

# Mooresville Public Library Fine Free Policy

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 2021

The **Mooresville Public Library** considers use of any of the materials or equipment owned by the Library to constitute acceptance of the Fines and Fees Policy.

## Philosophy:

The Mooresville Public Library is a tax-supported public institution. Patrons are financially responsible for items checked out on their library card and the cards of their minor children.

As a tax-supported institution, it is the responsibility of the library staff to serve as good stewards of the materials entrusted to our care and to attempt to keep those materials available for use by all patrons. It is also our responsibility to ensure that basic services are not impacted by the budgetary requirements of special or enhanced services.

Registration is free to residents of Mooresville and Brown Township, as are basic circulation, reference services and computer access.

## Fine Free = NO OVERDUE or LATE CHARGES:

What is the difference between a fine and a fee?

Fines are punitive. Fees are for library services and products such as library cards, copying, printing, material replacement costs, etc.

What this means for you

- You will no longer receive a daily late fine on overdue items.
- You are still responsible for returning your items. We do want all items back!
- The library will still send you courtesy reminders to return your items.
- If you have overdue fines from other libraries in the Evergreen Indiana consortium, you are still responsible for paying these. If you check out or renew materials while visiting another library in the Evergreen Indiana consortium, you could still be charged fines based on that library's fine policy (many still have fines, some do not).
- Materials that are 28 days overdue are assumed lost and you will be billed for the replacement cost.
- If 15 days after receiving a bill, you have not returned or paid for the item, you could be referred to a collection agency and charged a \$10 collection agency processing fee. If you return the items after being referred to collections, the bill will be cleared from your account, but the collection agency processing fee will remain.
- Past replacement fees for lost or damaged items still apply.
- If you have overdue fines from MPL that you accrued before we went fine free, you are no longer required to pay these fines.

## Lost Fees:

Materials that have not been returned after 28 days from the last due date will be considered lost. A lost materials fee will be automatically accrued to the patron's record. The lost material fee is equal to the actual replacement cost of the item unless the item is an Inter Library Loan (ILL). The lending library determines the replacement cost of an ILL item.

The lost fees are removed from the patron's record upon return or recovery of the materials in question.

**Claims-Returned:**

Patrons who claim to have returned an item which still shows as checked-out on their record, or who claim never to have checked out material that shows on their record, may have a fee equal to the lost material fee assessed to their record until such time as the material in question is located. This fee will not prohibit checking out items, it will a record of claims. The fee will be removed when the material is returned.

Patrons who have accumulated as many as three (3) claims-returned transactions on their record may have further service denied.

**Damaged Materials:**

In cases where materials are returned with damage or with missing parts that make the material unusable, the actual replacement cost for the damaged item will be assessed to the patron's record. Patrons who repeatedly return materials with damage or with missing parts may have further service denied. Patrons who deliberately mutilate library material or who steal parts of library material may have further service denied and may also be subject to legal prosecution.

**Waiving Fees:**

As custodians of both the collection and the public's trust, the Library is committed to fair and consistent application of our policies. Holding all users equally accountable for the use of the Library and any fees incurred is part of meeting that public obligation. We understand that due to a wide variety of circumstances, materials are sometimes returned late. We do not attempt to judge any individual's circumstances as more excusable than another.

Waivers or reductions of fees may be made on a very limited basis at the discretion of the Director or Deputy Director or their designee in the event of certain extenuating circumstances, which may include:

- Natural Disaster
- Manmade Disaster – Accident or Criminal Act
- Medical Emergency – Self or Family Member
- Family Emergency
- Financial Hardship
- Loss or Theft of Library Card
- Library Error

The waiving of fees is an unusual circumstance. Patrons who have had large amounts of fees waived or reduced, either as a single act or over a period of time, may be denied further service.

**Printing Fee:**

To offset the cost of supplies, black and white printing is \$.10 per page; color printing is \$.25 per page.

**Violation of Policy:**

Failure to pay fines and fees assessed in accordance with this policy may result in the denial of library service.