

## **A Census Guide for Michigan Snowbirds**

*Those who live in Michigan the majority of the year -- but are in their winter residence in another state when census forms are mailed in March -- should follow these guidelines to be counted as Michigan residents:*

- Zero should be entered on the form received at the second residence as the number of people residing there. The rest of the form should remain blank. Also write "usual residence elsewhere" on the form so the census bureau will know why zero was entered.
- If other people are staying in the Michigan home while the snowbirds are gone, those completing the form should include the snowbirds in the count.
- If no one is staying in the Michigan home, snowbirds should wait until they return to Michigan to complete the form sent to their residence there. If a form hasn't been received, a census taker is expected to contact residents between May and June.
- The Post Office does not forward census forms received in Michigan to the snowbirds' second residence.

*Counting snowbirds in the wrong place reduces Michigan's political influence in Congress, reduces the level of federal funding received by state and local agencies, and reduces the accuracy of census data.*

**If you have questions,  
contact the U.S. Census Call Center at 1-800-923-8282.**

**Sources: State of Michigan and Area Agency on Aging 1B**

