

The Oak Brook Public Library Is Now **Fine-Free!**

Beginning January 1st, the Library will eliminate overdue fines.

Q: What does fine-free mean?

A: We will no longer charge overdue fines on any materials checked out at our Library. All existing overdue fines will also be waived. This policy applies to overdue items only. Lost or damaged items will still be charged at cost.

Q: Why go fine-free?

A: We want to encourage our community to come to the Library! Charging overdue fines discourages Library visits and check-outs, especially for young people and families who tend to borrow more materials than adults. Eliminating fines also means more positive interaction between staff and patrons.

It makes financial sense. Overdue fines account for less than 0.3% of the Library's operating budget and this number has decreased over time. Fine-free also eliminates unnecessary clerical work and frees up staff time.

Q: When are items due?

A: All items checked out at the Library will have a 2 week check-out period and 5 auto-renewals. If an item reaches 14 days overdue (21 days during the current COVID material quarantine), your account will be blocked until the item is returned.

Items which reach 42 days overdue are considered lost and are billed at cost. If you return a lost item, you will not be billed.

Q: Will I wait longer for popular items to be returned?

A: Fine-free libraries have not seen an increase in delinquent returns. In fact, many have found patrons are more comfortable returning items with the knowledge that they won't be charged overdue fines.

