

## Fine Free Libraries in PALS Plus

At the March 2022 membership meeting of PALS Plus, a policy was amended that allows libraries wishing to be fine free to do so.

### **What are the facts?**

Materials **checked out** at a fine free library will be fine free.

It doesn't matter who owns the material.

It doesn't matter where the material came from.

It doesn't matter where the material is returned.

It doesn't matter what library card was used to check it out.

Think – checkout desk.

### **Are all materials fine free?**

A fine free library might still have fines on certain materials, such as new items, museum passes, hotspots, etc. It is important for the patron to understand this when they borrow materials that are not fine free at fine free libraries.

### **What happens if a fine alert pops up, but we're fine free?**

A fine free library might choose to not handle cash payments at all. Patrons may need to clear up their records with a credit card online, or by visiting another library.

### **What about items that are currently checked out?**

Items that are currently checked out will carry the fine policy at the time of checkout. For example, if an item was checked out on May 1, 2022 and the library went fine free on May 10, 2022, if the item is returned late, a fine will be assessed. Libraries may choose to use the Fine Free Checkout functionality in WorkFlows for a few weeks after going fine free.

### **What about old fines?**

Purging of current/old fines: This will happen at a later stage. It is not simple to do. We are working with SirsiDynix on the best way to do this.

### **Will patrons still be sent overdue and pre-overdue notices?**

Yes. Patrons will still receive pre-overdue notices and overdue notices.

### **What about lost items?**

Yes. The patron will still be billed for lost or damaged items.

### **Is there a deadline?**

No. Libraries can go fine free at any time. It's not now or never.