

Fort Dodge Public Library

Homebound Patrons and Library Service

General Policies

Fort Dodge Public Library strives to provide all patrons with fair and equal access to library materials. Through our “Books on the Go” program, the library offers homebound services to patrons residing in the city of Fort Dodge who are unable to visit the library. Homebound is defined as being generally confined to one’s residence either temporarily due to illness, accident or surgery, or permanently due to disability, age, or other mobility issues.

A valid library account in good standing is required to participate in our “Books on the Go” program. If they do not already have one, homebound patrons must register for a library card. Arrangements for registration will be made based upon the patron’s situation. Permanently homebound patrons’ cards will be kept on file at the library.

Homebound library service is provided at no cost to the patron.

Homebound deliveries will be made approximately every two weeks by volunteers.

Selections will be made according to the preferences of the homebound patron. Patrons may request specific titles including best sellers and popular DVDs. Patrons may also place holds on items through their delivery person, by phone, in writing, through email or online.

If a homebound patron would like to borrow an item the library does not own, the library will consider it for purchase or borrow it through interlibrary loan. The library does not normally charge homebound patrons for interlibrary loan services.

Homebound patrons are not charged overdue fines, but may be charged for any materials that are lost or damaged. Homebound patrons are fully responsible for all library materials left in their possession.

Patrons requesting homebound services must provide a safe and appropriate environment for “Books on the Go” volunteers who make deliveries to their homes. Volunteers may choose not to enter a home, leave a home immediately, and/or recommend suspension of homebound service if any of the following conditions exist:

- Any person in the home presents threatening, obscene, or abusive behavior, language, gestures or images.
- Any person in the home harasses the library volunteer.
- Any person in the home is engaging in illegal activity at the time of service.
- Any person in the home is dressed in inappropriate attire.
- Any person in the home exhibits signs of illness that may endanger the health of the library volunteer.
- Any pets in the home pose a threat to the library volunteer.
- Any person is smoking inside the home at the time of delivery.
- The conditions of the home and/or property are unsafe or unsanitary.

Fort Dodge Public Library reserves the right to terminate this service to any individual who does not meet the terms and requirements as listed above.

Adopted 08/28/2017