



Report Homestead Exemption Fraud

It is important homeowners only pay their fair share of property taxes. Property owners who file false applications to obtain a Homestead Exemption are causing you to pay more in property taxes each year. Why? Because your various taxing authorities, such as the county, city and school board, must equitably divide the tax burden among all property owners within their jurisdictions in order to provide services such as police, fire, and schools. If someone wrongfully claims Homestead Exemption, someone else must pay more to make up the difference.

In an effort to protect taxpayer dollars, our office is always working to identify homeowners in Broward who are fraudulently claiming a Homestead Exemption on their properties. We work with local governments, homeowner and civic associations to help identify exemption fraud. We also rely on anonymous phone and mail tips about potential Homestead fraud.

If you know of anyone claiming Homestead Exemption on a property which is not their permanent residence, we urge you to contact our Department of Professional Standards and Compliance at 954.357.6900 or <http://www.bcpa.net/fraudform.asp> and we'll check it out. You are free to provide your contact information or remain completely anonymous when reporting potentially fraudulent activity to our office.

Property owners who fraudulently obtain a Homestead Exemption may be back taxed for as many as ten years, plus be required to pay substantial penalty and annual interest (50% of the unpaid taxes for each year and pay interest at a rate of 15% per year).

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 954.357.6904 or by email at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar, CFA

