

## 2023 FINE FREE POLICY

1. Beginning January 1, 2023, the Franklin Lakes Public Library has eliminated late fees because of the exclusionary impact of fines and card blocks. The goals of eliminating the fines are to remove barriers to the library, encourage reading, and move toward a more equitable society.
2. Items from special collections including Inter-Library Loans, Library of Things, and WiFi Hotspots will continue to be charged overdue fines .
3. Additionally, items borrowed and returned late from other Bergen County Cooperative Libraries that are not fine free may continue to have fees and charges. It is recommended that Franklin Lakes Library cardholders who have outstanding fines for overdue items from other BCCLS libraries pay those fines online through [www.BCCLS.org](http://www.BCCLS.org). A \$.50 service charge is added to all online payments.
4. Under the new rules, library patrons will not have to pay a fine if they return something late. However, if something is damaged, lost and/or not returned, (materials are considered lost after a 60 day period), the patron will be expected to pay replacement fees and will be barred from checking out other materials until doing so. After the 60 day period, patrons will have 30 days to return a billed item to the library, after which the library will replace the item and therefore, will not accept it back. Patrons with 90 day overdue items must pay the full replacement price with no exceptions. Patrons may keep the item/s if found.
5. Upon return of an overdue item or payment of replacement cost, a patron's account will be reinstated.
6. To help patrons remember to return items timely, reminders will be sent by email, text, or mail. One can customize reminders and choose how to receive them.

Approved: 12/19/22

Revised: 11/12/85, 3/91, 1/13/92, 2/14/94, 4/19/99, 1/26/01, 5/16/07, 12/19/22