

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY CIRCULATION POLICY

LIBRARY CARD ELIGIBILITY

Permanent residents of Ohio qualify for a free library card. Persons who go to school in Ohio or work on a permanent basis in Ohio also qualify for a free library card. Only one card is allowed per individual, with the exception of library cards issued to teachers in Cuyahoga County. Cleveland Public Library honors the library cards of other CLEVNET libraries for the circulation of materials. Special cards, such as those issued to businesses, educators, and temporary residents are governed by procedures set forth by Library administration.

APPLYING FOR A LIBRARY CARD

To apply for a library card, adults aged 18 or older must fill out an application and present valid photo identification and proof of address. Acceptable forms of identification are listed on the application.

The signature of a parent or guardian on the library card application is required for youth aged 17 and under. Library card applications for youth may be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the Library, unless the parent or guardian wishes to authorize the checkout of audiovisual materials. A parent or guardian of the applicant must be present at the time of application to authorize the checkout of audiovisual materials. Photo identification is required for applicants aged 14 through 17 years old. A report card or a class schedule with the applicant's name on it is acceptable for applicants who do not have photo identification.

Library card privileges must be renewed every two years. Valid photo identification and current proof of address must be presented when renewing library privileges.

BORROWER RESPONSIBILITIES

Borrowers must present a valid library card when charging out materials. If the patron does not have the library card but still wishes to charge out materials, valid photo identification will be accepted. Borrowers are responsible for paying any fines or other charges imposed for the late return of materials, loss, or the mutilation of library materials. Parents or guardians are financially responsible for all materials borrowed on the cards of youth aged 17 and under. Borrowers are responsible for reporting any changes in the account information in a timely fashion.

It is the borrower's responsibility and choice as to who has access to the library card for the account. A patron may allow a family member or friend to use his or her library card to check out materials, pick up materials on hold, and pay fines that are outstanding on that card. However, the Library reserves the right to ask a borrower for photo identification to verify identity before charging out materials.

LOST OR STOLEN LIBRARY CARD

If the borrower's card is lost or stolen, it is the borrower's responsibility to report the loss or theft to Cleveland Public Library or to another CLEVNET-member library immediately. A police report is required when a patron claims materials were checked out without permission. A new library card must be issued for lost, damaged or stolen cards; the cost for a replacement card is \$1.00. All charges or loans attached to the lost card will be transferred to the new card.

BORROWING GUIDELINES

A total of fifty circulating items may be on a borrower's record at any given time; of these, a total of eight (8) CPL-owned DVDs may be on a borrower's record. Loan periods depend upon the type of material being loaned; borrowers should note the due dates on the receipt provided at checkout. The Library upholds the circulation policy and loan periods for items owned by CLEVNET member libraries although they may differ from the loan periods of Cleveland Public Library.

Most CPL materials are renewable, and, depending on the item, may be renewed up to five times, provided there are no reservation requests pending and the patron has not accumulated more than \$24.99 in fines and/or fees on the account.

FINES & FEES

Once library materials are overdue, the cardholder will be charged overdue fines according to the Fines & Fees Schedule, approved by the Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees. The Library will accept payment for lost or damaged materials, overdue fines and fees associated with materials owned by other CLEVNET member libraries at any CPL location. The Library will not wave any fines or fees associated with materials owned by other CLEVNET member libraries. If an item owned by another CLEVNET member library is found at a later date, the patron must return the item to the owning library to request a refund. CPL will not issue refunds for materials owned by another library system.

The Library does not charge overdue fines for circulating materials borrowed by patrons aged 60 and over, or those who are totally and permanently disabled. To qualify for a disabled card, the patron must present a permanent Golden Buckeye card issued by the Ohio Department of Aging at the time of application. Patrons aged 60 and over or those who are totally and permanently disabled are still responsible for lost item charges.

Once an item is twenty-eight (28) or more days overdue, the Library will mail the borrower a bill for the cost of the item. When an item does not have a cost associated with it in the online catalog, the borrower is responsible for the replacement cost listed in the Fines & Fees Schedule. If the lost CPL item is found within 90 days of payment, the patron may contact the Library for a refund, less the maximum overdue fine for the item. In the event that a borrower believes that an item was returned on time, the borrower should contact the owning library to ask staff to check the shelf for the item. If the item is owned by CPL and not found after a shelf check, it is the sole discretion of the library manager to grant or deny CLAIMS RETURNED status for the item.

LOSS OF BORROWING PRIVILEGES

A patron is unable to borrow materials when fines and/or fees are in excess of \$24.99, 10 or more items are overdue, more than 50 items are already charged out, the patron's library card has expired, or the account has been referred for material recovery services.

MATERIALS RECOVERY

Accounts of borrowers aged 18 or older with fines and/or fees in excess of \$24.99 on their account are referred to material recovery services for processing and are subject to credit reporting. Youth aged 17 or younger with fines and/or fees in excess of \$24.99 are referred to material recovery services for processing; however, their name will not be reported to a credit bureau. A collection fee will be assessed to the patron when the account is referred for material recovery services. A patron's borrowing privileges will be restored once the balance on the user's account is zero.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF LIBRARY RECORDS

In keeping with the Library's [Policy on Confidentiality and the Privacy of Library Records](#), family members or friends are not given information about the accounts of the borrowers whose cards they are using, except in situations specified by [Section 149.432 of Ohio Revised Code](#), e.g., a parent can get the account information of a minor child.

A parent or guardian may request overdue information and information about current items charged out on a minor child's library card, if the parent or guardian has the minor child's card, or the parent or guardian has photo identification with same address as that listed in the minor child's registration and proof of parentage or guardianship satisfactory to the Library.