

Newtown Public Library

Circulation Policy

Adopted 05/17/2022 by the Board of Trustees of Newtown Public Library

The Newtown Public Library follows the Delaware County Libraries (DCL) Automation Policy except as noted below.

Patrons may receive a library card with just a library card application but photo ID with current address along with the application is preferred.

In addition to books, the library has materials in a variety of formats to meet patron information needs. The following is a list of the library media types and their loan periods:

- Fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, hotspots: 21 days
- Museum passes: 3 days (Patrons may only check out one museum pass at a time)
- Downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks: 14 days (Note: the default loan period can be changed from 14 days to 7 days or 21 days by the patron)
- Other Delaware County libraries may have different loan periods than the Newtown Public Library. It is the patron's responsibility to pay attention to the due dates of materials.
- Interlibrary Loan Materials not from Delaware County libraries: 30 days/21 days for feature films

Except for hotspots and museum passes, most Newtown Public Library items may be renewed if there are no current reserves on them. All eligible items will be renewed automatically up to three times per the DCL Automation Policy.

The Newtown Public Library does not limit the number of items that can be checked out.

Should a patron need to check out materials for an extended time due to a vacation or other reason, the Newtown Public Library will do their best to accommodate the request.

Newtown Public Library Fines and Fees:

- Adult and Young Adult Materials: \$0.00 per day
- Juvenile Materials: \$0.00 per day
- ILLs: \$0.00 per day (fines assessed by lending libraries will be acknowledged)
- DVDs: \$0.00 per day
- As per the DCL Automation Policy: "Fines and fees belong to the collecting library. That library has the right to waive fines, not fees for other libraries' lost books. (Funds for lost books will be returned to the owning library.)"
- Lost or damaged materials: replacement fee will be dependent upon the cost of the item.

Beginning May 18, 2022, the Newtown Public Library will no longer charge patrons overdue fines on Newtown Public Library materials. The Newtown Public Library Board of Trustees decided that in these unprecedented times, there should be no roadblocks to accessing information or using library services. As the library did during the height of the pandemic, it will continue to waive any accumulated overdue fines for its patrons in Newtown Township.

The library requires that all materials be returned or renewed within the checkout period as per DCL policy. The Newtown Public Library will not charge overdue fines on items owned by the Newtown Public Library that are returned after the due date. However, other libraries in Delaware County do charge overdue fines on items that they own. Patrons may return Newtown Public Library materials to any Delaware County library and will not be charged an overdue fine if the item is overdue. Materials from other Delaware County libraries will accrue fines if late. The staff of Newtown Public Library will waive any accrued fines for Newtown Township residents weekly.

If a book is not returned, as per DCL policy, the patron will be billed to replace the book. Fees related to the replacement of lost or damaged books will still be charged to the patron. Replacement fees should be paid to the lending library. Should a patron return a lost Newtown Public Library book that was paid for, a refund may be issued. If the book belongs to another library, the patron must contact the loaning library regarding a refund.

Why does the Newtown Public Library waive overdue fines?

Libraries across the country have found that overdue fines create a barrier for many families who could benefit from accessing our collection. We hope that removing overdue fines will encourage all members of our community to come in and enjoy the library. Financial hardships have hit an all-time high these days, so removing overdue fines also removes an additional hardship from community members who may be burdened. Going fine free does not overly affect the library's financial bottom line since overdue fines only generate on average 1% or less of the library's total revenue each year. Overdue fines are antithetical to the library's principles as set forth in the library's newly adopted mission to encourage the joy of reading, the exploration of ideas, and the pursuit of lifelong learning for all.