

SIGN OF THE TIMES – NO MORE FINES!

Love your library, but not the late fines? We understand life happens, and that it can be difficult to return items on time to the library. Late fees can add up and visiting the library can start to feel like a burden, especially on your wallet. That's why we're excited to announce that **Lyon Township Public Library is saying farewell to fines!** Beginning June 1, 2019, fines will be a thing of the past. You'll also have a fresh start as all past late fines on LTPL materials will be waived. Cardholders who were prohibited from checking out materials due to unpaid late fines will once again be able to check out.

HOW FINE FREE WORKS

If you borrow material that is owned by LTPL (books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and other materials), it will not accrue fees if it is returned after the due date. However, items owned by other libraries in our cooperative (The Library Network) may accrue fines. Patrons are still expected to return library materials on time. Checkout periods on materials will remain the same and reminders will still be sent. Items that are more than 21 days past due will be considered lost and charged to the patron. The library will also continue to charge patrons for damaged items.



IMPACT OF GOING FINE FREE

Collecting late fees for overdue materials has been synonymous with libraries for as long as anyone can remember, so the removal of fines may sound a little surprising at first. There is much to consider when changing a tradition that has been around for so long. However, when we took a really hard look at the impact of overdue fees, we found that they presented a serious barrier to library use. The inability to cover a fine can cause a library user to avoid the library at a time when they may need our services the most. More and more libraries across the country and Michigan are going fine free. Currently, revenue from late fines is almost completely offset by the cost of administrating and collecting fines. Fines represent less than 1% of our 2019 budgeted revenue. The fine free proposal was unanimously accepted by the LTPL Board of Trustees at their April meeting.

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