



Library Card Registration and Renewal

Policy Number: LS 103

Effective: May 2022

Purpose

Library cards are provided to customers to facilitate borrowing of materials and tracking of items requested, checked out, returned, overdue, etc., and to access or check out electronic resources online. Additionally, library cards are provided to facilitate access to the Internet and library electronic resources using the library's time management software and remote authentication software. Verification of identity, address, and birth date are necessary as a part of the registration process to ensure that accurate borrower information is maintained due to the potential financial obligation upon customers. Library cards are required when reserving a meeting room space.

Policy

Customers may register for temporary library cards online and complete the process via text or in person at any branch, on one of the library's mobile vehicles, and at Cooperative libraries in Plant City or Temple Terrace. Re-registration is performed to renew a customer's card or to replace a card that is lost or damaged. Customers must provide identification whenever registering for the purpose of verifying name, birth date, and current residential address. When updating an expired card, identification of name and current residential address are required. Customers may have only one active library card at a time. Customers may not use another's library card for the purpose of avoiding fees, or accessing the Internet and/or the library's networked resources. Customers may still allow others to use their card to act as their agent. THPL complies with Florida Statutes, [Chapter 97.058](#) and [Chapter 97.021\(36\)](#) by offering at all public service agencies, the opportunity to register to vote or change voter registration information every time a customer requests this service, registers for a library service, renews registration or changes the address on the library record.

Parent/legal guardians may choose to waive participation of their minor children, under the age of 17, in the Internet Safety Training. Parent/legal guardians who have library cards must have records in good standing. Parent/legal guardians are not required to have a library card to obtain a card for minor children. Juvenile cards may not be issued for avoiding paying fees owed by the parent/guardian.

Procedure

Registration – for Adults (Ages 17 and Above)

In order to obtain a library card, customers must complete the library registration form and provide staff with documentation to verify identity, birth date, and residential address. Customers must provide their full legal name including any middle name that matches their identification.

Identity and Address Verification - Acceptable Documents

A customer is not issued a permanent library card until his or her identity and birth date are confirmed in person. Any of the following **original current photo identifications** can be used to verify a customer's name and/or birth date:

- Driver's license
- State identification card
- Student identification
- Employee identification
- Military identification
- Passport, Visa, or Consulate issued ID
- Immigration records
- Online prison or arrest records

Any of the following current paper or electronic versions can be used to verify a customer's address:

- Driver's license
- State identification card
- Student identification
- Employee identification (including a paycheck stub dated within 30 days)
- Permanent voter registration card
- Automobile registration
- Property tax notice or receipt
- First class mail postmarked within the last 30 days sent by an institutional third party (government agency, banks, schools, utilities, etc.)
- Lease or rental agreement and/or current month's rent receipt(s)
- Current month's utility bill
- Hillsborough County Post Office Addresses

Hillsborough County post office boxes may be used as a customer's primary mailing address if one of the following **unexpired** identification bears that address:

- Florida driver's license
- State of Florida identification
- Permanent voter registration card

The customer also is asked to provide verification of a physical address within Hillsborough County using any of the documents listed above. Customers living in congregate or assisted living facilities may have their identity and birth date verified by the appropriate authorities of that facility.

Registration – Children (Under Age 17)

A child under the age of 17 can be issued a library card provided his/her parent or legal guardian is present, shows acceptable identification, and signs the library card of the child. Parent/legal guardians are not required to have a library card to obtain a card for minor children. Parent/legal guardians may choose to restrict their minor children, under the age of 17, from borrowing R-rated or unrated video materials. A parent or guardian signature is required. Parent/legal guardians may choose to waive participation of their minor children, under the age of 17, in the Internet Safety Training. Parent/legal guardians who have library cards must have records in good standing. Juvenile cards may not be issued for the purpose of avoiding paying fees owed by the parent/guardian.

Registration Fees

New library cards are free for Hillsborough County residents and employees of Hillsborough County, City of Tampa, City of Temple Terrace, and Plant City government. Nonresidents can be issued free cards if they provide documentation (such as property tax bill) verifying their Hillsborough County property tax-paying status. A County/City employee photo ID or recent paystub is required for County/City government agency employees to be issued a free card. The County/City government employee card grants access to all library formats, digital materials and/ or collections. Non-Hillsborough County residents can apply for and receive online or in person a library card. Non-Residents must pay an annual fee of \$35 per household to obtain a library card. The non-resident card does not grant access to digital materials and/or collections.

Card Holder Responsibilities

The adult library card holder is responsible for any fees, damage assessments, or lost charges for materials borrowed with the card, including items borrowed by another person using the card, unless the card has been reported lost or stolen and material was checked out after the date the card was reported lost or stolen. The parent or guardian of a child under age 17 is responsible for any fees, damage assessments, or lost charges for materials borrowed with the child's card. The library card holders are expected to notify the library if their mailing address, telephone number, or e-mail address changes. Library card holders (or parent/legal guardian) are responsible for reporting lost or stolen cards to the library immediately.

If a cardholder makes the report in person, he/she is asked to provide identification to verify name, address, phone number, and date of birth. If the customer does not have identification or is reporting the loss by phone, staff asks for the same information and checks the information supplied against the customer record in the computer. The customer is advised of any items checked out, charges, blocks, etc. before setting the card to Lost. A replacement card is issued upon the customer's request in person, via text or online with acceptable documentation in accordance with this policy. If a customer's card is found at a library, a note is put in the record indicating where the card was found, that Photo ID will be needed to claim it, and that it will be held for 30 days. Unclaimed cards shall be rendered useless and discarded after 30 days. Branch or Department Supervisors have the authority to accept or deny customer requests to leave library cards at the library for safekeeping.

Expirations and Renewals

Library cards are set to expire periodically and must be renewed in order to allow library staff the opportunity to verify and update card holder registration information. Renewals are handled upon customer request in person, via text or online with acceptable documentation in accordance with this policy. Most library cards are valid for a period of three years from the date of issue. Corporate cards and Non-Resident cards are valid for one year from the date of issue. Non-resident cardholders must pay an annual re-registration fee in order to renew a card. Library card holders who cannot provide current identification may be given a 30-day Courtesy renewal and have a note placed in their record stating, "30 day Courtesy Card renewal; please verify address." They will be asked to verify name and current residential address upon their next visit to the library.