

Rusk County Community Library, Ladysmith

Fines, Damaged Materials, Lost Items, Refunds, and Waivers of Fines & Food-for- Fines and similar programs

Fines are due when the materials are returned, or when the patron next comes to the library. Fines may be paid at any library within the MORE system. We will accept cash, checks, or credit/debit card payments. Credit and debit card payments may be made online or at the Rusk County Community Library.

Charges for damaged materials will vary with the degree of damage. There are numerous factors that determine the charge including the type and amount of damage, the age and general condition of the material(s), the cost of the materials, among other things.

Lost items are charged at the cost of the item. Magazines are charged at the rate of \$5.00, regardless of the cover price. Mass-market paperback books and children's paperbacks are charged at a minimum rate of \$5.00, regardless of cover price. The total minimum cost for any lost material will be \$5.00.

We do not accept replacement materials purchased by patrons.

The minimum charge for an interlibrary loan item that is lost or damaged so as to require replacement is \$50. If the item is more expensive than \$50.00, or the owning library requires a greater payment, that actual cost will be charged to the patron.

These policies apply to materials owned by the Rusk County Community Library. Other libraries in the IFLS system, or that send materials through interlibrary loan have policies which apply to their materials.

Waiving fines is rarely done. There must be good cause for such an action, and we only waive fees on materials owned by the Rusk County Community Library. The waiver of fines must be approved by the director of the library.

We recommend that patrons avoid fines by calling the library to renew materials, or by renewing items online. Materials can be renewed twice.

Some libraries in the MORE system will offer special programs to reduce fines for short periods during the year. Programs such as Read Off Your Fines are options for youth to "pay" off fines. These programs for "paying" fines never cover the cost of replacements for lost or damaged items, nor collection fees.

Policy accepted by Library Board 3-14-2012; revised 8-9-2016; revised 4-11-2017, revised 11-12-2019