

Overdue Fines: What You Need to Know

Why is Columbus Metropolitan Library getting rid of overdue fines?

Our goal is to make sure our customers can enjoy all the books and services the library offers. Overdue fines can prevent some customers – especially kids – from checking out books and other materials. We don't rely on the money we receive from overdue fines to run the library.

What is the library going to do to get customers to return borrowed materials?

We'll still impose fees for lost or damaged materials. Plus, customers who have long overdue materials will have their library cards blocked, which stops them from checking out more physical items until the overdue materials have been returned. If an item is not returned 35 days past its due date, it is noted as lost and the customer is charged a replacement fee.

What happens if my card is blocked because of a long overdue item?

Customers with blocked cards won't be able to check out any physical materials until the long overdue materials have been returned or until the replacement fee has been paid. But customers with blocked cards can still check out eBooks, reserve meeting rooms, use public computers and enjoy other library services.

When will this take effect?

Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, any borrowed items returned will not be charged overdue fines, as long as they were checked out from a Columbus Metropolitan Library location.

Does this mean my current overdue fines are being wiped away?

No. We can't waive everyone's current overdue fines, however staff are encouraged to use their best judgement in waiving individual overdue fines. Customers should speak with a staff member about any issues with current overdue fines.