

LIBRARY ACCESS POLICY

Falmouth Public Library, Falmouth, MA

The Falmouth Public Library (FPL) is committed to ensuring that its collections, services, and resources are accessible to all library cardholders with minimal barriers. This Access Policy is designed to promote the widespread use and borrowing of both print and non-print materials, while also safeguarding the Library's resources for current and future users.

In order to maintain equitable service and preserve the integrity of the collection, the Library establishes reasonable guidelines regarding the circulation of materials. These may include limits on loan periods, the number of renewals, or the ability to place holds on high-demand items.

In alignment with the principles of the American Library Association, FPL endorses and upholds policies that ensure equitable access to information and services for individuals with disabilities. This includes making reasonable accommodations and maintaining inclusive access to resources in accordance with applicable laws and best practices.

Through this policy, FPL reaffirms its mission to provide inclusive, equitable, and convenient access to knowledge, supporting the educational, recreational, and informational needs of the entire community.

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees: March 2008, July 2016, October 2025

The Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to alter, amend, or terminate this policy.

Library Access Policy Exhibit A: Borrowing Procedures and Privileges

Getting a Library Card at Falmouth Public Library: Anyone aged 18 or older who does not already have a library card within the CLAMS Library network may apply for a card at any Circulation Desk at the Falmouth Public Library. Personal identification is requested at the time of registration. You do not need to be a Falmouth resident to receive a card.

If you do not yet have a physical card but would like to request items online, you may register for a CLAMS E-Card. This temporary digital card allows you to place holds and access many online resources. To receive a permanent library card, visit the Library in person.

Your Falmouth Public Library card can be used at any of the CLAMS member libraries, giving you access to a wide network of resources throughout southeastern Massachusetts.

Fine-Free Library: The Falmouth Public Library does not charge overdue fines for materials returned late. Patrons may be responsible for the replacement cost of items that are lost or returned damaged if a pattern of repeated loss or damage is observed.

Please note: Not all CLAMS member libraries are fine-free. If you borrow items from another library in the CLAMS network, you may still be subject to their fine policies.

Automatic Renewal: Most items checked out from the Library will renew automatically on your account. Three days before items are due, our system will check your account for eligible items and renew them. The loan periods will extend from the original due dates. As long as no other patron is waiting for the item, your materials will automatically renew up to three times.

Children's Cards: Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult to obtain a library card.

YA Cards: Patrons aged 12 through 17 can receive a Young Adult card on their own.

Library Card Expiration and Renewal: Your CLAMS library card is valid for three years from the date it was issued. To renew your card, contact the Falmouth Public Library to confirm that your contact information is still current. Alternatively, you can visit our online catalog at <https://falmouth-public.clamsnet.org/>, sign in with your library card and PIN and renew your card online.

More information about borrowing procedures and privileges can be found on the CLAMS website here: <https://info.clamsnet.org/about>