

# Fine Free Policy

## SUMMARY

1. Starting May 15, 2021, The Richmond Public Library no longer charges fines for materials that are returned after their due date.
2. Patrons will be charged for the replacement cost of materials not returned 2 months after their due date. We are more than happy to work with you so please communicate with us.
3. Libraries across the country that have eliminated overdue fines have reported that patrons still return items on time, that more items are checked out (improving the return on the investment), and that interactions between staff and patrons are more positive.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Does this change apply to lost or damaged items?** No. Items that you lost, returned with damaged or missing parts, or otherwise did not return in the same condition as when they were checked out will be billed accordingly.

**Without fines, will library materials be returned in a timely manner?** Several other library systems that have eliminated overdue fines have reported that books, movies, and other materials still get returned by their due date. Library cardholders understand that it is their duty to return materials so other people can use them. The Library will issue reminders when an item is overdue. If an item is 2 months overdue, we will charge the account for the item's replacement cost; the Library account will be blocked from checking out more materials until the items are returned or the replacement charges are paid.

**Will you remind me when my items need to be returned?** Yes. We will send reminders when an item is overdue. To ensure you receive these notices, please check that your email address is current in your account. You can review and update your email address online or by speaking with a library staff member.

**Doesn't the Library need overdue fines in order to buy more books?** Purchasing new materials is part of the Library's budget every year, and it is not tied to overdue fines.

Approved May 5, 2021