

# Book Fine-Free Policy FAQ's

Madrid Public Library  
100 West 3rd Street Madrid, Iowa

515-795-3846  
<https://madridiowa.org/library>

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1. Why is the library no longer collecting overdue book fines?

The library's goal is to make sure our patrons have equal access to our materials. Overdue fines can prevent some patrons, especially children, from checking out books.

2. Are there items that will still accrue fines?

Yes. Movies, video games, music cd's and cake pans will still be charged a daily fine. Those fines are .50 per day per item late until a maximum fine of \$5.00 is reached.

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3. How does the new book fine free policy work?

The library will send notices to patrons regarding overdue materials. If an item becomes 90 days overdue, the patron will be charged the replacement cost and that item will be marked as lost. Patrons will not be allowed to check out additional materials until the item is returned or the replacement cost is paid. Overdue fines will not be reflected on the patron's account.

4. What is the cost for lost library materials?

Patrons with lost items may take care of this in two ways. Patrons can pay the cost for the item or patrons can find an exact match for an item (i.e. an exact title and format). The library does offer programs that allow for options of payment of fee (such as a payment plan or a fine alternative program).

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5. What is the difference between a fine and a fee?

Fines are punitive. Fees are for library services and products such as library cards, copying and faxing etc.

6. What about old book fines that I still owe?

If you have book fines, those fines will be waived. There will still be fines for movies, video games, music cd's and cake pans. If you have a lost/damaged item those charges will still apply.

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7. Will I still receive emails, or texts and phone calls when items are overdue?

Yes. This service will continue. If you would like to receive emails or texts please contact us at 515-795-3846 and provide us with your information.

8. Will the renewal policy still be the same?

Yes. There are no changes to the renewal policy.

9. Will there be a grace period for items?

We are sorry, but there is no grace period.

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10. Where can I pay for overdue items?

Online through the city's website at <https://madridiowa.org> or in person at the library.

11. What if I owe \$10.00 or more in fines, can I still check out?

An account must be under \$10.00 in order to check out materials.