

## **Neill Public Library Waiving Library Fines Policy**

In order to responsibly serve the taxpayers of Pullman, while sustaining the goodwill and cooperative relationship the Neill Public Library enjoys with its patrons, the Library Board adopts a policy outlining conditions under which the option of granting a waiver of all or part of a fine or charge assessed to a patron is authorized by the Board. Circumstances that would merit library staff exercising this option include hardship situations defined as follows:

1. natural or climatological conditions or disasters which impede a patron from accessing the library to return materials by the due date;
2. family tragedy, including death or other such traumatic circumstance;
3. special amnesty programs associated with local nonprofit community organizations the purpose of which is not to negate fines, but rather to allow repayment in a more community-focused manner; amnesty will be accepted for fines on returned items only, not for replacement fees of lost or damaged items;
4. any similar unusual circumstances that cause patrons not to be able to meet their usual library obligations and responsibilities, including returning or renewing items by the due date, which fall in the general area of "compassionate response" on the part of the library.
5. Library fines may also be waived at the discretion of the Library Director.

*Adopted by the Neill Public Library,  
Board of Trustees - March 13, 1996*

*Revised November 2007  
Adopted by the Neill Public Library  
Board of Trustees – November 14, 2007*

*Revised August 2016  
Adopted by the Neill Public Library Board of Trustees – August 18, 2016*