

Fees to purchase a non-resident library card

In Illinois, people living outside the service area of a public library are considered non-residents. Non-residents are eligible to purchase a library card from the public library under certain conditions. The sale of a library card to a non-resident is covered by the Illinois Statutes, 75 ILCS 5/4-7(12) and 75 ILCS 16/30-55.60 specifically. In early 2002, the Statute was changed to include reciprocal borrowing and to indicate where the non-resident was to purchase the card. To see the complete statute, visit <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs.asp> going to Chapter 75, Libraries.

An Overview regarding the Purchase of a Library Card by a Non-Resident

Under the Illinois Statutes, an individual living outside of a public library's service area may purchase a library's patron/borrower card, providing the non-resident with library service. The law governs where the card is purchased and expands the borrowing privileges to include reciprocal borrowing for non-residents and nonresident property owners. The law does not change the ability of the local library board to decide whether or not to sell non-resident cards that continues to be a local decision.

The administrative rules implementing the law became effective on 1 July 2002. The complete text of the administrative rules is at, http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/who_we_are/nonresident.Html .

Purchasing the Library Card

A non-resident must purchase the library card from the public library geographically closest to the individual's primary residence. The administrative rules to implement the law prescribe how the non-resident determines which public library is closest.

Figuring the Purchase Price of the Non-Resident Card

Under the Statute, the Illinois State Library is responsible for developing equitable formulas to determine the library's non-resident fee. Public libraries choose one of three formulas/methods to calculate the fee for the nonresident library card. The library must select one method from the three, clearly stating their choice as a board action.

The Peru Public Library board of trustees has chosen the General Mathematical Formula as the method to factor the non-resident fee, rounding up to the nearest 5 for a total of \$95.00. The library divides its tax revenue by the library's population; this number is multiplied by the average household population. This is the fee charged to all non-residents when purchasing a library card.

The large increase from \$40.00 to \$90.24 is because the library has not changed the amount since 2006, nearly 5 years. An annual review is required by law, and would have moved the amount in 5 increments rather than one large change.