

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Circulation Policy
Approved November 17, 2025

OVERVIEW:

The Circulation Desk is the Public's first point of interaction with the Library. This is where library users register for a library card, check out or renew materials, return borrowed items, pay fines, borrow museum passes, and pick up reserved and interlibrary loaned items. The Circulation staff greets and directs visitors, answers and refers incoming phone calls to the appropriate library extensions, and accepts deliveries and donations. *As the Derry Public Library is a member of the GMILCS¹ consortium, lending GMILCS libraries' policies for circulation duration, fines and fees will supersede the Derry Public Library's circulation policy.*

AUTHORIZED BORROWERS:

The following criteria determine who may borrow materials:

1. Patrons must have a valid Derry Public Library card in order to check out items. If patrons do not have their cards with them, they may borrow items following the verification of picture ID.
2. Patrons who have a valid library card in good standing (no fines or fees) from any library in the GMILCS consortium may borrow items in person when they present their library card or a current photo ID.
3. Libraries within New Hampshire may borrow items through the statewide Interlibrary Loan System. Libraries outside of New Hampshire may borrow items on behalf of their patrons.

LIBRARY CARDS:

1. **Patrons entitled to a free library card with current proof of status:**
 - a. Those who live in Derry, age 5 and up.
 - b. Those who own property in Derry.
 - c. Those who work in Derry.
 - d. Non-resident students attending any Derry school, age 5 and up.
 - e. Regular DPL nonresident volunteers that do not live in a GMILCS town.
2. **Proof of status:**
 - a. Derry residents: Documentation showing proof of identification and current Derry address

¹ GMILCS is the consortium of area libraries that allow materials to be borrowed from any of the member libraries using a patron's library card.

- b. Derry residents in transition: Individuals residing in Derry and currently transitioning between permanent living situations showing proof of identification and providing a valid e-mail address
 - c. Non-Derry residents: Documentation showing proof of identification and Derry property ownership, employment in Derry, or enrollment in Derry school district
3. **Minors:** Minors must have a parent or guardian co-sign their library card for those aged 5 – 11 years old. The responsible adult's signature acknowledges their understanding of the Derry Public Library policy that the library does not withhold access to materials from any cardholder regardless of age. Minors aged 12 – 17 years old will not accrue overdue fines on Derry Public Library materials, but are responsible for charges as stated in ***Fee Schedule – Lost & Damaged***.
4. **Derry residents in transition:** Individuals residing in transitional living situations are eligible for library cards with a borrowing limit of 5 Derry Public Library owned items. Derry residents in transition are responsible for charges as stated in ***Fee Schedule – Lost & Damaged***.
5. **Non-residents:** Non-resident library cards are available, for an annual fee, to patrons who do not live in or own property in Derry, or who do not meet the criteria above for a free library card. The fee is established by the Derry Public Library Board of Trustees and reviewed periodically by that body. Non-Resident Cards are issued in one name only, but can be used by all family members living at the same address. Proof of current street address is required, photo ID preferred. All Non-Resident Cards are issued for a period of one year. See ***Fee Schedule***.
6. **Card Renewal:** All library cards are renewed on a routine frequency. Derry resident card renewals will occur every 2 years, Derry residents in transition card renewals will occur every 6 months, and non-resident card renewals will occur annually. Renewals must be done in person. Library cards that have been expired for twenty-four (24) months are deleted from the database if there are no fines or blocks on the account.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF LIBRARY RECORDS

State law prohibits the Library from revealing any information about an account to anyone other than the cardholder except the number of items signed out and their dates due, with the exception of the provisions in section II and II-a as stated in the following *RSA 201-D: 11 Library User Records, Confidentiality*:

- I. Library records which contain the names or other personal identifying information regarding the users of public or other than public libraries shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except as provided in the following paragraph 2. Such records include but are not limited to library information system and archival records related to the circulation and use of library materials or services.
- II. Records described in the previous paragraph 1 may be disclosed to the extent necessary for the proper operation of such libraries and shall be disclosed upon request by or consent of the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order or where otherwise required by statute.
 - a. All library records related to a minor's current borrowing of printed library materials and audio-visual materials, such as DVDs and CDs, shall be available to either parent or the legal guardian of the minor when requested by either parent or the legal guardian of the minor, or the parent or legal guardian of the minor whose address matches that on the library account or who is listed on the library account.
- III. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any library from releasing statistical information and other data regarding the circulation or use of library material provided, however, that the identity of the users of such library materials shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed to the general public except as provided in the previous paragraph 2.

As per section II, the Trustees, Director, or staff shall not make these records available to any agency of the state, federal, or local government without consent or by subpoena court order, or where otherwise required by statute.

Upon receipt of such process, order, or subpoena, the Library Director will consult with the attorney for the town to determine if such process, order, or subpoena is in proper form and if there is a showing of good cause for its issuance. If the process, order, or subpoena is not in proper form or if good cause has not been shown, the Director will insist that such defects be corrected.

As per Section II-a, the library reserves the right to request documentation from a parent or legal guardian whose address does not match that of the minor.

Requests for records of a minor must be made at the cardholder's (minor's) home library.

CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS

All Derry Public Library items may be borrowed for a loan timeframe of 3 weeks and renewed once to continue the loan period with the following exceptions:

- DVDs have a one (1) week loan timeframe.
- “Unusual Items,” as described below, have a two (2) week loan timeframe.
- If there is a hold placed on an item, renewal will not be permitted.
- Non-circulating items (newspapers, reference materials and materials in the New Hampshire Room) are available for use in the library, but are not available for loan.

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

When an item is not available at the Derry Public Library, or electronically through the GMILCS catalog, it may be requested from other libraries through the interlibrary loan process. Loan periods for interlibrary loan items are determined by the lending library and renewals are subject to their policies as well.

Any fees, such as postage, charged to the Derry Public Library by lending libraries for interlibrary loans must be approved by the patron in advance of obtaining the item and paid by the patron at the time of pick up. These fees and any overdue fines are the responsibility of the patron.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES

The Library can make accommodations for patrons who are unable to visit the Library due to

- advanced age
- temporary or permanent illness or disability

The decision to extend homebound service to a patron is determined by staff at the discretion of the Library Director. Homebound patrons do not accrue overdue fines on Derry Public Library materials, but are responsible for charges as stated in ***Fee Schedule - Lost & Damaged***. Contact Circulation Services to inquire about what services you may be eligible for.

MUSEUM PASSES

The Derry Public Library, with the assistance of the Friends of Derry Public Libraries organization, provides a limited number of passes to area museums for free or at a discounted rate.

- To use a museum pass, one must be a Derry Public Library cardholder in good standing.

- One pass may be used per day per family.

UNUSUAL ITEMS (METAL DETECTOR, TELESCOPE, UKULELE, ETC...)

DPL circulates some unusual items which due to their cost or breakable nature, require completion of a liability form at the time of borrowing. Such items include but are not limited to the library metal detector, telescope, and ukulele.

To borrow one of these items:

- The borrower must be a DPL cardholder in good standing.
- The borrower must sign a form acknowledging their responsibility for returning the item undamaged. If the borrower is a minor, the borrower's guardian must sign the form.
- The item must be returned in person; it will be examined immediately for possible damage in the presence of the person who signed the borrower form.
- The borrower is responsible to pay for any damages or loss.
- The borrower may only have one (1) unusual item checked out to them at a time.

NOTIFICATIONS

Returning or renewing items on or before their due dates (by phone, online or in person) is the responsibility of the borrower. The Library sends notices as a courtesy to minimize accruing fines.

RESOLUTION OF OVERDUE ACCOUNTS:

All borrowers – adult or minor – with outstanding fines, including lost or damaged materials, have accounts considered “delinquent” and must make regular payments on their fines or fees in order to check out items. The Head of Circulation will decide on payment percentages on an individual basis.

- Overdue fines shall not exceed \$5.00 per item, per day.
- Patrons owing \$50.00 or more will not be allowed to borrow materials until the balance owed falls below \$50.
- The consequence of unresolved overdue accounts is Suspension of Library Privileges (See below).

SUSPENSION OF LIBRARY PRIVILEGES:

Library users who have received a notice for non-returned, lost or damaged items and have not arranged a payment plan, or are delinquent in making payments, shall have their library privileges suspended by the Library Director.

- Suspended library privileges shall include borrowing materials, use of museum passes, and required registrations to programs.
- Additional restrictions may be added at the discretion of the Board.

- Privileges may also be suspended for those patrons who have violated certain aspects of the Comprehensive Computer Use and Internet Policy (See policy for details) and for other violations at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

APPEAL OF FEES:

If the library patron disagrees with the decision of the Library Director, he/she may appeal to the Board of Trustees. However, privileges will remain suspended pending the Board of Trustees' decision.

FEE SCHEDULE

1. OVERDUES/FINES:

- a. As of September 1, 2023, DPL does not charge late fines/fees ("late fees") for any loaned materials *except*:
 - i. Unusual Items
 - ii. Items borrowed from other libraries which continue to collect late fees
- b. Any late fees which had accrued on patron accounts prior to September 1, 2023 shall be waived.
- c. DPL cardholders who are confined to their home/residence, minors aged 12 – 17, and Derry residents in transition will not accrue any late fees. All cardholders remain responsible for charges as stated in the ***Library Cards*** and ***Lost & Damaged Items*** sections below.

2. LIBRARY CARDS:

- a. Non-resident library card
 - \$75.00 is charged for a non-resident card per year
- b. Lost Library cards
 - \$1.00 for replacement card

3. LOST & DAMAGED ITEMS:

- a. An item is considered "lost" and will be billed if it has not been returned four (4) weeks from its final due date.
- b. All materials, including the metal detector, telescope, ukulele kits and other "unusual items": current replacement cost of the items plus a \$5.00 processing fee.
- c. If an item is found and returned in satisfactory condition after payment, but before a replacement has been purchased and processed, the replacement cost paid shall be refunded within 30 days, but not the processing fee.

4. "CLAIMS RETURNED" BY THE PATRON:

- a. Items not found in the library after staff searches are treated as unresolved “claims returned”. If a second incident of unresolved “claims returned” occurs, the materials shall be treated as ***Lost & Damaged Items*** (see above).
 - b. The resolution of continued borrowing privileges shall follow the ***Resolution of Overdue Accounts*** format for payment schedules. Patrons who fail to make and maintain a payment plan for the lost items shall have their library privileges suspended by the Board of Trustees. (See ***Suspension of Library Privileges***).
5. **PRINT OUTS:** printing from microfilm, microfiche, public access computers and wireless printing
 - \$.15 per page for black and white
 - \$.50 per page for color
 6. **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**
Pricing for miscellaneous items will vary. See fee schedule at the Circulation Desk.

ALL FEES ARE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the Derry Public Library Circulation Policy

Derry Public Library
64 East Broadway
Derry, NH 03038

The Derry Public Library (“DPL”) circulates some unusual items which due to their cost or breakable nature, require completion of a liability form at the time of borrowing. Such items include but are not limited to the library metal detector, telescope, and ukulele.

To borrow an unusual item, one must be a DPL cardholder in good standing. A patron may request a hold on an item by phone, in person, or online. When notified, a patron must pick up the item within five (5) business days. The patron must sign a form acknowledging their responsibility to return the item undamaged, and to pay for repairs or replacement. If the patron borrowing the item is a minor, the borrower's guardian must sign the form. The item must be returned in person and will be examined for possible damage immediately in the presence of the person who signed the borrower form. The borrower may only have one (1) unusual item checked out to them at a time.

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY UNUSUAL ITEM BORROWER'S FORM

Circulation Staff - Please describe the unusual item that is being checked out:

Item Description: _____

Item Barcode Number: _____

I understand that I may borrow the item for two (2) weeks. I knowingly assume responsibility for the safekeeping of this item while it is in my possession.

I understand that there is a five dollar (\$5.00) fine for each day this item is overdue, up to the replacement value of the item. I also assume responsibility for the cost of any necessary repairs or for the replacement of the item plus a five dollar (\$5.00) processing fee if it should be lost.

Borrower's Printed Name

If borrower cardholder is a minor,
Guardian's Printed Name

Borrower's Signature (***If borrower cardholder is a minor,*** Guardian's Signature)

Guardian's email & telephone

Date