

FINE FREE MESSAGE MAP

Date: Updated 7/27/2020 TE



Key Messages	Supporting Messages
Madison Public Library is committed to equity and reducing barriers to all library services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In June, 2020, Library Director Greg Mickells and the Library Board issued statements about the Library and Board's commitments to racial equity and eliminating structural racism.• Fines, and the blocked library cards that often result from fines, disproportionately affect neighborhoods with higher percentages of residents of color.• The Library's Racial Equity Change Team requested the elimination of fines and use of a collection agency.
As of August 7, 2020, Madison Public Library will no longer assess overdue fines on library materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overdue library fines have not been charged from March 17-August 1, 2020 during library closures.• There will be a transition period in August where our library customer database will receive the necessary updates to eliminate the charging of fines and where past fines will be forgiven. These updates are done by multiple staff and vendors, and these will be complete by August 31. Fines may accrue during this transition, but will be waived.
As of August 7, 2020, Madison Public Library will discontinue use of a collection agency to recoup costs and materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Library has not referred any customers to collections since we closed on March 17. Some cases are still in progress but have been suspended. Those cases will be closed by August 31.
Library patrons may still incur charges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Madison Public Library is part of South Central Library System. Not all South Central Library System member libraries are fine free. If Madison Public Library customers check out materials AT other libraries, fines may still be charged depending on that library's policies. Materials FROM other SCLS libraries checked out at Madison Public Libraries (items requested via holds) will not incur fines if late.• Outerlibrary Loan (OLL) materials (materials borrowed from outside the South Central Library System) will still incur overdue charges of \$1.00 per day because OLL materials that are not returned on time may result in Madison Public Library being charged replacement fees and jeopardize our ability to borrow items in the future.• Patrons will still be charged for lost or damaged items, but will only be charged damaged or replacement costs, without any additional processing fees.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental items that are returned late will incur additional rental fees of \$.25 per open day. All rental titles are also available in the library catalog free of charge.
<p>Library staff are available to help customers through the transition period of August 1-31, 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If this policy goes into effect August 7, some fines will be assessed before approved by the Board. Library materials will be checked in in such a way as to not assess fines during this transition period. • Library staff will work with all partners and vendors to make the necessary changes to implement the policy change if passed, and will work with affected customers during the transition period. • During this time, all library handouts, web sites, and other promotional material will be updated to reflect the change.