

Polk County Public Libraries Circulation Policy

Polk County Public Libraries (PCPL) extend borrowing privileges to any person, provided they act in accordance with PCPL Policies and provide sufficient proof of personal identification. In order to borrow materials, persons must be in possession of a PCPL library card or a library card from a participating consortia library.

Obtaining a Library Account

Photo identification and verification of current address are required to obtain or to renew a library card.

Examples of valid photo identification include:

- Driver's License or other state-issued photo identification
- Student Identification Card
- Military Identification Card
- Passport
- VA Veteran's Card

If not included on the photo identification, applicants must also provide verification of current mailing address.

Examples of address verification include:

- Utility bill (electric, gas, water, telephone)
- Insurance policy/card
- Personalized check
- Bank statements
- Tax notices

Types of Library Accounts

Adult

Upon presenting the required proof of identification and address, persons age 18 and older will be issued an Adult card with full borrowing privileges.

Juvenile

Children age 17 and younger will be issued a Juvenile card with full borrowing privileges. To obtain a library card, the child's parent or guardian must furnish above proof of identification and address. The adult who takes responsibility for the child is responsible for all items checked out, fees, etc. The responsible party must have a library account in good standing before a card will be issued to the child.

If the child has the required proof of identification and address to establish eligibility themselves then a responsible party is not required. The card holder will be responsible for all items checked out, fees, etc.

Limited

If an individual is unable to provide sufficient proof of identification and/or address, they may be issued a temporary account with limited borrowing privileges while they acquire it.

Outreach

Organizations in Polk County that provide care and/or assistance to people who are unable to visit or access the library independently (assisted living facilities, group homes, childcare providers, etc.) may request an Outreach Account. Accounts will be issued after the receipt of a signed request letter from an authorized representative of the organization. This type of account is also used by individuals participating in PCPL's Homebound Delivery Program. Outreach accounts are not charged overdue fines, but account holders are responsible for any fees associated with damaged or lost materials.

StudentAccess

StudentAccess accounts are a partnership between Polk County Schools and Polk County Public Libraries to provide students with access to library books and resources. Participating students with StudentAccess accounts may use their Student ID number, rather than a library card, for limited borrowing privileges. StudentAccess accounts are not charged overdue fines, but account holders are responsible for any fees associated with damaged or lost materials.

Account Maintenance

- Customers must notify the library regarding any change of address or other contact information.
- Individual accounts periodically expire and require confirmation of account information for renewal.
- Inactive accounts may be purged from the database. A new account will be created if the individual returns to the library.

Account Confidentiality and Security

In accordance with the North Carolina General Statute Section 125-19, PCPL shall not disclose any library record that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials, information, or services, or as otherwise having used the Library, except as provided under these circumstances:

- When necessary for the reasonable operation of the library;
- Upon written consent of the user; and/or
- Pursuant to a subpoena, court order, or where otherwise required by law. All subpoenas, court orders, etc. should be directed to the Library Director.

To ensure customer privacy and account security, a customer must present his/her library card to check out materials or access account information. If an account holder forgets to bring his/her library card, a valid photo ID will be accepted.

Each customer is responsible for his or her own library card, and may extend account access and checkout privileges to others in possession of the card. The account-holder is responsible for any resulting fines or fees. In order to ensure account security, report lost or stolen cards to PCPL immediately.

North Carolina law regarding confidentiality of library records applies to individuals of all ages. Full access to information about Juvenile Accounts may be given any individual in possession of the child's card. If the child's card is not present, the responsible party may be given information *only* about materials that are overdue, lost or damaged, or related to fines owed.

Borrowing Materials

- Customers are responsible for all items checked out to their account.
- Loan periods are determined by format and demand.
- Checkout and renewal limits are enacted for maintenance of the library collections.
- Customers may request holds on any circulating materials owned by PCPL. Holds on materials owned by other consortia libraries are available according to consortia agreements.
- If a checked out item has a hold request, it is not eligible for renewal.
- Held materials may only be picked up with the library card under which the item is held.

Fines and Fees

- Overdue fines are charged for library materials returned after the due date.
- Overdue fines are not charged for any day the library is closed (Sundays, holidays, etc.)
- If a borrowed item is lost or damaged beyond repair, the account holder is charged for the item. This is usually the full retail price at time of purchase. If the original cost is unknown, a default cost is applied. Replacement items will not be accepted.
- Customers with excessive fines or fees will have library privileges suspended, but may be granted limited checkout privileges while participating in a payment plan.

Cooperation with other libraries

PCPL is committed to collaborating with other NC libraries to expand access to physical and electronic materials while reducing costs. As such, PCPL participates in materials sharing consortia.

NC Cardinal

PCPL participates in NC Cardinal, a group of libraries that share library materials and offer reciprocal lending privileges. Most circulating items owned by other NC Cardinal libraries may be delivered to any PCPL location for checkout, upon request. PCPL library cards may be used at any Cardinal libraries. Within the Consortium, individual libraries have differing policies regarding loan periods, fines and fees, and other circulation and access-related matters. When using a PCPL library card at another NC Cardinal library, the policies of that particular library take precedence. Borrowed materials may be returned at any NC Cardinal library, regardless of checkout location.

PCPL honors library cards issued by other libraries participating in NC Cardinal and extends full borrowing privileges to any customer with an account in good standing at any NC Cardinal library.

Interlibrary Loan

The term “interlibrary loan” refers to materials not accessible through NC Cardinal, but that may be borrowed from a library outside of the Consortium. A postage charge is required for each item borrowed through Interlibrary Loan. PCPL attempts to borrow from libraries that do not charge additional fees for interlibrary loan services. If a requested item is only available from a library that charges an additional fee, and the customer gives approval, he or she will be responsible for paying the fee. If a customer fails to pick up a requested Interlibrary Loan, any charges will be applied to his/her account.

Loan periods are determined by the lending institution. Renewals are at the discretion of the lending library and are not guaranteed. PCPL may opt to purchase a requested item for the collection, rather than pursue an Interlibrary Loan.

Approved by the Polk County Public Library Board of Trustees

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