



CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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Issued Date: January 26, 2022

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Fine Free Library!

We have an exciting announcement to share with you. Effective January 26, 2022, Kearney Public Library has **eliminated overdue fines for all Library patrons**. This move ensures that our public library is living up to its commitment to provide equal access to information and to promote the enjoyment of reading, culture, and the pursuit of lifelong learning.

Also, effective January 26, 2022, **all outstanding overdue fines will be cleared from patron records**. No exceptions, no questions. You are absolutely fine free.

Any items checked out that are eligible for renewal will be automatically renewed once for you.

The Library encourages patrons to return books in a responsible and timely fashion to the Library so others may enjoy our shared resources.

Why did the Library decide to eliminate overdue fines?

The Kearney Public Library was inspired by the many other libraries that have gone fine free before us.

The elimination of overdue fines in libraries has several positive outcomes:

- Increased patron access to materials and services
- Reduction of the inequitable impact of overdue fines
- Improved patron relationships with their library
- Optimization of library staff time and increased staff efficiency

Additionally, research shows overdue fines do not ensure borrowed materials end up back on shelves.

What if I misplaced a book and can't return it? Did the Kearney Public Library eliminate replacement fees?

While the Library eliminated overdue fines, Library **users are still responsible** for fees associated with the replacement of lost or damaged books and other materials they check out. Fees related to lost, damaged, or unreturned materials are still in effect.

From all of us here at the Library, we thank you for your continued patronage and support.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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