

SOLDOTNA PUBLIC LIBRARY FINES and FEES

Fines have traditionally been used to encourage patrons to return library materials in a timely manner. Studies show that overdue fines are not effective in encouraging the timely return of library materials, but instead become a barrier that prevents some individuals and families from accessing library resources. In 2020 the Soldotna Public Library joined libraries across the country by becoming a fine free library.

Guidelines

- Although the Soldotna Public Library does not charge fines for overdue materials owned by our library, borrowed items should be renewed or returned by the end of the loan period.
- Other libraries in the Alaska Library Catalog (ALC) may still charge fines for overdue items.

Overdue Procedure for Soldotna Library Items*

- Patrons will receive separate overdue notices when items are 3, 10, and 20 days overdue.
 - Items that are 30 days overdue will be assumed lost, and replacement costs plus a \$5 processing fee will be charged to the cardholder's account.
- *Other libraries in the Alaska Library Catalog have different fine schedules, overdue notice systems, and replacement procedures. Items are subject to the policies of the owning library.

Damage Fees & Procedure

- If library materials are irreparably damaged or lost, replacement costs plus a \$5 processing fee will be charged to the cardholder's account.
- See 04.02.01 Fines and Fees Schedule for specific replacement fees.

Waiving Fees

- The library may waive some fees at the discretion of the City Librarian.
- Fees will typically be waived due to personal hardship such as medical or family emergencies.

Reviewed by Library Board: July 20, 2020
Approved by City Librarian: July 20, 2020