



Fine Free FAQs

What does being fine free mean to me?

You are still responsible for bringing materials back. Being fine free means that the library will no longer charge a daily fine for most overdue materials.

- Your account will still be blocked if you don't return items within **3** weeks of their due date. Your account is blocked until you return the overdue items.
- You will still be charged the replacement cost for any lost or damaged materials or for materials that are **5** weeks overdue.
- Your account will still be sent to a materials recovery agency, and a \$12 non-negotiable fee will be added to your account, when materials are **7** weeks overdue.
- ILL, SearchOhio and OhioLINK items that are overdue will still accrue a daily fine.

Why is the library going fine free? Aren't you going to miss the revenue?

We want to lower barriers for all patrons to return to the library! Fines tend to keep patrons away from the library instead of encouraging them to return materials.

Over the years, we've also lowered fines and added auto-renewal, which has already led to a large reduction in fine revenues. Fines account for only 0.4% of the library's revenue.

I've paid fines in the past! So . . . do I get a refund?

The library will not be issuing refunds for old fine payments. Staff have been waiving fines since August. If you still have questions about this, please ask to speak to a librarian.

I still have fines on my account! What's up with that?

Our system was unable to automatically waive old fines. If you notice fines on your account, please see circulation staff so that we can help you clear it up. Remember that you are still responsible for the replacement cost of long overdue, lost, or damaged materials.

What about my holds? Will I be waiting longer for them?

Good news! Most libraries that are fine free report that a majority of patrons still return their materials on time, and waitlists aren't affected. Rest assured, library staff will be monitoring the effect on waitlists and adjust accordingly. Of course, we always encourage patrons to return materials on time so others can enjoy them!

**Southwest Public Libraries is officially
FINE FREE on October 1, 2019!**