



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
WATER DEPARTMENT**

Russell Stage Road
Blandford, MA 01008
413.848.4279 Ext. 304

water@townofblandford.com
www.townofblandford.com

WATER COMMISSIONERS

Michael Keier, Chairman
Brad Curry, Clerk
Peter Thayer

Gordon Avery, Superintendent

APPLICATION FOR ABATEMENT OF WATER CHARGES

Date of Bill: _____ Bill #: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Property Location: _____

Owner of Record: _____

Abatement Requested in the amount of: \$ _____ Bill Amount: \$ _____

Reason(s) Abatement Sought: _____

SIGNATURES:

Subscribed this _____ day of _____, _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

If not an individual signature of authorized officer: _____

INFORMATION ABOUT ABATEMENT PROCEDURE

REASONS FOR AN ABATEMENT. An abatement is a reduction of the charges on your water for the billing period. To dispute your valuation or assessment or to correct any other billing problem or error that caused you bill to be higher than it should be, you must apply for an abatement.

You may apply for an abatement if your water bill is 1) overvalued, clerical and data processing errors, or not for charges to you, 2) disproportionately assessed in comparison with other properties, 3) classified incorrectly as residential, open space, commercial or industrial, or 4) partially or fully exempt.

WHO MAY FILE AN APPLICATION. You may file an application if you are:

- The assessed or subsequent (acquiring title after January 1) owner of the property;
- The owner's administrator or executor;
- A tenant paying rent who is obligated to pay more than on-half of the water bill;

- A person owning or having an interest or possession of the property, or;
- A mortgagee if the assessed owner has not applied.

In some cases you must pay all or a portion of the water bill before you can file.

WHEN AND HERE APPLICATION MUST BE FILED. Your application must be filed with the Water Department on or before the date the payment of the actual water bill mailed is due. THESE DEADLINES CANNOT BE EXTENDED OR WAIVED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT FOR ANY REASON. IF YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT TIMELY FILED, YOU LOSE ALL RIGHTS TO AN ABATEMENT AND THE WATER DEPARTMENT CANNOT BY LAW GRANT YOU ONE. TO BE TIMELY FILED, YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE (1) RECEIVED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE THE FILING DEADLINE OR (2) MAILED BY THE UNITED STATES MAIL, FIRST CLASS POSTAGE PREPAID, TO THE PROPER ADDRESS OF THE WATER DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE THE FILING DEADLINE AS SHOWN BY A POSTMARK MADE BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

PAYMENT OF CHARGES. Filing an application does not stay the collection of your water bill. In some cases you must pay the water bill when due to appeal the Water Department's disposition of your application. Failure to pay the water bill assessed when due may also subject you to interest charges and collection action. To avoid any loss of rights or additional charges you should pay the water bill as assessed. If an abatement is granted and you have already paid the entire year's water bill as abated, you will receive a refund of any overpayment.

WATER BILL DISPOSITION. Upon applying for an abatement, you may be asked to provide the Water Department with written information about the property and permit them to inspect it. Failure to provide the information or permit an inspection within 30 days of the request may result in the loss of your appeal rights.

The Water Department has 3 months from the date your application is filed to act on it unless you agree in writing before that period expires to extend it for a specific time. If the Water Department does not act on your application within the original or extended period, it is deemed denied. You will be notified in writing whether an abatement has been granted or denied.

APPEAL. You may appeal the disposition of your application. The disposition notice will provide you with further information about the appeal procedure and deadline.

Approved by the Water Commission:

Chair

Clerk

Member