Receipt Brief

October 2026

Information Disorder:

What is it and how to protect people from it

WHAT IS IT?

Information disorder takes different forms. It can involve both true or false information, and it isn't always deliberate or intended to cause harm.[1]

	Mis-information	Dis-information	Mal-information
False Information	✔	✔	✘
Intent to Harm	✘	✔	✔

WHY DOES IT SPREAD?

Harmful information can be spread to gain an advantage, persuade an audience, trigger emotion, or distort public understanding. There are potential motivators:[1]

Political **Financial** **Social** **Psychological**

Information gaps can create opportunities for information disorder, including the exploitation of those gaps to spread disinformation.[2]

WHAT NEXT?

Knowing where to find reliable information, and what to do when something doesn't seem right, can help protect you and others from information disorder.

Find Reliable Information.[4]

Stop. Think. Check.[5]

6 Tips.[3]

Be Media Smart Tips.[6]

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Sources

01 **Information disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policymaking**

Council of Europe • Claire Wardle, Hossein Derakhshan • Published: 2017

Link to Source

02 **Facts not Fakes: Tackling Disinformation, Strengthening Information Integrity**

OECD Publishing, Paris • Published 2024 • Accessed 09 October 2026

Link to Source

Useful Resources

03 **6 tips to spot and stop information manipulation**

European Commission • Published: no date • Accessed 09 October 2026

Link to Source

04 **Information you can trust**

European Commission • Published: July 2026 • Accessed 09 October 2026

Link to Source

05 **Be Media Smart**

Be Media Smart • Published: 2026 • Accessed 09 October 2026

Link to Source

06 **Poster: Stop Think Check (For Schools)**

Media Literacy Ireland • Published: no date • Accessed 09 October 2026

Link to Source