



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
Cultural Services Agency
Library - Museum - Parks

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August 3, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Ms. Carmel Angelo, Mendocino County CEO
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: APPROVAL OF ELIMINATION OF FINES FOR OVERDUE LIBRARY MATERIALS

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We are requesting that you approve the elimination of late fines for overdue library materials. These fines serve as a barrier to service for many of the groups that rely on libraries the most. Charging overdue fines runs contrary to the mission of free and equal access to information since wealthy patrons can pay fines more easily. Our Library Advisory Board passed a motion to support this elimination of fines in May.

It has been the trend in the past ten years for more and more public libraries to eliminate charging fines for overdue items. The State of California has been a leader in the fine-free movement and we would like to catch up with our neighbors in Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Napa, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo Counties.

We would still charge for damaged or lost materials so that we can replace them and make them available to the public. Overdue fines do not lead to a faster return of materials, only to a reduced ability for the poorest among us to access important resources.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Fader Samson".

Deborah Fader Samson
Cultural Services Agency Director
County Librarian