Age Protection

Age Protection allows libraries to prevent holds on new items from outside the owning library's branch or system for a designated amount of time. This is intended to give the library's local patrons a chance to check out the new item before making it available for holds to other libraries. Libraries typically use this feature for all new items; but, may choose to use it on only popular titles or not at all.

Age protection is counted from the item Active Date. An item's Create Date is when the item is created in the database and is not necessarily the same as the item active date. Items are set with an Active Date when they are first checked in from the In Process status used when they were cataloged.

Each item (copy) has an age_protect flag which may be set to 3 month, 6 month, or None. **The total amount of time the item is in age protection is 6 months, regardless of whether 3 month or 6 month is selected at cataloging.**

> The system calculates "3 months" as strictly 90 days, and "6 months" as strictly 180 days. It does not calculate according to calendar months or leap years.

- If set to **3 month** and the item active date is less than 3 months old, the item is only holdable by patrons whose pickup library matches the circulating library of the copy. Between 3 and 6 months, the item will be holdable by patrons whose pickup library is within the library system. After 6 months is over, the item will no longer be age protected and holds may be placed on it from any PINES location. **NOTE:** The column for Age Protection will remain 3months, even if it's in that 3mo-6mo window of protection time.

- If **6 month** is set and the item active date is less than 6 months old, the item is only holdable by patrons whose pickup library is within the same system as the circulating library of the item. After 6 months is over, the item will no longer be age protected and holds may be placed on it from any PINES location.

- If age protect is set to **None**, then no age protection occurs and holds can be placed on the item from any PINES location once the item is created. The only exception to this is **On Order Holds**.

> Notice that the patron's library eligibility is based on their **pickup** library for that hold, and not the home library in their account.

Here is an example using dates. For an item with an active date of January 1:

Rule	Jan 1 - Apr 1	Apr 2 - Jun 30	July 1 - After
3 month	Home library patrons only	System patrons only	All PINES
6 month	System patrons only	System patrons only	All PINES
None	All PINES	All PINES	All PINES

Even if age protection is no longer in effect on an item, you will still see a value listed in the age protection field.

Age Hold Protection	Active/Create Date
6month	04/22/2022

You cannot "reset" age protection. Because it is tied to an item's active date, changing the age protection value doesn't restart the clock. This would only have an effect if the item is less than 6 months old.