person claiming exemption by reason of the service of a relative as a soldier, sailor, marine or member of the Coast Guard or Air Force may establish his right thereto by at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing the service of such relative, his honorable discharge or death in service, and the relationship of the claimant to him; and the assessors may further require such person to be examined by them under oath concerning such facts. The town clerk of the town where the honorable discharge or certified copy thereof and each affidavit is originally presented for record shall record such discharge or certified copy or affidavits thereof in full and shall list the names of such claimants and such service shall be performed by the town clerk without remuneration therefor ...