

Realty Transfer Tax

The Realty Transfer Tax is levied on the sale or transfer of Real Estate located in Philadelphia. The tax also applies to the sale or transfer of an interest in a corporation or partnership that owns real estate. Certain long term leases are also subject to this tax.

The City tax rate is three percent (3%) of the sale price or the fair market value, if no sales price exists. However, in addition to the City tax, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania charges 1%, making a combined rate of 4%.

The tax is paid when the deed is filed with the Records Department, located in Room 154, City Hall.

Generally the transfer of real estate between family members is exempt. Examples are a transfer between husband and wife, children of the same parent, and lineal ascendants / descendants. Property that is received under a will is also exempt.

For more information, contact the Discovery Section of the Department of Revenue, Municipal Services Building, Room 440, 1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard or call (215) 686-6614.

