

**Herrick Memorial Library
FAQs About Fine Free Policy**

What does 'Fine Free' mean?

The Herrick Memorial Library will not charge late fines on overdue materials for a six (6) month trial period (January 2, 2018 to June 30, 2018). This trial period may become permanent if everyone plays by the rules and returns the materials that they borrow from the library. Our intent is to remove barriers that keep you from using our collection and make our resources available to all whenever they are needed and as a show of faith for the passage of the levy.

Does that mean there are no more due dates?

No, all items will still have a due date and as patrons you must return or renew the materials that you borrowed by their due date. Some items are renewable and will be renewed if you contact us. If you do not renew or return overdue materials, you will not be permitted to check out any more materials or use the library's Internet computers until those items are renewed or returned.

My library card is blocked because I have late items. I will just use my child's card to get more items.

Only the person whose name is attached to the card is permitted to check out materials on that card. You cannot check out material on a family member's card. You can only use a family member's card if we currently have a signed permission slip from them on file. It is noted on their account in the system.

Can I just keep the item until I am done with it?

No, it must be renewed or returned by the due date. If it is not, your account will be blocked and you will not be allowed to borrow more items. Library staff will contact you with a phone call or an overdue notice just like always. If you still do not return or renew the item, we will assume you lost it and send you a bill for the replacement cost. If you do not pay that bill or return the item, you may be turned over to a collections agency and will be assessed an additional \$10 fee. This is not new...we have done this for several years.

I have a fine on my account for a book my dog ate. I thought you did away with fines!

We will still charge for materials that are damaged or lost and to replace a lost library card. You are responsible for the materials that you borrow from the library. If it is damaged or lost while checked out to you, we must replace it. You will be billed for that cost.

I lost a book. Do you take payments?

If you lose a library item, contact us as soon as possible. We will take payments. We accept cash, checks, and most credit cards. However, until the item is paid for, you cannot check out additional materials or use our public internet computers. If you ignore the notice of fees and owe over \$25, our collections agency, Unique Management, will automatically retrieve your account information and open a case. The collections agency charges the library a \$10 fee for each case that they open. That fee will be charged to your account.

I borrowed an item from interlibrary loan. It is late. Will I be fined?

We will still charge a fine of \$1.00 per day per each late interlibrary loan item. Borrowing privileges will be suspended until the interlibrary loan item is back and the fines are paid in full. The Herrick Memorial

Library is an independent library; not part of a consortium. The Library pays a premium (a percentage of its materials budget) to the SEO Consortium for the privilege of borrowing interlibrary loan materials for our patrons. The SEO Consortium has a policy to prevent borrowing libraries from using their interlibrary loan services if the borrowing libraries do not return their materials to them on time.

Do you need the money from fines?

Fines were never looked at as a steady source of revenue. They were meant as reminders to return your items on time like you agreed to do when you got your library card. The State Funding for the Herrick Memorial Library was cut in the State's 2017-2018 budget, but we decided as a show of good faith for the passage of our latest library levy not to punish our loyal patrons with nickel and dime fines because a handful of people abuse their borrowing privileges. If you feel guilty about your late items, we will take a donation instead and use the money to buy additional new material!

I will just keep the materials as long as I want because there is no fine!

When you keep material longer than a policy permits, you are denying other people the opportunity to borrow it. Playing by the rules is what makes the system work. If other people are waiting, you cannot renew the material but we can put you back on the waiting list. If you keep the material without renewing it, you cannot use your card until you return it. If you ignore the overdue notices we mail, you will receive a bill for the replacement cost and may be turned over to our collection agency. Be a responsible patron and bring the material back when it is due. If you need more time to finish a book, contact us and we will try to renew it for you. A good rule of thumb is to check out only material that you can handle within the period allotted. Being late is different from stealing. If you steal our material, we will contact the police and file theft charges.