

MODOC COUNTY LIBRARY: PROPOSED FINE-FREE POLICY

Proposed FINE-FREE POLICY as recommended by the Library Advisory Board:

- Beginning February 1, 2020, the Modoc County Library will discontinue charging or collecting overdue fine penalties for late returns.
- Borrowing privileges are suspended on library accounts with overdue items or outstanding fees.
- Items not returned by 30 days after due date will be considered “lost” and a bill to replace the item(s) plus a processing fee will be sent. If the item(s) is returned undamaged, all related fees shall be removed from the account and borrowing privileges will be reinstated.
- Damaged items will be assessed a damage fee or replacement cost.
- Past fines paid will not be refunded.
- In order for patrons to get a fresh start, outstanding fines will be forgiven.

Currently, the Modoc County Library charges \$.25 fine per item per business day for overdue items (with 1 day grace) up to 1/2 of the replacement cost. Borrowing privileges are revoked on library accounts with overdue items. That will not change with the proposed new Fine-Free Policy. “No fines” does not mean no responsibility. Patrons with overdue items cannot check out more materials until any and all overdue items are returned. Maintaining borrowing privileges is the reward for returning materials on time.

There is a distinction between “fines” and “fees”. Overdue fines are the daily charges applied to items not returned by their specified due date, i.e. returned late. A “fee” is a charge for a service rendered, such as making photocopies, FAXing, scanning documents, proctoring an exam, printing, damage to library materials, replacing lost materials, microfilm research, or replacing a lost library card.

Some of the public libraries in California that do not charge overdue fines for late returns include San Francisco Public, Alameda County, Sonoma County, San Mateo County, Contra Costa County, Berkeley Public, Tulare County, Marin County, Santa Barbara Public, Oakland Public, Palm Springs Public, San Diego Public, and Belvedere Tiburon Library.

The following Modoc County Library Fine Free Policy was approved on January 28, 2020 and becomes effective February 1, 2020.

Cheryl Baker, Librarian
Modoc County Library

Date

Elizabeth Cavasso, Chair
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Margaret Long, County Counsel

Date

ATTEST:

Tiffany Martinez, Clerk of the Board

Date