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Tax Penalty Appeal Process

- According to Code of Virginia §58.1-3916 (excerpt below) the taxpayer must provide proof that failure to pay was not the fault of the taxpayer.
 - *Penalty and interest for failure to file a return or to pay a tax shall not be imposed if such failure was not the fault of the taxpayer, or was the fault of the commissioner of revenue or the treasurer, as the case may be. The failure to file a return or to pay a tax due to the death of the taxpayer or a medically determinable physical or mental impairment on the date the return or tax is due shall be presumptive proof of lack of fault on the taxpayer's part, provided the return is filed or the taxes are paid within 30 days of the due date; however, if there is a committee, legal guardian, conservator or other fiduciary handling the individual's affairs, such return shall be filed or such taxes paid within 120 days after the fiduciary qualifies or begins to act on behalf of the taxpayer.*
- Failure to receive a bill does not relieve penalty and interest. It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure or coordinate timely tax payment and account information. Tax due dates are set by VA state code and are advertised and announced multiple times.
- Only the Treasurer has the authority to abate a late payment penalty. The Treasurer requires that any taxpayer seeking tax penalty abatement must provide this proof in writing and clearly demonstrate meeting the criteria above.

Steps to request appeal:

1. Taxpayer must put request to abate penalty in writing and provide explanation and documentation to support the merits of their case.
2. The appeal should be addressed directly to:
Treasurer-Town of Purcellville
221 S. Nursery Ave. Purcellville VA 20132
 - Appeal may be mailed, dropped in the 24 hour drop box at Town Hall, or delivered to Town Hall during normal business hours.
3. The Treasurer will review & rule on the appeal within 14 days of receipt of written request.