

Town of Chester Public Library
BORROWING AND LENDING POLICIES
March 2025

1. LIBRARY CARDS

There is no charge for a library card or for replacing a lost card. To apply for a library card one must present a valid ID that shows the applicant's name and address, driver's license is the preferred identification, and provides all necessary information requested by a staff member. Children must be at least 6 years old to get a library card and those in grades 1 through 6 must have their parents apply for their cards. Non-residents and part-time residents may obtain a card by presenting a current valid ID and by providing staff with requested information which will include both their local and permanent address as well as a valid email for contact information. Use of library card signifies the patron has read and agreed to all Borrowing, Lending and Computer use policies.

2. LENGTH OF LOAN

All items in the library, with the exception of those listed below, circulate for 14 days with 3 renewals allowed as long as there are no requests for the item. There is a limit of 99 items per card.

EXCEPTIONS:

- NEW AND POPULAR ITEMS

New and Popular Items may be borrowed for 14 days only. There are no renewals on New and Popular items.

- MOVIES

Movies may be borrowed for 7 days and may be renewed twice. There is a limit of 3 **new** movies per card. There are no limits on the number of older movies per card.

- SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Some rare items in our Local History Collection and all items in our Book Arts Collection are limited to in-library use only. Restricted Local History items are available on the Adirondack Collection shelf. Those wishing to view Book Arts items may do so under the supervision of a library staff member. Gloves are required when handling Book Arts items.

3. RENEWALS

Every item has a set number of times it can be renewed. As long as the maximum renewal limit has not been reached, a patron may bring materials into the library for renewal, renew by phone or renew by logging into their account on the OPAC (On-Line Patron Access Catalogue). If the renewal maximum has been reached or there are requests for the item, patrons will not be able to renew items on OPAC.

4. OVERDUE FINES

The Town of Chester Public Library does not charge fines for materials that are overdue. Items checked out at other libraries are subject to the policies of that library. As a result fines may accrue on a patron's account if they transact at libraries that charge fines for overdue items. Any Patron with fines of \$5 or more on their card will not be allowed to check out materials, and will not be able to transact on the PAC (online patron access catalogue).

5. OVERDUE AND LOST ITEMS

- a. The “no fine” policy does not apply to lost, ruined or damaged items.
- b. All library materials are ultimately considered property of the State of NY and should be returned in the same condition in which they are loaned.
- c. All library materials are “borrowed” by library patrons and must be returned in a timely fashion so materials can be enjoyed by all.
- d. Library materials are considered “overdue” when they are returned after the date indicated on the item.
- e. Any materials returned in less than loaned condition, or missing parts are considered “ruined items” and are subject to the same conditions as lost items. Ruined items include, but are not limited to, the following: stained, dirty, smelly, water damaged, chewed, torn, missing pages, covers or accessories, and scratched or broken CDs or DVDs. Normal wear and tear due to the long-term handling of items will be considered by the library staff when enforcing this policy.
- f. Patrons with overdue items will receive two overdue notices before a final bill for the replacement cost of the item will be sent. Library staff may choose to notify patrons by phone of overdue/lost items.
- g. If an item is overdue for more than 50 days, the item is considered “lost”.
- h. If materials are lost by a patron the cost of the item will be added to the patron’s account. The “no fine” policy does not apply to lost, ruined or damaged items. The cardholder is responsible and will be charged the cost of the item as listed in the catalogue. Identical replacement items may also be accepted at the discretion of library staff. Parents are responsible for all charges on their child’s card.
- i. 30 days after the final notice is sent, any accounts with unpaid replacement costs may be sent to a collection agency. The library reserves the right to report the offender to the proper law enforcement agency in accordance with section 265 of the NYS Education Law.

6. HOMEBOUND DELIVERY SERVICE

Individuals who are confined to their homes and reside in the charter district may request participation in this program by contacting the library director. Participants must have a library card to participate and will be expected to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Town of Chester Public Library. The library director will interview the participant to determine the types of books desired. Director will then select 5 to 10 possible or requested items. A library employee or volunteer will deliver the books and have the participant make their selections which they can keep for two weeks. Deliveries will be done on a two week basis on a mutually agreeable day, with the participant being contacted before the next delivery to discuss material selections.

Approved by Library Board of Trustees April 21, 2015

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Approved with no changes by Library Board of Trustees March 19, 2025