

Ligonier Public Library

Fine Free Policy

The Ligonier Public Library (LPL) announced it is doing away with overdue fines for all LPL cardholders. Approved by the Library's Board of Trustees at its August 12, 2025 meeting, LPL will erase all overdue fines from the accounts of its patrons effective September 1, 2025. In addition, cardholders will no longer accumulate fines for most overdue materials*.

Those cardholders will continue to be responsible for fees related to lost or damaged library materials or fines owed to other libraries.

Purpose

To make the library more equitable, the Ligonier Public Library (LPL) is a fine-free library. Eliminating fines ensures that all people have free access to library materials and resources, encouraging the pursuit of life-long learning.

Goals for a Fine Free Library

1. To increase access and encourage prior users to come back to the library and attract new users to utilize the resources and services the library offers.
2. To remove barriers that prevent patron usage due to fines that could accrue.
3. To improve customer service and the patron's overall library experience.
4. To model our neighboring libraries, which have changed their policies to fine-free.

What this means for you

- You will no longer receive a daily late fine on most 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.
- Past replacement fees for lost or damaged items still apply.
- If you have overdue fines from LPL that you accrued before we went fine free, you are no longer required to pay these fines. We are working to forgive those accounts. Please remember this only applies to fees from LPL.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Do I still have to pay a fine that was on my account prior to LPL going fine free?*
If you've returned all materials checked out from LPL, your fine will be waived.
2. *Is EVERYTHING free of overdue fines?* Almost everything! Books, movies, audiobooks, magazines, and downloadables are all fine free. Equipment, like wi-fi hotspots, passes, and items from our library of things, are the exception and still have overdue fines.
3. *Fines have been waived, so why does my account still have a balance?*
While LPL is doing away with overdue fines, fees for lost or damaged materials remain. Fines from other Evergreen libraries may still be present, also.

4. *How will the Library get people to return borrowed materials?*
“No fines” does not mean “no responsibility.” Materials that are 28 days overdue are assumed lost and you will be billed for the replacement cost.
5. *Will I still receive reminders about returning materials? Yes!*

NOTICE	METHOD	WHEN
Reminder	Email and/or text	3 days before item is due
Overdue	Email and/or text	On due date
Overdue	By Mail	14 days overdue
Bill	By Mail	28 days overdue Patron billed for replacement cost

6. *How is the Library budget affected by the loss of fine income?*
Overdue fines make up less than one percent of the Library’s annual income.
7. *I’ve always thought of paying my fines as my donation to the library. Can I still donate?*
Yes! Your donation will support critical Library programs and services.

Lending of Materials

Members of the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium will operate under uniform circulation policies and procedures. The library will still do automatic renewals as allowed.

Item	Loan Period	Renewals	Fine Amount:	Max Items Out (total)
Books, Periodicals, Audiobooks	21 days	2	LPL checkouts are fine free	100
DVDs	7 days	2	LPL checkouts are fine free	10
Hotspots	7 days	1 (if no holds)	These items will have fines	1
Library of Things	21 days	1	These items will have fines	10

Fines*:

The mobile hotspots incur a \$1 fine for each day they aren't returned.

Museum passes will remain at \$1.00 per day late fee.

Library of Things Items will remain at the \$1.00 per day fine level if under equipment or special collections category.

Once the fines on your card reach \$10, your card will be blocked at all Evergreen locations. If you have 15 or more overdue items, your card will be blocked at all Evergreen locations.

If a patron locates a lost item after paying for it, no refund will be issued for the replacement cost.