

EDITORIAL POLICY ON SOURCING, INFORMATION HANDLING, AND PRIVACY



FACTOR TV 2026

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PURPOSE

Factor TV is committed to accurate, independent, and responsible journalism in the public interest. This policy establishes the editorial standards governing how information is sourced, verified, handled, protected, and published across all Factor TV platforms.

This policy forms part of Factor TV's wider editorial governance framework and should be applied together with the Code of Ethics, Editorial Independence Policy, Corrections Policy, and other internal editorial procedures.

Its purpose is to strengthen public trust, protect journalistic integrity, and ensure that reporting meets professional standards consistent with international best practices while reflecting the realities of Armenia's media environment.

This policy applies to all Factor TV editorial staff, editors, reporters, producers, freelancers, and any other persons involved in the preparation, editing, publication, or distribution of editorial content.

1. EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES

Factor TV shall operate according to the principles of:

- accuracy and verification,
- editorial independence,
- fairness and impartiality,
- transparency and accountability,
- respect for privacy and human dignity,
- responsible public-interest journalism.

The speed of publication must never override the obligation to verify information.

News reporting must be clearly distinguished from commentary, opinion, advertising, or sponsored content. Editorial decisions shall remain independent from political, commercial, financial, or personal influence.

2. SOURCING AND VERIFICATION STANDARDS

Reliable sourcing is the foundation of credible journalism. Information should not be published unless it has undergone reasonable verification appropriate to the nature and sensitivity of the story.

Verification may include:

- official documents,
- direct witness testimony,
- on-record interviews,
- expert confirmation,

- visual or digital evidence,
- multiple independent sources.

Factor TV journalists are expected to approach all information critically, particularly during:

- elections;
- armed conflict;
- national security incidents;
- protests;
- corruption investigations;
- viral social media campaigns.

Special caution is required when reporting on military developments, cross-border incidents, or politically sensitive information to avoid contributing to misinformation, panic, or manipulation.

Anonymous social media posts, screenshots, edited videos, AI-generated content, or unverified online claims must not be treated as reliable evidence without independent verification.

Where information cannot be fully verified despite reasonable editorial efforts, this limitation shall be communicated transparently to the audience.

3. ANONYMOUS SOURCES

Anonymous or confidential sources may only be used when:

- the information is of clear public interest;
- disclosure could expose the source to professional, legal, or physical risk;
- reasonable efforts have been made to verify the information through additional independent sources or documentary evidence.

Anonymous sources must never be used to disseminate personal attacks, political propaganda, unverified allegations, or deliberately misleading information.

Editors retain final responsibility for determining whether the use of confidential sources satisfies Factor TV's publication standards.

Factor TV protects the identity of confidential sources unless disclosure is required by law or ordered by a competent court.

4. INFORMATION HANDLING AND SECURITY

Factor TV has a responsibility to protect confidential information, source identities, and unpublished editorial materials.

Sensitive materials may include:

- whistleblower communications,
- investigative files,
- leaked documents,
- personal data,
- unpublished interviews,
- war-related or security-sensitive information.

Journalists and editors shall take reasonable measures to prevent unauthorized access, accidental disclosure, or misuse of sensitive information.

Particular care should be exercised where publication could endanger:

- civilians;
- military personnel;
- minors;
- vulnerable witnesses;
- victims of violence;
- displaced persons.

The public interest in publication shall always be balanced against reasonably foreseeable harm.

5. PRIVACY AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS

Factor TV recognizes privacy and human dignity as fundamental editorial responsibilities.

Journalists should avoid unnecessary intrusion into private lives unless there is a clear and overriding public interest.

Special care shall apply when reporting on:

- medical situations;
- children;
- trauma;
- victims of violence;
- prisoners of war;
- vulnerable individuals.
- grief and mourning;

Images depicting suffering, injury, or death should be published only where editorially justified and necessary for public understanding, while avoiding sensationalism or unnecessary distress.

6. MANIPULATED AND AI-GENERATED CONTENT

Factor TV shall take reasonable steps to verify the authenticity of digital material before publication.

This includes identifying:

- manipulated images;
- altered videos;
- synthetic audio;
- AI-generated content;
- fabricated social media material.

AI-generated or materially manipulated content must never be presented as authentic evidence without clear disclosure.

Artificial intelligence may assist editorial work but shall not replace editorial judgment, verification, or accountability.

7. FAIRNESS AND RIGHT OF REPLY

Individuals, institutions, or organizations facing serious criticism or allegations should normally be given a reasonable opportunity to respond before publication.

Factor TV shall make reasonable professional efforts to obtain and include the relevant party's position before publication. Where this is not possible, the publication should clearly state that the party was approached or that comment was not available at the time of publication.

If a response is received after publication, it should be published or appropriately reflected without undue delay.

Factor TV respects the right of reply provided that the response does not contain knowingly false information, disinformation, hate speech, unlawful content, or defamatory material.

Journalists should avoid:

- misleading editing;
- distortion of quotations;
- inflammatory framing;
- sensationalism;
- selective presentation of facts.

Fairness does not require false balance but requires honesty, context, and evidence-based reporting.