

Real Estate and Personal Property Abatements...

All taxpayers have the right to file for an abatement of their taxes if they believe that their property has not been fairly valued. Information regarding applications and deadlines to file for abatements is printed on tax bills, or can be obtained by calling the Assessors' Office. Applicants should present compelling evidence to support a claim of overvaluation.

Applications for abatements must be received in the Assessors Office by February 1st of the Fiscal year being applied for. For example Fiscal Year 2012 are due on or before February 1, 2012. Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2012. If your application is not timely filed, the assessors cannot by law grant an abatement.

For what reasons may I get an abatement of a motor vehicle excise?

A taxpayer may file an abatement application and receive an abatement for any of the following reasons:

1. Sale of the vehicle and cancellation of the registration or the trade of the subject vehicle for another;
2. Transfer of the registrant and the vehicle to another state with proof of registration in that state and cancellation of the Massachusetts registration;
3. Overvaluation of the vehicle; supportive documentation needed.....values determined by Registry of Motor Vehicles.
4. Subsequent registration of the same vehicle in the same year by the same person (e.g., vehicle is later registered with a Vanity Plate).
5. Theft of the vehicle, if the local police authorities are notified within 48 hours of the discovery of the theft and the certificate of registration is surrendered not less than thirty days after the theft and the registrant has received a certificate of cancellation of registration signed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or his authorized agent verifying that the subject vehicle was stolen.

Applications for abatement must be filed with the local board of assessors within 3 years after the date the excise was due, or 1 year after the excise was paid, whichever is later. If the taxpayer's application for abatement is denied, there can be an appeal to the Appellate Tax Board (ATB).

Please be aware that even if an adjustment is due you must pay the bill on time or late fees will be accrued.

If you have any questions , please contact our office at 508-885-7500 x 165