

New for 2017 – New Jersey State Veteran’s Exemption

You are eligible for a \$3,000 exemption on your Income Tax return if you are a military veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States on or any time before the last day of the tax year. Your spouse (or civil union partner) is also eligible for an exemption if he/she is a veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances and you are filing a joint return. This exemption is in addition to any other exemptions you are entitled to claim and is available on both the resident and nonresident returns. You cannot claim this exemption for a domestic partner or for your dependents.

Claiming the Exemption

1. When completing your tax return, you must fill in the oval (resident return) or check the box (nonresident return) to indicate that you are claiming this exemption. Otherwise, the exemption(s) will be disallowed.
2. You must provide [official documentation](#) showing that you were honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty the first time you claim the exemption(s).

Providing Documentation

You must provide [official documentation](#) showing that you were honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty the first time you claim the exemption. The most common form of documentation provided is a copy of your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD-214, The [United States National Archives and Records Administration](#) can assist with obtaining a copy of your DD-214. We can only accept documentation that lists your characteristic of service (discharge). You only need to submit a copy of your records the first time you claim the exemption, **you do not need to provide this documentation each year.**

You can certify for the exemption by sending [your documentation](#) and [Veteran Income Tax Exemption Submission Form](#) 183 kb to the Division before you file, which may help process your return faster. To certify:

- Use our [secure document upload feature](#) to submit your [documentation](#) and [Veteran Income Tax Exemption Submission Form](#) 183 kb. Enter the notice code VET and select PO Box 440; or
- Mail a copy of your [documentation](#) and [Veteran Income Tax Exemption Submission Form](#) 183 kb to: The New Jersey Division of Taxation, Veteran Exemption, PO Box 440, Trenton, NJ 08646-0440; or
- Fax your [documentation](#) and [Veteran Income Tax Exemption Submission Form](#) 183 kb to 609-633-8427.

Note: To certify for the Veteran Exemption, your [documentation](#) must show you were honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances. We cannot approve your claim for the exemption until we receive the requested documentation.

Once we receive information that you qualify for the exemption, the Division will provide a letter of receipt confirming your eligibility. Letters will be sent in January the first year you meet the qualifications. 2017 letters will be issued after January 1, 2018.

If you do not certify before you file for the exemption, you will need to submit documentation showing that you were honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty when you file using:

- *A Paper Return.* Enclose a copy of your [documentation](#) with your return;
- *NJ Fill'nFile.* Upload your [documentation](#) into the repository;
- *Other Electronic Filing Methods.* If you file your return using NJ WebFile, third-party software (such as TurboTax), or you have a tax professional who electronically submits your return, you can send a copy of your [documentation](#) and [Veteran Income Tax Exemption Submission Form](#) 183 kb using one of the three certification methods listed above.

The following are examples of documents that can be used to certify your eligibility for the Veterans Exemption. Any documentation submitted must list your characteristic of service (discharge). We only need a copy of your records the first time you claim the exemption. **You do not need to provide documentation each year.**

DD 214	Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
DD Form 256	Discharge Certificate
WD AGO 53	Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge
WD AGO 53-98	Military Record and Report of Separation Certificate of Service
WD AGO 55	Honorable Discharge from the Army of the United States
NA Form 13038	Certificate of Military Service
NAVCG 553	Notice of Separation from U.S. Coast Guard
NAVMC 78PD	U.S. Marine Corps Report of Separation
NAVPERS 553	Certificate of Separation/Discharge from U.S. Navy
County Veteran ID Card	Veteran identification card issued by any of the New Jersey counties
Federal Veteran ID Card	Veteran identification card issued under the Veterans Identification Card Act

For more details on NJ State tax benefits for veterans see NJ Publication GIT-7 at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/pubs/tgi-ee/git7.pdf>