

# The Delta Township District Library is now fine free!

Our mission is to provide library resources, services, and programs necessary to meet the evolving educational, recreational, and informational needs of the community. Eliminating fines for overdue materials means more people are able to have those needs met.

Late fines, no matter how small, are often a financial barrier for many families in our community. These barriers discourage library use and lessen opportunities for lifelong learning, job training, homework help, and early childhood literacy.

## What does that mean for me?

- **No more daily late fines** charged on overdue items.
- We have **cleared existing overdue fines from all accounts**, giving everyone a fresh start. If you haven't been to the Library in a while, come see us! We have everything you loved, and so much that is new!

## So, I can just keep this book I checked out ... forever?

Um, no. You still have to bring things back, and you cannot check out additional materials if you have more than 10 items overdue or owe more than \$10.00. Also, if an item becomes more than 60 days overdue, we assume it's lost and charge you for the item.

## But...

If you've not yet finished that book or other item (because, life), and no one else is waiting, we will automatically renew your items (usually up to three times) two days before they are due. If we have your correct email address, we'll let you know what we could and could not renew. Rental items like video games and new movies or TV series cannot be renewed.

## If fines have been waived, why does my account still have a balance?

Although overdue fines were cleared, rental item charges and fees for repairs, replacement, lost, or damaged materials remain.

## Will people return materials on time without late fines?

Libraries that have gone fine free have found that return rates actually go up. Chicago Public Library became fine free in September 2019 and experienced a 240% increase(!) in returned materials.

## What if I paid my fine last month? Can I get a refund?

The library is unable to give refunds for fines previously paid. Refunds are only available if you've paid for a lost item and it is found and returned in good condition within 30 days.

## Doesn't the library need to charge late fines for revenue purposes?

Overdue fines contribute only a very small amount to the Library's operating revenue, around 1%, plus all the costs of collecting those fines.

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