**Disinformation, Misinformation, & Fake News**

How can you spot or stop the spread of disinformation, misinformation, and fake news?

Disinformation, misinformation, and fake news promotes disagreement and conflict, creates distrust, and weakens the democratic process. In more extreme cases, it encourages violence and creates permanent damage to society.

**Disinformation** is false, inaccurate, or confusing information intentionally spread to mislead or manipulate others.

**Misinformation** is false, inaccurate, or confusing information shared without the intent to mislead or manipulate.

*“Arizona’s courts recognize that there are people, organizations, and foreign interests that intentionally instigate or seed misinformation using social media platforms, bots, and artificial intelligence tools with the goal of undermining public confidence in government institutions, including courts.”*

– Chief Justice Robert Brutinel



**Fake news** involves false news stories - the information is made up, with no provable sources, facts, or quotes.

None of the above include satire, parody, criticisms, complaints, or protests of

government actions, agencies, or processes.

Bias is a belief, attitude, or

prejudice in favor of or against a

thing, person, issue, or group.

Does the information and data

provide only one position and

leave out balanced facts and

context?

**Consider Bias**

Investigate the story.

Don’t share information if you

don’t know its source.

Check the website address. *.gov*

and *.edu* sites tend to be more

trustworthy.

Consider using non-political, not-

for- profit fact checking sites.

Ask a librarian or law librarian for

help.

**Check Facts and Sources**

Is it fact, opinion, entertainment,

education, or something else?

Is the data real and did you check

the facts and sources?

Is the headline trying too hard to

get your attention?

Is the information current?

Search the author’s background to

see if they are qualified.

**Ask:** *Are they trying to sell*

*something or influence you?*

**Ask:** *Are they subject matter*

*experts?*

**Analyze and Research**

To learn more and to read the final report from the Arizona Supreme Court’s Task Force on Countering Disinformation, visit the Arizona Judicial Branch website at: <https://www.azcourts.gov/cscommittees/Task-Force-on-Countering-Disinformation> or scan the QR Code

