What if I can't afford to pay off my fines/fees?

Question:
What if I can't afford to pay off my fines/fees?
We have a **Fine Option Program** available. If you are 14 or older, you may arrange to volunteer in the library in lieu of paying fines. A credit of $5 can be earned for each hour of designated volunteer work.

To qualify for the Fine Option Program, you must owe $10 or more on your individual library account.

Credit may only be applied toward fines/fees and is not applicable toward replacement costs for lost or damaged items.

Credit is applied only to the specific volunteer's account. Credit is not transferable to another patron's account.

To sign up for the program:

- Ask at the Checkout Desk to speak with a Circulation Supervisor to review your account and confirm what fees qualify.
- Fill out a Volunteer Information Sheet with your availability, interests and contact information. Information Sheets are available at any public service desk and in Administration.
- Turn in your Volunteer Information Sheet at any Checkout Desk.

What to expect:

- The Volunteer Coordinator or another Library Staff person will contact you for a training or work-time appointment 2-3 days after you turn in your Volunteer Information Sheet.
- You will meet with a supervisor/contact person who will train you and show you how to sign in and track your volunteer worked hours.
- Your volunteer supervisor will turn in your worked hours in a regular report.
- When the Circulation Supervisor receives the report, the appropriate credit will be applied against your account. It may take up to a week for the report/credit to be processed.

We also have a **Fine Option Program for Children and Teens: Literacy and Learning for Credit**.

If you are under 18 years of age, and owe money on your account, you may arrange to "Read it Off." A credit of $5 can be earned for each use and return of designated library material.

To qualify for the Fine Option Program for Children, you must owe $10 or more on your individual library account.

"Read it Off" credit may be applied toward fines/fees and replacement costs.

Credit is applied only to the specific child/teen's account. Credit is not transferable to another patron's account.
To sign up for the program:

- Ask at the Checkout Desk to review your account.
- Checkout staff will start your application form.
- Speak with Information Desk staff to complete the form and choose a library title together.

What to expect:

- While participating in the program, you may checkout only ONE book, magazine, or audio book at a time.
- You may checkout the single item on the same day you sign up.
- You can track your reading in a special reading log.
- Each time you return a selected item and talk to the Information Desk staff about it, you can earn the $5 coupon.
- Take the coupon to the checkout desk to have $5 waived from your fines and checkout your next item.
- Only one coupon can be earned/redeemed a day.

My_Account
Fines & Fees[1]
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Updated by Bill W. on December 01, 2011

- [2]
- [3]
- [4]

Links:
[1] http://mcpl.info/category/how-do-i-groupings/fines-fees
[2] http://mcpl.info/print/printpdf/howdoi/what-if-i-cant-afford-pay-my-finesfees
[3] http://mcpl.info/printmail/printpdf/howdoi/what-if-i-cant-afford-pay-my-finesfees
[4] http://mcpl.info/printpdf/printpdf/howdoi/what-if-i-cant-afford-pay-my-finesfees