

THE INFORMATION CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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THE INFORMATION CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

FIRST SECTION

BASICS OF INFORMATION LEGISLATION

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL RULES

Article 1. Purpose and objectives of this Code

This Code regulates the complex of relations arising in the process of implementing the Constitutional rights to information in the Republic of Uzbekistan, including the information security of the individual, society, and the state, the free and unobstructed search, receipt, research, transmission of information, as well as the use of information resources and information systems, and informatization.

Article 2. Basic Concepts

In this Code, the following basic concepts are used:

Account: A personal page of an online platform user created after registration on the online platform.

Information: Data about persons, objects, facts, events, phenomena, and processes, regardless of the sources and form of presentation.

Information owner: A legal or physical person who owns, uses, and disposes of information obtained with their funds or by other legal means.

Information protection: Measures to prevent threats to information security and mitigate their consequences.

Information sector: The field of activity related to the creation, processing, and use of information by subjects.

Information security: The state of protected interests of the individual, society, and the state in the field of information.

Information resource: Information in electronic form within an information system, including databases, information banks, and audio, video, graphic, and textual information, which is publicly available or published in information systems.

Information system: Organized totality of information resources, information technologies, and communication means that provide the ability to collect, store, search, process, and use information.

Information product: Mass media products intended for circulation in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, printed products, audiovisual products on any type of carrier, information distributed using software on telecommunication networks, including

online platforms, computer games, and information distributed through entertainment events.

Age classification of information products: Classification of information products by age categories of children, considering the subject, genre, content, artistic decoration of the information product, the characteristics of how information is perceived by children of a certain age group, and the potential of information content to harm children's health.

Browser: A practical software application for viewing pages, content of web documents, computer files, and their directories.

Blogger: A physical person who posts publicly accessible social-political, socio-economic, and other types of information on their website or web page, including placing information for discussion by users on the global Internet information network.

Expert: A person accredited by the Agency for Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to conduct an expert examination and provide expert opinions, or to implement age classification of information products.

Chief editor: A person who manages the editorial office of a mass media (hereinafter referred to as the editorial office) and is authorized to issue it, responsible according to the law for the activities of the mass media, and also represents the editorial office in court.

Periodical print publication: A print newspaper, magazine, almanac, information bulletin, or other information publication with a permanent name and a serial number that is published.

Cyberbullying: Regular intimidation, humiliation, or persecution of another person using the global Internet information network or communication means.

Confidential information: Documented information whose use is restricted according to legislation.

Secret information: Hidden information not disclosed to others within the necessary scope for the interests of the individual, society, and the state.

Moderation: A method of ensuring the legality of content by identifying and deleting messages and comments of users on the global Internet information network that are contrary to the law, by the owner of the website and/or website page or other information resource, including a blogger.

Mass information: Documented information, print, audio, audiovisual, and other news and materials intended for an unlimited audience.

Mass media: A form of periodic distribution of mass information with a permanent name, published in print form (newspapers, magazines, newsletters, bulletins, etc.)

and/or electronically (TV and radio channels, websites on the global Internet information network, news agencies), or broadcasted (hereinafter referred to as issued) and registered in a prescribed manner, including other forms of periodic distribution of mass information.

Products of mass media: Individual issues or parts of periodic print publications or separate broadcasts of TV, radio, video, multimedia programs, and other electronic forms of periodic distribution of mass information.

Online advertising: Advertising and/or targeted advertising in the form of advertising and/or sponsored content and/or other information intended for an unlimited number of people, produced and/or placed and/or distributed and/or stored by users and/or owners of online platforms on online platforms.

Online platform: An Internet resource and/or software operating on the global Internet information network and/or instant messaging service designed for receiving, producing, placing, distributing, and storing content. This excludes resources and/or software operating on the global Internet information network used by an online platform user through their created account, the online platform of the public community, financial services, and electronic commerce.

Owner of the online platform: A physical and/or legal person who has the ownership rights to the online platform.

Target audience: A group of users who may be interested in an offer and can purchase a product on an online platform.

Targeted online advertising: Online advertising aimed at expanding the circle of users and/or increasing its priority, including using the recommendation system of the online platform, based on profiling for identified target groups.

TV and radio channels: Mass media intended for public distribution under a certain name, consisting of TV and radio programs, broadcasts, phonograms, performances, and audiovisual products, prepared and/or formed according to the program schedule.

Instant messaging service: Software used and/or intended for the exchange of instant messages or their transmission in real-time to a certain person(s) by users of the online platform using telecommunication networks, excluding software intended for financial services and electronic commerce.

Documented information: Information with identifying details.

Journalist: A person who collects, analyzes, edits, prepares, and distributes news and materials for mass media based on labor or other contractual relations.

Censorship: The restriction, prohibition, or prior agreement with a mass media entity by state bodies, organizations regardless of their property and organizational-legal

form, or officials, aimed at changing the text of news and materials or parts thereof, including forcing the mass media to comply with their demands (excluding materials and interviews authored by themselves).

Article 3. Fundamental Principles of Information Legislation

The information legislation is based on the following fundamental principles:

Ensuring the freedom to access and use information for all subjects of information relations and information infrastructure.

Ensuring the reliability, completeness, and timeliness of information utilization.

Balancing the interests of the individual, society, and the state in information activities.

Limiting the use of information only on a legal basis.

Minimizing the negative impact and consequences of information technologies activities.

Ensuring the possibility of obtaining state services in electronic form.

Article 4. Legislation about Information

The legislation about information consists of this Code and other legislative documents.

If an international treaty of the Republic of Uzbekistan stipulates rules different from those provided in the legislation about information of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the rules of the international treaty shall apply.

CHAPTER 2. FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND GUARANTEES

Article 5. Freedom to Access Information

Everyone has the right to freely search for, receive, examine, distribute, use, and store any information without hindrance.

The right to search for, receive, and distribute information can be limited only in accordance with the law and only to the extent necessary to protect the constitutional order, public health, social morality, the rights and freedoms of others, ensure public safety and public order, and prevent the disclosure of state secrets or other secrets protected by law.

Article 6. Fundamental Principles of Freedom to Access Information

The fundamental principles of freedom to access information are transparency, openness, free use of information, and integrity.

Article 7. Transparency and Disclosure of Information

Information must be open and transparent, except for secret and confidential information.

Article 8. Free Use of Information

Information must be accessible for free use by everyone.

The owner or proprietor of the information can be sued for refusing to provide information or providing incorrect information.

Article 9. Accuracy of Information

Information must be accurate and truthful.

Distortion and falsification of information are prohibited.

Article 10. Guarantees of Freedom to Access Information

Everyone is protected in their right to search for, receive, examine, distribute, use, and store information. The right to access information shall not be restricted based on gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, personal and social status.

State authorities and other public bodies, self-governing bodies of citizens, public associations, and other non-governmental non-profit organizations, as well as officials, are obliged to provide everyone with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with information relevant to their rights, freedoms, and lawful interests, to create suitable information resources, and to provide public information regarding the rights, freedoms, and obligations of citizens, their safety, and other matters of public interest.

Article 11. Procedure for Accessing Information

Physical and legal persons have the right to apply for information either directly or through their representatives in oral or written form, including through electronic form via information systems.

Information relevant to the applicant's rights and lawful interests shall be provided free of charge.

A fee may be charged for the provision of other information based on mutual agreement.

Article 12. Provision of Access to Information

State bodies, self-governing bodies of citizens, public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and officials are obliged to provide everyone with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with legislation documents relevant to their rights and lawful interests, as well as with documents, decisions, and other materials.

The opportunity to access information is ensured by publishing and distributing legislative documents and relevant materials.

Article 13. Refusal to Provide Information

Information may be refused if it is secret or confidential, or if its disclosure could harm the rights and lawful interests of individuals, society, and the state.

Persons who have been unlawfully refused information or have received false information in response to their request have the right to seek compensation for material damage or moral harm in accordance with the law.

SECOND SECTION

INFORMATION SYSTEM AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

CHAPTER 3. BASIC RULES

Article 14. Information System

The information system in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is aimed at ensuring the circulation of information through information technologies and information resources, and creating a national information system considering modern global principles.

Article 15. National Information System

The national information system is a complex of systems for producing information technology and information resources, distributing information, collecting and storing data, providing information services, training qualified personnel in the field of information, and ensuring information security, aimed at ensuring the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens within the country.

The information resources in the national information system are divided into information resources freely accessible to everyone and those with restricted access. Information resources intended for an unlimited circle of users are those that everyone can freely access.

Information resources that contain state secrets, secret and confidential information, or information whose free use is restricted by the owners of the information resources fall under the category of information resources with restricted access.

The owners and proprietors of information resources must ensure free and equal access for legal and physical persons to information resources that are freely accessible to everyone.

The inclusion of information resources into categories of free access is determined by the owner of the information resources according to the procedure established by legislation.

Article 16. Information Resources Containing Personal Data of Individuals

The procedure for forming and using information resources that include information about personal data of individuals is determined by legislation.

Information about personal data of individuals falls under the category of personal information.

Article 17. State Information Resources

State information resources consist of documented information created with state budget funds, including state secrets and confidential information, or provided in a prescribed manner.

Legal and physical persons must provide documented information to the relevant state bodies for the formation of state information resources as prescribed by law.

The procedure for mandatory provision of documented information by legal and physical persons, the list of state bodies responsible for forming and using state information resources, is determined by the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The procedure for providing information that includes state secrets and confidential information is determined by legislation.

Article 18. Legal Regime of Information Resources

The legal regime of information resources and information systems is determined by norms defining:

The procedure for documenting information, forming information resources, and creating information systems;

Property rights to information resources and information systems;

The category of information resources based on the degree of free access;

The procedure for protecting information resources and information systems;

The procedure for inter-network connections of information systems.

Article 19. Property Rights to Information Resources and Information Systems

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, information resources and information systems can be public or private property.

The basis for the emergence of property rights to information resources and information systems includes:

Creation of information resources and information systems with state budget funds, funds of legal and physical persons, or other sources not prohibited by legislation;

Purchase and sale agreements or other contracts that include conditions for the transfer of property rights to another person;

Inheritance.

Other bases for the emergence of property rights to information resources and information systems may also be provided by law.

Article 20. Use of Information Resources

Users of information resources have equal rights to freely use them, except for information resources with restricted access.

A fee may be charged for using information resources.

The owners and proprietors of information resources must provide users with free information about the lists of information and services related to information provision, as well as the conditions and procedures for free use of information resources.

Legal and physical persons may use the information obtained from information resources to create derivative information, provided they lawfully cite the source of the information.

The owner or proprietor of information resources determines the procedure for accessing information, in compliance with the requirements established by legislation.

Article 21. Free Use of Information Resources Containing Personal Information by Legal and Physical Persons

Legal and physical persons have the right to freely use information resources containing their personal information, and to make clarifications to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this information.

The free use of information resources containing personal information by legal and physical persons may be restricted by law.

Legal and physical persons may file a lawsuit against the owner or proprietor of information resources if they are denied free access to information resources containing their personal information.

Article 22. Protection of Information Resources and Information Systems

The protection of information resources and information systems is carried out for the following purposes:

Ensuring the information security of individuals, society, and the state;

Preventing the spread, theft, loss, distortion, blocking, falsification, and unauthorized use of information resources;

Preventing unauthorized actions related to the destruction, blocking, copying, distortion of information, and other forms of interference in information resources and information systems;

Preserving state secrets, confidential and secret information in information resources.

Article 23. Organization of Protection for Information Resources and Information Systems

Information resources and information systems must be protected if their unauthorized use could result in harm to the owners, proprietors, or other legal and physical persons.

State bodies, legal and physical persons must ensure the protection of information resources and information systems containing state secrets and confidential information.

The procedure for organizing the protection of information resources and information systems is independently determined by their owners and proprietors.

The procedure for organizing the protection of information resources and information systems containing state secrets and confidential information is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

CHAPTER 4. STATE POLICY AND STATE MANAGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION

Article 24. The Role of State Authorities and Administrative Bodies in the Field of Information

The direct participation of state power and management bodies in the field of information is possible only within the powers and procedures established by the Constitution, this Code, and laws adopted in accordance with it.

Article 25. Main Directions of Participation of State Authorities and Administrative Bodies in the Field of Information

The main directions of participation of state power and management bodies in the field of information include:

Creating conditions for the effective implementation and protection of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms in the field of information;

Establishing political, economic, legal, and other foundations in the information society;

Comprehensive support and development of the national information infrastructure;

Developing the information resources system and preserving information products, including cultural and spiritual values;

Providing economic and legal conditions to support and protect national producers of information products and information technologies;

State support for the development of socially significant areas in the information field, including mass media, modern information technologies and software, and assisting in the widespread implementation and use of information technologies in state administration, economy, defense, healthcare, education, ecology, and other sectors;

Creating a fair competition environment, preventing monopolization in the market of socially important information services and activities;

Creating conditions for timely, high-quality, and effective provision of information to physical and legal persons, state power and management bodies;

Developing a continuous education system for the population and specialists in the field of information;

Developing the system of electronic document circulation;

Implementing informatization considering world standards;

Ensuring the equal integration of the country into the global information space and compliance with international treaties and agreements in the field of information.

Article 26. Fundamental Principles of Transparency in the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

The activities of state bodies and organizations are transparent. The transparency of the activities of state bodies and organizations is based on the following principles:

The accessibility of information provided by state bodies and organizations to everyone, its timeliness, and reliability;

The openness and transparency of the activities of state bodies and organizations;

The freedom to search for, obtain, and distribute information about the activities of state bodies and organizations;

Respect for the rights and lawful interests of citizens in protecting their honor and dignity from assaults, and their personal life from intrusions, and respect for the rights of citizens and legal persons to protect their business reputation when providing information about the activities of state bodies and organizations.

Article 27. Information About the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

The information about the activities of state bodies and organizations includes:

Legal documents defining the legal status of state bodies and organizations, their structural and territorial divisions, self-governing bodies, and public associations;

Normative legal documents adopted by state bodies and organizations, as well as information on their implementation;

Information about amendments and additions to normative legal documents, and about their annulment;

Information on draft normative legal documents being developed by state bodies and organizations;

Information on the implementation of state programs and other programs by state bodies and organizations;

Information on monitoring the situation of human rights and freedoms by state bodies and organizations;

Information on the use of budget funds, tenders conducted, deliveries of purchased goods, and information about the targeted funds of state bodies and organizations, as well as other budget fund distributors, which is to be posted on their official websites;

Information about public events (meetings, councils, conferences, press conferences, briefings, seminars, round tables, etc.) conducted by state bodies and organizations;

Information about the international cooperation of state bodies and organizations with other state bodies, physical and legal persons, as well as foreign and international organizations;

Information about international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan in which state bodies and organizations participate, as well as about official visits and business trips of their leaders and official delegations;

Key indicators and statistical information describing the state and development rate of the sector (region) relevant to the activities of state bodies and organizations, including socio-economic and other development indicators;

Information about open tenders (auctions) and public sales conducted by state bodies and organizations;

Information about vacant positions in state bodies and organizations, their structural and territorial divisions, conditions for employment, and requirements for candidates for these positions;

Information about coordinating and advisory bodies established by state bodies and organizations;

Plans for open plenary meetings of state bodies and organizations, including draft agendas, date, location, and time of the meetings, and the procedure for attendance.

The information about the activities of state bodies and organizations can also include other information according to the legislation.

Representative bodies of state power (chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, people's deputies of regional, district, and city councils), their committees (permanent commissions), and commissions ensure the timely publication (posting) of information about their activities for the sake of transparency, including planned meetings and events, issues to be considered, and decisions taken.

Article 28. Information Users and Their Rights on the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

Physical or legal persons seeking information about the activities of state bodies and organizations are considered information users. Information users have the following rights:

To obtain and distribute reliable information about the activities of state bodies and organizations;

To apply directly or through their representatives in oral, written, or electronic form via information systems for information about the activities of state bodies and organizations, as provided in Article 92 of this Code;

To appeal against the refusal to provide information about the activities of state bodies and organizations. Information users may have other rights in accordance with legal documents.

Article 29. Sources of Information About the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

The sources of information on the activities of state bodies and organizations include:

Official publications of state bodies and organizations;

Interviews, statements, and announcements of the leaders of state bodies and organizations and their information services, as well as officials authorized by these bodies;

Information and news from the information services of state bodies and organizations;

Official websites of state bodies and organizations on the Internet, materials on their website and (or) messenger pages;

Materials of mass media;

The information resource within the framework of the Government Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan, intended for posting open data of state bodies and organizations, facilitating the interaction between the Portal operator, open data providers, and users in publishing and using open data.

Other sources may also be considered as sources of information on the activities of state bodies and organizations according to legal documents.

Article 30. Restricted Use of Information on the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

The use of information about the activities of state bodies and organizations is restricted if such information is classified as state secrets or other secrets protected by law in a prescribed manner.

The list of information related to restricted use and the procedure for classifying information as such are determined by legislation.

It is prohibited to provide information that constitutes state secrets or other secrets protected by law to persons not authorized to handle such information.

CHAPTER 5. PROCEDURES FOR ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF STATE BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Article 31. Methods of Ensuring Transparency in the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

The methods of ensuring transparency in the activities of state bodies and organizations include:

Regular press conferences, briefings, and other events, as well as organizing interviews by the leaders of state bodies and organizations and their authorized experts, to provide unbiased and timely information on their activities of significant public interest;

Publishing (posting) information about the activities of state bodies and organizations;

Posting and updating information about the activities of state bodies and organizations on their official websites and other websites on the Internet;

Placing and updating information about the activities of state bodies and organizations in publicly accessible rooms and places;

Regularly posting information that can be reused by economic sector subjects, entrepreneurs, or the public on the Open Data Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Providing information through information-library and archive funds about the activities of state bodies and organizations;

Creating conditions for information users to attend open board meetings of state bodies and organizations;

Providing information in oral and written forms, including electronically, about the activities of state bodies and organizations, based on the request of information users;

Other methods in accordance with legal documents can also be used to ensure transparency in the activities of state bodies and organizations.

Article 32. Information Services of State Bodies and Organizations

State bodies and organizations have structural units or designated individuals responsible for preparing and disseminating information about their activities and ensuring collaboration with mass media, journalists, bloggers, and the public, known as information services.

The presence of information services in all state bodies and organizations is mandatory.

The heads of information services of state bodies and organizations, who also serve as press secretaries of the heads of these bodies and organizations, hold the status of advisors on information policy issues. They are equated to deputies of the heads of state bodies and organizations in terms of salary, medical, and transport services.

The main duties of information services include:

Regularly providing the public with prompt, comprehensive, and timely information about the activities of state bodies and organizations through mass media, official websites, and other information resources, and organizing information events;

Forming and promoting a positive image of state bodies and organizations, conducting social surveys, and studying public opinion;

Effectively collaborating with mass media, forming a group of experts for rapid dissemination of information to journalists and bloggers regularly interacting with information services;

Regularly organizing public appearances of the leaders of state bodies and organizations in mass media;

Monitoring and analyzing the information space, promptly responding to critical and widely discussed information attacks, organizing the dissemination of relevant information about state bodies and organizations in mass media and the Internet;

Preparing news, information, commentaries, and other analytical materials for dissemination through local and foreign mass media in collaboration with state bodies and organizations;

Studying public opinion and the stance of national and foreign mass media;

Ensuring quality coverage of the activities of state bodies and organizations in foreign mass media, providing diplomatic missions of Uzbekistan abroad and foreign diplomatic missions in Uzbekistan with information materials through competent ministries and agencies;

Posting drafts and approved texts of normative legal documents within the competence of state bodies and organizations on their official websites in the established order;

Forming and updating a database of text, photo, audio, and video materials related to the activities of state bodies and organizations.

Information services may also use other methods of disseminating information about the activities of state bodies and organizations that are not contrary to legal documents.

Article 33. Publication of Information about the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

The publication of information about the activities of state bodies and organizations is conducted through their official publications, official websites, official websites on the Internet, messengers, as well as through mass media.

Article 34. Official Websites of State Bodies and Organizations

The official websites of state bodies and organizations are resources on the World Wide Web that are identified as the official websites of these bodies or their superior bodies and contain information about their activities. These websites are accessible to all.

In addition to the information stipulated in Article 92 of this Code, the official websites of state bodies and organizations may include:

Information about the leaders of state bodies and organizations (biographies, reception days, etc.);

Working hours, phone numbers, postal addresses, maps showing locations, email addresses, information service and hotline numbers, public transport routes, stop names, and route numbers of state bodies and organizations and their structural and territorial divisions;

Texts of speeches and statements by the leaders and authorized officials of state bodies and organizations;

Procedures for accrediting mass media representatives at state bodies and organizations;

Lists of state services provided by state bodies and organizations;

Analytical reports and informational commentaries on the activities of state bodies and organizations;

Procedures for receiving applications, suggestions, complaints;

Procedures for accepting requests for information about the activities of state bodies and organizations;

General results of reviewing applications from individuals and legal entities, as well as requests for information about the activities of state bodies and organizations;

Materials on the essence and significance of ongoing preventive measures, information on the state of legality, the level of crime, and measures to counteract crimes;

Procedures for receiving and electronically responding to citizens' inquiries, including in real-time;

An effective feedback mechanism to provide electronic responses to citizens' inquiries.

The official websites of state bodies and organizations may also contain other information about their activities as permitted by law.

The information on these websites should be presented in the state language and be accessible to persons with visual disabilities.

The content in the state language should be identical to versions in other languages.

The information on these websites must be dated, updated at least once a day, and carry the same legal weight as information published in mass media.

It should be timely, reliable, easily comprehensible, and equivalent in force to information published in mass media.

SECTION THREE: CONDUCTING ACTIVITIES IN THE INFORMATION SPHERE AND ITS DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

CHAPTER 6: FEATURES OF DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION ON ONLINE PLATFORMS

Article 35. Language of Online Platforms

The owner of an online platform facilitates user interface access and acquaintance with the user agreement of the online platform, including a summary of its main terms.

The owner ensures moderation of the content on the online platform while operating in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan to prevent violations of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 36. Purpose of the Online Platform

The main purpose of online platforms is to provide users with a convenient interface and tools for developing, hosting, and managing websites, web pages, applications, and other services, thereby presenting various services or sources on the World Wide Web.

Article 37. Concept of a Website and Its Legal Regime

A website is a collection of electronic documents (files) unified under a single address (domain name and/or IP address) and is considered a type of online platform. A website may consist of the following components:

Site management systems, which are computer programs, and tools for adding, editing, and deleting information;

Web design, including the logical structure of websites, drafts of main and standard pages, and user interface (menu placement, site navigation, user comments, etc.);

Website text presented in special languages like HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), responsible for the logical structure of the page, its appearance, etc.;

Information content of the website, including texts, graphics, music, and other objects, including those available for download.

The owner of a website and/or web page must comply with the requirements stated in Article 128 of this Code when placing publicly accessible information on their website and/or web page.

Owners of websites and/or web pages must adhere to legal requirements regarding the processing of personal data, data confidentiality, and the dissemination and/or use of information to protect user rights.

Article 38. Characteristics of Website Regulation

Websites must have a domain (unique name for the website) and a hosting provider (storage resource for files).

Website owners must adhere to relevant technical standards in information technology for website development.

Compliance with existing standards implies:

Semantic coding of the website program, meaning that the purpose of all elements used on the page should not contradict their intended specialization.

The website's program code must be correct and comply with the used specializations.

The compliance of a website with existing standards ensures the following:

Accessibility and visibility of websites through various browsers and devices.

Compatibility with new versions of browsers developed for the website in the future, resolving potential issues by adhering to unified standards.

Quick loading and display through semantic marking, which reduces the overall file size. This impacts the speed of data transmission and download, and decreases the processing time for files by browsers, various devices, and other software, including search engines.

Website and/or web page owners are required to post rules governing users' rights and obligations (user agreement) on their website and/or web page. Furthermore, owners must not allow misuse of users' personal data for material and non-material purposes.

Article 39. Website Moderation

Website and page owners are responsible for moderating their sites/pages to ensure information security and protect user rights.

Moderation applies to all content, including advertisements, on the website/page. It can be live or automatic, using artificial intelligence based on technological capabilities. A combination of live and automated moderation may be used for improved efficiency and results.

Website and page owners must establish moderation guidelines and types.

Moderation on websites and web pages can take the following forms:

Automatic Moderation: Based on algorithms using artificial intelligence, this type of moderation quickly analyzes text and graphics to filter out unnecessary or inappropriate content.

Pre-Moderation: Content submitted by users, whether text or graphics, is queued for review before publication. The content is only published after it has been approved by a moderator.

Post-Moderation: Users are allowed to publish their content at any time, but all content is queued for moderation. If any content is deemed inappropriate, it is removed to protect the rights of other users.

Reactive Moderation (Self-Regulation): Users themselves identify and report content that violates the rules of the website or web page.

Distributed Moderation: In this system, users use a rating system to determine if the posted content meets the website or web page requirements. This type of moderation relies entirely on user feedback and assistance for the removal of content.

Article 40. Website's Feedback System (Requisites)

The feedback system of a website serves as a means to receive feedback, comments, and opinions from users in response to the information (content) posted on the website. The feedback system of a website contributes to the improvement of the website's operation.

Through the website's feedback system, the inquiries received from users are reviewed by the owners of the website and (or) its pages. Additionally, the owners of the website or (and) its pages independently determine the procedures and timelines for reviewing users' inquiries, based on their technical capabilities.

The owners of the website and (or) its pages are prohibited from violating users' rights, controlling relationships with users based on the technical capabilities of the website without their consent, and imposing censorship.

The owners of the website and (or) its pages must appeal to law enforcement agencies and courts in cases of disputes arising from the content posted on the website.

Article 41. State Regulation of Website Activities

The activities of websites are regulated by state control in the form of preventive supervision by the competent authority, according to this Code and without visiting the subject (object) of control, to ensure compliance with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 42. Social Networks

Social networks are online platforms created and operating on the World Wide Web, primarily aimed at socializing users.

The following types of social networks exist, differing in functionality based on the desires and interests of users:

Social networks for communication that provide the ability to create free personal profiles.

Social networks that offer users the ability to exchange audio, video, and photos, as well as distribute media content by creating personal pages (channels).

Social networks for opinions and recommendations, intended for exchanging information about products or services based on user-generated reviews and recommendations.

Social networks that cover scientific activity content, based on the need for users to exchange knowledge and skills.

Social networks designed for users to create and publish authorship posts - text-media content.

Social networks that allow the user to collect content in their personal library and create the possibility for others to subscribe to this library.

Interest-based social networks designed for industrial communities, publishers, and manufacturers.

Article 43. Legal Regime of Social Networks

In the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, social networks that have **more than one hundred thousand** average daily users within a month are required to appoint their legal representatives for cooperation with the authorized body in Uzbekistan.

The owners of social networks and/or their legal representatives are obliged to introduce rules for using the network (user agreement) during the registration process. These rules regulate the processing of personal data, ensure the confidentiality of information, and set limitations on the distribution and/or use of information posted on social networks. This is done with the aim of protecting the rights of users located within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 44. Capabilities of Social Networks

Social networks are online platforms with a characteristic of continuous development and are equipped with a variety of functions for gathering, disseminating, and promoting different types of information.

Social networks operate based on artificial intelligence, forming smart pages (feeds) and recommendations with the help of neural networks and user feedback systems. Algorithms analyze publishing parameters, users' interactions with content, and general attitudes towards specific content on the feed (such as commenting, reporting, liking, etc.).

Social networks offer a range of functions that allow users to create personal profiles, search and add new friends, leave messages and comments, create content, follow news feeds, join virtual groups and communities, search for and subscribe to pages based on interests, configure privacy and security settings, and engage in monetization and advertising activities.

Article 45. Characteristics of Regulating of Social Network Activities

Owners and/or legal representatives of social networks are obligated to:

Take measures against the spread of information deemed illegal in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Respond within twenty-four hours to requests from authorized bodies received on the day of request.

Ensure compliance with legally binding court documents.

Accept and review presentations, notifications, and decisions from state bodies, and take actions in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Inform law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan when information threatening the life or safety of society or individuals is detected.

Publish open information about the average monthly number of users in Uzbekistan **over the last six months**.

Implement measures to ensure the information safety of minors.

Provide information about users requested by the authorized body based on court documents, law enforcement, or special state agencies' requests, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Assist in suspending the activities of accounts distributing illegal content and **cyberbullying against children** in Uzbekistan, based on a presentation from the authorized body.

Additionally, owners and/or legal representatives of social networks are required to comply with the requirements specified in Article 128 of this Code.

Article 46. Characteristics of Protection of Personal Data on Social Networks

To protect personal information, owners and/or legal representatives of social networks must:

Introduce users to the privacy policy before completing the registration process.

Ensure the integrity, security, and confidentiality of personal information.

Prevent the dissemination of personal information without the consent of the user or their legal representative.

Promptly notify the user if the confidentiality of their personal information is breached.

Fulfill other requirements stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 47. Moderation on Social Networks

The purpose of moderation on social networks is to ensure the protection of users' rights and to improve the functionality of social networks.

Social network owners introduce users to the terms of use (user agreement) during the registration process on the social network. These owners ensure the moderation of both users and any information posted on the social network to comply with the social network's policies.

Article 48. Feedback System of Social Networks (Requisites)

The feedback system of social networks is a tool for receiving user opinions and comments in response to the activity and content posted on social networks. This system serves to improve the operation of social networks.

Feedback received from users through the social networks' feedback system is reviewed by the owners of the social networks. Moreover, the owners independently determine the procedures and timeframes for reviewing user feedback, based on their technical capabilities.

Social network owners are prohibited from manipulating user relationships or censoring content without the users' consent, using the technical capabilities of the social network. In cases of disputes arising from content posted on social networks, the owners must appeal to law enforcement agencies and courts.

Article 49. State Regulation of Social Networks

The operation of social networks is subject to state control by an authorized body in Uzbekistan to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This control is exercised in the form of preventive oversight, as specified in this Code, without the necessity for the controlling body to visit the subject (object) of control.

Article 50. Instant Messaging Service

The instant messaging service (Messenger) is an online platform that enables real-time message exchange via the global Internet information network.

This service allows users to exchange text messages, voice signals, images, and videos in real time. It also offers functionalities such as creating groups (channels), organizing discussions, distributing various information, conducting audio, video, and conference calls (among multiple users), as well as providing file and multimedia content storage (cloud service) and payment services.

Instant messaging services can be categorized as follows:

For communication: These instant messaging services are encrypted, have closed source code, and have the capability to collect user information (e.g., WhatsApp, Viber, Telegram).

For confidential information: These services facilitate the transmission of any payment-related information, trade secrets, or other confidential information (e.g., Threema, Keybase, Dust).

Secure (trusted): These services meet security requirements, are encrypted, open-source, and collect minimal user information (e.g., Signal, Session, Element).

Article 51. Legal Regime of Instant Messaging Services

In the process of information dissemination, the owner of an instant messaging service is obligated to:

Identify users based on their subscriber number or other personal information.

Review and take necessary actions within **twenty-four hours** upon receiving a relevant request from an authorized body.

Provide instant messaging service users with the option to refuse receiving electronic messages from other users.

Ensure the confidentiality of transmitted electronic messages.

Article 52. Specific Features of Regulating Instant Messaging Services

The owner of an instant messaging service must store the subscriber number or other personal information of users identified during the identification process. The provision of identification information to third parties can only be performed with the consent of the user of the instant messaging service.

The owner of the instant messaging service must comply with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding advertising and adhere to the requirements of this Code when distributing advertising-related information.

Article 53. Moderation of Instant Messaging Services

The owners of instant messaging services establish the rules (policies) for using the platform's features.

Based on the first part of this article, the owners of instant messaging services carry out moderation of content (including advertising) placed by them to ensure compliance with legal regulations and the requirements of the instant messaging service.

The owners of instant messaging services, or individuals who have personal channels or groups on the service, conduct moderation based on their established rules, taking into account the following criteria:

Content substance;

Advertising text;

Content and comments to be posted in channels or groups;

Requirements for bots (if such a service is available);

Criteria for targeting and profiling.

Article 54. Feedback System of Instant Messaging Services (Requisites)

The feedback system of instant messaging services is a tool that enables the reception of opinions, comments, complaints, and inquiries from users.

In order to protect users' rights and improve the operation of the instant messaging service, it is mandatory for the service to have a feedback system.

Through this feedback system, the owners of the instant messaging service review complaints and inquiries related to content posted on the platform. Additionally, the service owners independently determine the time frame and procedure for reviewing users' inquiries based on their technical capabilities.

Article 55. State Regulation of Instant Messaging Services

The operation of instant messaging services is subject to state control by the authorized body of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in accordance with this Code, through a form of preventive supervision, without direct access to the subject (object) of control.

CHAPTER 7. FEATURES OF DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION THROUGH TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING

Article 56. Streaming Services

Streaming services are resources that provide real-time information broadcasting. The main distinguishing feature of streaming services from television in live broadcast mode is that they offer users the opportunity to connect to live broadcasts through a streaming service application installed on televisions, computers, tablets, smartphones, and other devices.

Streaming services can be either paid or free.

Article 57. Specific Features of Streaming Services

Streaming services operate based on the technology of transmitting information (data) over the Internet World Wide Web. This technology allows users to access various multimedia content (music, videos, and games) without having to fully download it onto their device.

The Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) is used for transmitting information (data) over the Internet World Wide Web. The TCP/IP divides the transmitted data into small data packets. Each packet contains the addresses of the sender and recipient, allowing the precise delivery of the information. Once the data packets reach their designated destination, they are reassembled into the original file or stream.

For transmitting data (content, file), either streaming download or progressive download methods are used. In streaming download, the broadcast data starts

transmitting to the user's device as soon as it arrives, allowing the user to view or listen to the content in real-time.

In progressive download, the user can transmit data (content, file) even if it has not been fully downloaded to the device. The user can open and quickly view or listen to the downloaded portion of the data (content, file).

To ensure a smooth (consistent) transmission of data (content, file), streaming services use buffering. Buffering allows pre-downloading a small portion of data (content, file) to prevent delays during transmission. Once the buffer is depleted, the streaming service automatically downloads the next portion of data (content, file).

Article 58. Feedback System of Streaming Services

The feedback system of streaming services is a tool that allows users to submit opinions, comments, complaints, and requests.

Owners of streaming services are obliged to provide a feedback system to ensure the protection of users' rights.

Owners of streaming services independently determine the timeframes and procedures for reviewing user requests, based on their technical capabilities.

Article 59. State Regulation of Streaming Services

The operation of streaming services is subject to state control by the authorized body in Uzbekistan. This control, in accordance with this Code, is conducted as a form of preventive monitoring without the need to visit the subject (object) of control, ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

CHAPTER 8. FEATURES OF DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION THROUGH TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING

Article 60. Types of Television and Radio Organizations in the Information Sector

In the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the dissemination of information through television and radio is carried out by the following organizations:

Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

State Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations;

Private Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations;

Public Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations;

Foreign Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations.

Article 61. State Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations

State broadcasting organizations in their activities adhere to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, its laws, and fulfill the main tasks stipulated in this Code.

The main tasks of state broadcasting organizations include:

Promptly informing television viewers and radio listeners about social, political, and other events in the Republic of Uzbekistan and abroad, as well as about emergency situations and conditions that pose a threat to public life or health; announcing official news; explaining decisions of state authorities and local self-government bodies.

Creating and broadcasting economic, journalistic, cultural-educational, medical, sanitary-hygienic, artistic, educational, entertainment, and sports programs for children and youth, along with other programs.

Assisting in strengthening Uzbekistan's international relations and enhancing its global prestige.

The financing of state broadcasting organizations is carried out only through state orders and in accordance with the procedures and forms established by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, funded by the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Control and strategic management functions within state broadcasting organizations are carried out by public councils.

Article 62. Private Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations

Private broadcasting organizations are established by individuals and/or legal entities in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the law.

Private broadcasting organizations have equal rights and obligations as state, public, and foreign broadcasting organizations.

Private broadcasting organizations have the right, during the license period, to make changes to previously announced creative concepts and broadcasting formats, notifying the Council and other interested organizations in the form of a notice. However, the implemented changes must strictly comply with the requirements of the legislation and regulatory legal acts governing the activities of broadcasting organizations.

Article 63. Public Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations

Public broadcasting organizations are established by individuals and/or legal entities according to the procedure established in this Code, the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Guarantees of the Activity of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations" to meet the need for information.

Public broadcasting organizations only conduct non-profit economic activities and are not entitled to engage in commercial activities.

Public broadcasting organizations have the status of non-governmental non-profit organizations.

The financing of public broadcasting organizations is carried out exclusively from the state budget.

Article 64. Foreign Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations

Foreign broadcasting organizations are entitled to broadcast in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan only after they have been registered as a legal entity in accordance with the existing legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the share of foreign founders in the charter capital of a foreign broadcasting organization or the total amount of foreign founders' shares in the charter capital **must not exceed forty-nine percent**. Consequently, the share of Uzbek founders or founders in the charter capital of a foreign broadcasting organization must constitute **at least fifty-one percent**.

Foreign broadcasting organizations operate in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan as ordinary subjects of broadcasting and entrepreneurial activities and have equal rights and obligations with other state, public, and private broadcasting organizations. At the same time, the presence of foreign investment in the charter capital by Uzbek founders or founders is not allowed.

Article 65. Formation of Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations

Legal entities, citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as foreign citizens and foreign companies acting as founders of broadcasting organizations with a total share not exceeding forty-nine percent, have the right to establish broadcasting organizations.

The founders of mass media must disclose relevant information about the ownership structure on the company's website or at a competent state authority. Additionally, if the founder is a legal entity, the announcement must include information about all intermediate founding companies and the ultimate beneficial owner.

The following persons cannot be founders of broadcasting organizations:

Individuals under eighteen years of age;

Persons subjected to administrative or criminal liability, declared legally incompetent or with limited legal capacity by a court;

Foreign citizens and stateless persons;

Non-governmental non-profit organizations whose activities are prohibited by law;

Political parties, trade unions, religious organizations;

Legal entities whose charter documents do not provide for the possibility of establishing broadcasting organizations;

Organizations registered in offshore zones cannot operate as founders of mass media, telecommunication service providers, or broadcasting organizations.

The broadcasting of mass media, both by the editorial office and through television, can be carried out independently, using owned or leased technical means, as well as through cable, terrestrial, satellite, interactive, IPTV (IP television), OTT (Over the Top), and online television networks, in agreement with network operators and providers.

Article 66. Consolidation of TV and Radio Channels

Broadcasting organizations that carry out transmission (retransmission) can consolidate (bundle) TV and radio channels to facilitate convenience for users and ensure the economic efficiency of their activities.

In bundling, foreign TV and radio channels can be included along with Uzbekistani channels. The distribution of foreign TV and radio channels within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is carried out in accordance with legislative documents, as well as international agreements of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Requirements for freely and conditionally bundling channels are determined based on guarantees set by the licensing authority (Licensor), incentives for socially significant broadcasts, and the principle of establishing a minimum share of national radio channels in program packages distributed in various regions.

Article 67. Financing in the Television and Radio Broadcasting Sector

The financing sources for broadcasting organizations are formed from the following:

Contributions from founders.

State budget funds.

Subscription fees.

Revenues from the sale and/or resale of voice, visual, and audiovisual materials, including revenues obtained through property rights for their productions and the rights to sell and/or distribute.

Funds received for the creation of radio and television products or other audiovisual products.

Revenues from the production and/or distribution of advertising and information materials.

Sponsorship and charitable contributions from national and/or foreign organizations and individuals.

Funds from state, private, international, and other grants, prizes, and awards.

Other sources of income not prohibited by the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The use of foreign investments as a source of financing for broadcasting organizations is permitted in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Article 68. State Regulation in the Television and Radio Broadcasting Sector

State regulation in the field of television and radio broadcasting is carried out by authorized bodies and includes the following:

Developing, coordinating, and implementing a unified state policy in the field of broadcasting.

Adopting regulatory legal documents regulating relations in the field of broadcasting, as well as defining mechanisms and tools for their implementation.

Improving the regulatory and legal base and law enforcement practices to ensure compliance with new methods of broadcasting organization based on the development of technologies for distributing television programs, including from the perspective of preserving and protecting national and cultural characteristics and value orientations.

Ensuring universally recognized broadcasting of at least one national television channel and one national radio channel, taking into account the interests of various groups, categories, and layers of the population, including broadcasting information, educational, enlightening, cultural-entertainment radio broadcasts.

Measures to guarantee the universally recognized broadcasting of television and radio broadcasts to the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Developing the broadcasting services market, forming and distributing television channels and radio channels in a way that ensures fair competition and prevents monopolization of the electronic media market networks.

Measures to increase the availability of broadcasting services for people with hearing or vision impairments.

Ensuring conditions for effective use of the radio frequency spectrum allocated for broadcasting purposes.

Registration of television and radio broadcasting organizations as mass media.

Licensing and monitoring the activities of legal entities in the field of broadcasting.

Organizing the distribution, appropriation, monitoring, and elimination of radio noise, including industrial noise, in the radio frequency spectrum, radio-electronic means, and high-frequency devices.

Setting and controlling performance indicators and standards for the quality of broadcasting network services.

Certification of technical means of broadcasting.

CHAPTER 9. ACTIVITIES OF MASS MEDIA

Article 69. Principle of Freedom of Mass Media

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the mass media are free.

Everyone, unless otherwise stipulated by law, has the right to speak out in the mass media, and to openly express their opinions and beliefs.

The state guarantees the freedom of mass media activities and the use of information, protection of property rights, and protection from illegal decisions of state bodies and organizations, as well as from the unlawful actions (or inaction) of their officials.

The mass media have the right, in accordance with legal statutes, to seek, receive, research, distribute, use, and store information, and are responsible, in the manner prescribed, for the bias and unreliability of the information disseminated.

Article 70. Prohibition of Abuse of Mass Media Freedom

The use of mass media for actions that lead to administrative and criminal liability is prohibited.

It is forbidden through the mass media to defame or insult the honor and dignity or business reputation of citizens, to interfere with their activities in accordance with legal statutes, as well as to intrude into their personal lives.

Publishing investigation or preliminary investigation materials without written permission from the prosecutor, investigator, or inquirer, speculating on the outcomes of a particular case before a court decision is issued or before the court's decision comes into legal effect, or otherwise influencing the court is prohibited.

Article 71. Prohibition of Monopolization of the Mass Media Market

Monopolization of the mass media market is prohibited.

No legal or natural person is entitled to be a founder (co-founder) or to own, possess, use, dispose of, manage, or control (directly or through affiliated persons) more than twenty-five percent of mass media outlets in the relevant central or local mass media market.

Article 72. Affiliated Persons in Mass Media and Their Disclosure Procedures

Affiliated persons in mass media are individuals and legal entities capable of influencing each other's actions based on legal actions or civil law relationships. The following are considered affiliated persons in mass media:

- 1) A legal entity owning twenty percent or more of a mass media outlet;
- 2) An individual who, together with close relatives, owns twenty percent or more of a mass media outlet;

- 3) A person who exercises the powers of a member of the supervisory board, director, or management board member of a mass media outlet;
- 4) The same person who owns twenty percent or more of the share capital (charter capital) of a mass media outlet, and any legal entity in which this person owns twenty percent or more of the share capital (charter capital);
- 5) The same persons and their close relatives forming at least one-third of the supervisory board of a mass media outlet;
- 6) An individual who is the director or a management board member of the same legal entity where their close relatives serve as a director or a management board member;
- 7) A person, together with close relatives, who constitutes at least one-third of the supervisory board of a legal entity where they are serving as the head or a member of the executive body.

The following are considered the affiliated persons of an individual who is an affiliated person of a mass media outlet:

- 1) A legal entity where the individual or their close relatives own twenty percent or more of the share capital (charter capital);
- 2) A legal entity where the individual or their close relatives are members of the supervisory board;
- 3) A legal entity where the individual or their close relatives are exercising the powers of a member of the executive body.

Article 73. Prohibition of Censorship

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, censorship of mass media outlets is prohibited.

State bodies, organizations of any ownership and organizational-legal form, and officials are prohibited from restricting, banning the dissemination of mass media products, news, and materials or their parts, including pre-arrangement with a mass media outlet to alter the text of news and materials (except for materials authored by the official themselves or their interviews), or forcing a mass media outlet to comply with their demands.

Article 74. State Support for Mass Media

The state may support mass media through the following means:

Providing tax, levy, and tariff exemptions and preferences.

Financial support through state subsidies, state grants, and the state social order system.

Developing and implementing comprehensive measures to strengthen the material and technical base.

Social support for editorial staff.

Organizing the activities of funds to support mass media.

Assisting in the training, retraining, and skill enhancement of editorial staff.

The use of state support for mass media should not restrict the independent professional activities of mass media.

The use of state support to limit the independent professional activities of mass media is not permissible.

Article 75. Procedure for Attracting Local and Foreign Grants by Mass Media

The procedure for attracting local and foreign grants by mass media is carried out according to the order established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 76. Responsibility of Mass Media, Journalists, and Bloggers

Mass media, journalists, and bloggers are legally responsible for the accuracy of the news and materials they prepare and disseminate, according to the established legislative procedure.

Mass media, journalists, and bloggers are not responsible for disseminating materials that are not true in the following cases:

If this information is from official announcements, normative legal acts, or from data of official statistical reports, or through information agencies, or information services of state bodies and organizations, as well as from their official websites;

If this information is present in authorial speeches broadcast live without prior recording, or if they are an exact repetition of speeches (stenographic, audio, video recordings).

CHAPTER 10. PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF THE MASS MEDIA

Article 77 - The Right to Establish a Mass Media Entity

Individuals and legal entities of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to establish mass media entities.

Mass media entities can be established by multiple founders.

The following are not eligible to be founders of a mass media entity:

Individuals under the age of eighteen;

Individuals with an unrehabilitated or unexpunged criminal record for intentional crimes, or who have been declared legally incapacitated;

Organizations whose activities are prohibited by law.

Legal entities with foreign investment shares comprising thirty percent or more of their charter capital are not permitted to establish mass media entities.

Article 78 - Founding Documents

The founding documents of a mass media entity consist of the founding agreement and the charter (regulations) of the editorial office, or only the charter (regulations) of the editorial office.

The founding agreement is concluded between several founders. The terms of the founding agreement, the charter (regulations) of the editorial office, and the contract between the founder and the editorial office are independently determined by the parties.

Article 79 - Procedures for Issuing Certificates of State Registration of Mass Media

The certificate of state registration of a mass media entity is issued in electronic form.

The certificate of state registration of a mass media entity is issued for an indefinite period.

A fee, as prescribed by law, is charged for the state registration of a mass media entity.

Relations in the field of state registration of mass media are regulated based on the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Licensing, Permitting and Notification Procedures".

The procedure for the state registration of mass media is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 80 - Mass Media Entities Not Subject to Registration

The following are not required to be registered:

Mass media entities established by state authorities and administration bodies exclusively for publishing their official reports, materials, and normative-legal documents.

Periodical print publications of enterprises, institutions, organizations (including educational and scientific institutions) intended for their own needs, published in an edition of up to one hundred copies.

Television and radio programs delivered (broadcasted) via cable networks, as well as audio and audiovisual news and materials whose distribution is limited to the premises and/or territory of a single enterprise, institution, organization (including educational and scientific institutions).

Article 81 - Rights and Obligations of the Founder

The founder has the rights to:

Use and dispose of the registered name of the mass media entity.

Participate in the formation of the editorial board's management bodies according to the founding agreement, the editorial charter (regulation), and the legislation.

Participate in the distribution of profits and cover losses.

Publish non-advertising news or materials in their name in the mass media for free, within the maximum size and frequency determined by the editorial charter (regulation) or the contract between the founder and the editorial office.

In the event of the editorial office's termination, claim the remaining property or its value after settling with creditors, as stipulated by law.

The founder is obligated to:

Establish the editorial office.

Approve the editorial charter (regulation). Enter into a contract with the editorial office.

Ensure the publication of the mass media.

Ensure compliance with the legislation on mass media.

Inform the Agency for Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan if the share of foreign investment in the charter fund exceeds thirty percent.

Article 82 - The Editorial Office

The editorial office is a legal entity or a structural unit of a legal entity that implements the publication of the mass media.

The editorial office can be established in any organizational-legal form provided by law.

The editorial office is independent in its professional activity.

The editorial office may consist of the chief editor and the editorial staff.

The editorial office can begin its activities after the mass media has been registered with the state.

Financing of the editorial office is carried out in accordance with the legislation.

The chief editor, appointed and dismissed by the founder, leads the editorial office.

The chief editor manages the editorial office, makes decisions regarding the publication of the mass media, and is responsible for its activities in accordance with the law.

In accordance with the law and founding documents, the chief editor represents the mass media's founder, distributor, state authorities and organizations, as well as other legal and physical persons in relations and in court on behalf of the editorial office.

Article 83 - Suspension or Termination of a Mass Media Outlet

The suspension or termination of the publication of a mass media outlet is carried out based on a court decision initiated by the application of the registering authority.

The founder has the right to suspend or terminate the publication of a mass media outlet in cases and in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the editorial charter (regulation) or in the contract between the founder and the editorial office.

After making the decision to suspend or terminate the publication of a mass media outlet, the founder must inform the registering authority in writing, including electronically via the information system, within three days. This notice must be published in one of the last issues of this mass media outlet before the suspension or termination of its publication.

Suspension of the publication of a mass media outlet by a court decision is carried out if the legislative violation that caused the warning issued by the registering authority to the editorial office is not rectified within one month after a repeated written warning.

Resumption of publication of a mass media outlet is carried out based on a court decision after the founder and/or editorial office provide evidence to the court confirming that the legal violations identified by the registering authority have been rectified.

A court decision to terminate the publication of a mass media outlet can be based on the following grounds:

Consistent gross violations of this Code and other legal documents by the editorial office, with previous written warnings issued to the founder and/or editorial office by the registering authority.

Non-compliance with the court's decision to suspend the publication.

Non-publication of the mass media outlet for more than six months.

Other cases stipulated by law.

Termination of the publication of a mass media outlet results in the termination of the validity of its registration certificate.

If the founder decides to terminate the publication, the editorial office, with the permission of the founder, has the right to establish a mass media outlet with the same

name in the prescribed manner. In this case, re-registration of the mass media outlet is required.

CHAPTER 11. MASS MEDIA PRODUCTS

Article 84 - Distribution of Mass Media Products

Distribution of mass media products can be directly carried out by the editorial office or by legal and physical persons based on a contract in the established order.

If a mass media outlet distributes news of other mass media or official announcements of state bodies and organizations, it must provide a reference to the source from which the news was obtained.

The distribution of printed mass media products is carried out through subscription arrangements and the retail trade network. The circulation of periodical print publications through retail trade, including street sales, can be conducted by the editorial offices' in-house distributors or legal entities with a trade network, as well as individual entrepreneurs, in accordance with the procedures established by law.

The distribution of each individual issue of a mass media product is permitted only after the editor-in-chief has authorized its publication.

During continuous broadcasting, the distribution of mass media products is permitted from the time the editor-in-chief initially authorizes it and until the break in the broadcast.

Article 85 - Information Pertaining to the Publication of a Mass Media Outlet (Requisites)

Each issue of a periodic print publication must contain the following information:

Name of the periodical print publication.

Name of the founder(s) (surname, first name, patronymic). Surname, first name, and patronymic of the editor-in-chief.

Issue number and date of the periodical print publication, the time of permission for printing and signing (as scheduled and actual), and the number of copies.

Address (postal address) of the editorial office and printing house.

Age classification symbol of the information product.

The electronic version of a periodic print publication must include:

Name of the periodical.

Date and number of the certificate of state registration.

Name of the founder(s) (surname, first name, patronymic).

Surname, first name, and patronymic of the editor-in-chief.

Index, address of the editorial office (postal and electronic address).

The broadcast of a TV channel must include the name or abbreviated name of the mass media outlet, as well as the age classification symbol of the information product.

For radio channel broadcasts, it is mandatory to include an audible announcement before the start of each radio program, specifying the name of the program (if available) and information about age restrictions.

Article 86 - Electronic Form of a Periodic Print Publication

Newspapers, journals, bulletins, newsletters, and other periodic print publications recorded on information carriers, as well as those placed on the Internet global information network and intended for use with electronic technical devices, are considered the electronic form of a periodic print publication.

The electronic form of a periodic print publication is one of the methods of distributing a periodic print publication.

If the content of the print and electronic forms of the relevant periodic print publication is identical and complies with legislative requirements, the editorial office of the periodic print publication has the right to distribute the electronic form of the periodic print publication without registering it as an independent mass media outlet.

The removal or complete or partial replacement of advertising messages existing in the print form from the electronic form, as well as the reduction in the volume of materials expressed in electronic form compared to the print form, is not considered a violation of the identical content requirement.

The editorial office of the periodic print publication must inform the Agency of Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in writing about the distribution of the electronic form of the periodic print publication.

Article 87 - Supplements to Periodic Print Publications

Periodic print publications can be issued and distributed with supplements. The supplements must indicate the name of the primary periodic print publication to which they belong.

Supplements of a periodic print publication that have a separate name are considered as independent mass media outlets and are registered on general grounds.

Article 88 - Mass Media in the Form of a Website on the Global Internet Information Network

A mass media outlet in the form of a website on the global Internet information network is an information resource that includes electronic documents and data processed editorially and meant for distribution in unaltered form.

The home page of the mass media outlet's website on the global Internet information network must contain the following information:

The name of the periodic publication;

The date of state registration and the certificate number;

The name of the founder (surname, first name, patronymic);

The name of the chief editor (surname, first name, patronymic).

Article 89 - Control Copies and Mandatory Copies

Control copies of periodical print publications are sent free of charge to the founder and to the Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan.

Article 90 - Use of the State Language and Other Languages in Mass Media

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, mass media carry out their activities in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Language."

Mass media may be published in other official languages at the discretion of the founder, following relevant amendments and additions to the editorial foundation documents.

The use of rude and obscene words and expressions, including insults, is prohibited in mass media.

Mass media must adhere to the scientific rules and norms of the language in which they are published.

Article 91 - Distribution of Foreign Mass Media Products in the Territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The distribution of foreign mass media products within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as in accordance with the international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In cases where foreign mass media violate legislative requirements, the distribution of their products in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan may be terminated.

Article 92 - Collection and Storage of Information Reports and Materials

The right of mass media to collect information reports and materials is guaranteed.

Mass media can freely photograph and videotape public places, buildings, and structures without any restrictions, except for objects where all types of filming are prohibited, as specified by law and marked with relevant indicators.

Editorial offices are obliged to keep copies of the information reports and materials they distribute for at least three months after their distribution.

Article 93 - Publication of Official Reports and Information

Mass media established by state organs and organizations are obliged to publish the official reports and materials of these organs, as well as their normative legal acts.

Emergency reports from state organs about extraordinary situations are published free of charge in all mass media for prompt public delivery. This excludes the dissemination of unofficial information among the population and materials that contradict the legislation.

Any other information, reports, and announcements, except those mentioned in the first and second parts of this article, are published based on a contract with the editorial office.

Article 94 - Information Agency

An information agency is a legal entity registered by the Agency of Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with activities focused on collecting, processing, and distributing information reports and materials.

Information agencies simultaneously hold the status of an editorial office and distributor of a mass media.

Regularly named bulletins, reports, and other publications or programs established by an information agency are registered as mass media in an established manner.

When the reports and materials of an information agency are distributed by another mass media, the name of the information agency must be indicated.

Article 95 - Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles by Mass Media

Mass media can use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for the preparation of photo and video materials. They are allowed to operate these UAVs in areas designated by the relevant state authority, up to a height of 100 meters, and the UAVs must not weigh more than three kilograms. This is permitted provided that the media obtains the necessary authorization in accordance with the established legal procedures.

The use of UAVs, for which the appropriate permission has been granted, for the personal interests of editorial staff members is prohibited.

CHAPTER 12. RELATIONS OF MASS MEDIA WITH STATE BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AND CITIZENS

Article 96. Use of Author's Materials and Letters in Mass Media

The use of author materials, science, literature, art, and audiovisual works in mass media is permitted in accordance with international agreements and legislation.

When preparing received letters for publication, it is allowed to shorten and edit the text without distorting its content.

No one is entitled to forcibly publish material in the mass media that has been lawfully rejected by the editorial office.

Article 97. Consideration of Citizens' Appeals

The editorial office considers appeals from citizens, and this responsibility is assigned to designated individuals.

If additional information, references, or materials are required for a complete, impartial, and timely consideration of an appeal, the editorial office handling the appeal may request additional information from the appellant, as well as from other state authorities, organizations, and officials within their jurisdiction.

If the information requested does not constitute a legally protected secret, does not harm the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of individuals and legal entities, and does not harm public and state interests, the editorial office must provide the requested information within ten days.

Complaints and appeals that require addressing the substance of the matter must be considered within fifteen days from the date of receipt by the editorial office. If additional investigation, document requests, or other measures are necessary, the consideration period may extend up to one month.

In cases where investigations, additional document requests, or other measures are necessary for the consideration of complaints and appeals, the period of consideration can be extended by the head of the editorial office for up to one month as an exception, with notification to the appellant.

Suggestions received by the editorial office must be considered within one month from the date of receipt, except for those requiring additional investigation. In such cases, the person or legal entity who submitted the suggestion should be notified in writing within ten days.

Article 98. Non-Disclosure of Information Sources

The editorial office cannot disclose the name of the source of information, data, facts, or evidence provided on condition of anonymity, nor the name of an author who has used a pseudonym, without their written consent.

The editorial office may participate in court proceedings on behalf of the information source or an author who has used a pseudonym, if requested by them.

Article 99. Non-Disclosure of the Names of Minors

The editorial office does not have the right to disclose information about minors who have been harmed as a result of illegal actions (or inaction). This includes their surname, first name, patronymic, photographs, video images, audio recordings of their voice, and information about their permanent or temporary residence, without the consent of the minor, their parents, or legal guardians.

This does not apply if the information is being distributed for the purpose of protecting the rights and legal interests of a minor who has been harmed due to illegal actions (or inaction).

Article 100. Right to Rebuttal and Response

Legal or natural persons have the right to demand a rebuttal (including corrections, modifications, or additions to the material) from the editorial office for information published in the mass media that is not true and disparages their honor, dignity, or business reputation.

Legal and natural persons whose rights and legal interests have been violated by the published material have the right to have a rebuttal or response published in the same mass media. The rebuttal or response should be published on the same page as the original material under a special section.

In newspapers, the rebuttal or response must be published within one month from the date of receipt, and in other periodicals, it should be published in the next issue.

For television and radio channels and other electronic forms of periodic information dissemination, the editorial office must broadcast the received rebuttal or response within one month from the date of receipt, in the same program or series.

If the publication of the rebuttal or response in terms of volume and timing could harm the operation of the mass media, the text may be reasonably edited in agreement with the information source or author.

For rebuttals to information published in electronic mass media or on the online platforms of mass media, corrections, modifications, or additions may be made to the material with the consent of the author of the rebuttal.

If the mass media refuses to publish the rebuttal or response, or violates the set deadline for publication, the legal or natural person has the right to file a lawsuit.

A citizen whose honor, dignity, or business reputation has been damaged by disseminated information has the right to demand a rebuttal from the editorial office and can also claim compensation for damages and moral harm caused by the dissemination of the information.

Article 101. Mass Media's Inquiry for Information on the Activities of State Bodies and Organizations

Mass media has the right to address state bodies and organizations with a request for information about their activities in oral, written form, or as an electronic document.

The request of the mass media regarding information on the activities of state authorities and governance bodies, as well as organizing interviews with officials, should be considered within a maximum of five days.

If considering the mass media's request falls outside the competence of the state bodies and organizations, the request for the required information should be sent within three working days from the date of registration to the body whose competence includes providing such information. The mass media will be informed about this. Additionally, if the mass media's request is made orally, the requested information should be provided within twenty-four hours.

If the request is denied, a reasoned response will be sent to the mass media.

The requests of bloggers are considered based on the time frames specified in the laws regarding natural and legal persons.

Article 102. Relations of Mass Media with State Bodies and Organizations

The heads of state bodies and organizations are required to provide periodic reports to the mass media in the form of press conferences within thirty days after the end of the year, regarding their activities.

Video footage of periodic reports presented in the form of briefings and press conferences can be freely used by editorial offices.

Organizational, technical, informational-analytical, and other necessary measures for preparing and presenting periodic reports on their activities by state bodies and organizations to the mass media are carried out by their information services.

Article 103. International Cooperation

International cooperation in the field of mass media is carried out based on the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, as well as the international treaties and legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Direct gratuitous assistance from foreign states and organizations, as well as foreign citizens, in supporting and developing mass media is not permitted.

Article 104. Accreditation of Foreign Mass Media Representations and Representatives

Representations and representatives of foreign mass media carry out their activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan after being accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The legal status and conditions for carrying out professional activities of accredited representations and representatives of foreign mass media in the Republic of Uzbekistan are determined by legislation.

CHAPTER 13. JOURNALISM ACTIVITY

Article 105. Rights of a Journalist

In the course of professional activities, a journalist has the right to:

Collect, analyze, edit, prepare, and disseminate information.

Apply to state authorities, self-government bodies of citizens, public associations, enterprises, institutions, and organizations for information.

Use documents, materials, and information, excluding state secrets or other secrets protected by law.

Conduct journalistic investigations.

Publish and distribute prepared reports and materials through mass media under their signature or pseudonym and express their opinions in them.

Attend open sessions of state authorities and public events.

Be received by officials to carry out journalistic activities.

Record information in an established manner, including using necessary technical means.

Be present at open court sessions, military operations areas, natural disaster sites, and public events.

Consult experts to verify information prepared for publication.

Refuse to execute an assignment from a mass media entity if it leads to a violation of the law.

Decline to sign or request the withdrawal of a report or material from publication (or broadcast) if its content is distorted during editing.

Demand confidentiality of the information source or the author's name.

Seek compensation through the court for moral and material damages caused by the distortion of the content of their report by a mass media entity.

Join public associations, including international journalist organizations.

A journalist also exercises other rights granted by legislation.

Article 106. Obligations of a Journalist

In the course of professional activities, a journalist must:

Adhere to the requirements of legislation and the international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Verify the accuracy of the materials being prepared and provide impartial information.

Respect the principle of the presumption of innocence.

Not disclose secrets protected by law.

Observe the professional ethics of journalists.

Respect the rights and freedoms of individuals, and their honor and dignity.

A journalist must not use information related to their professional activities for personal purposes, publish information about a person's private life without the consent of the source or author, or use audio and video recording equipment without permission.

A journalist must also fulfill other obligations stipulated by legislation.

Article 107. The Secrecy in the Field of Journalism

Confidential information, facts, or events voluntarily provided by citizens or other information sources under the condition of anonymity are considered a secret of the field of journalism.

It is prohibited for a journalist to disclose information that is considered a secret of the field of journalism without the consent of the source of this information, as well as to use such information for their own selfish interests or the interests of third parties.

Article 108. Professional Ethical Standards for Journalists

The professional ethical standards for journalists constitute a set of rules that define the required conduct and behavior of journalists when performing their professional duties.

Professional ethical standards for journalists are established by associations of journalists and mass media organizations.

Article 109. Immunity of a Journalist

A journalist enjoys the guarantee of personal immunity while conducting journalistic activities.

Journalist's immunity includes:

Prohibition of persecution of a journalist for publishing critical materials;

Obstructing a journalist's professional activities results in liability as determined by administrative and legislative regulations;

Criminal proceedings against a journalist can only be initiated by the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Prosecutor of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the prosecutors of regions, the city of Tashkent, and prosecutors of equivalent status;

It is prohibited to threaten a journalist with criminal, material, or other types of liability for their lawful activities.

Article 110. Journalistic Investigation

A journalist has the right to gather information and conduct investigations.

A journalist may disseminate the results of their investigations through mass media, and voluntarily present them to state organs, organizations, self-government bodies of citizens, public associations, enterprises, institutions, and officials. Materials and documents obtained during a journalist's investigation cannot be confiscated or examined.

Article 111. Guarantees for Journalist's Professional Activities

The rights, honor, and dignity of a journalist are protected by law.

The state guarantees a journalist's freedom to obtain and disseminate information and ensures protection while carrying out their professional activities.

Interference in a journalist's professional activities, including demanding any information obtained during the performance of their professional duties, is prohibited.

Article 112. Accreditation of a Journalist

A journalist can be accredited by a state body, public association, or organization.

A journalist from the Republic of Uzbekistan can be accredited in a foreign state.

A foreign journalist may be accredited in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

An accredited journalist has the right to:

Receive advance information about upcoming public meetings and other public events;

Enter buildings (rooms) and other facilities of the accrediting body in accordance with the procedures established by the accrediting body;

Be present at public meetings and other public events;

Request and receive necessary documents and materials from responsible persons of the accrediting body, acquaint themselves with the records of public events, and obtain copies of them;

Use the obtained recordings to prepare materials for the media.

An accredited journalist may also have other rights in accordance with the law.

Article 113. Activities of a Journalist of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abroad and a Foreign Journalist in the Republic of Uzbekistan

A journalist from the Republic of Uzbekistan carries out journalistic activities abroad in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the country in which they are accredited.

A foreign journalist accredited in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan has equal rights to gather and disseminate information as a journalist from the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A foreign journalist must comply with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan while conducting journalistic activities in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 114. Revocation of Accreditation of a Foreign Journalist

If a foreign journalist violates this Law, other legislative acts, or the rules of international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan may revoke their accreditation.

A foreign journalist has the right to appeal to the court against the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to revoke their accreditation in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 115. Protection of Journalistic Activity

State bodies and organizations, self-governing bodies of citizens, public associations, enterprises, institutions, and officials are responsible for:

Practicing censorship;

Hindering a journalist's legitimate professional activities by unjustifiably denying or inappropriately revoking accreditation;

Violating a journalist's right to make inquiries and receive necessary information;

Exerting pressure on a journalist, interfering in their journalistic activities;

Illegally seizing a journalist's materials and necessary technical equipment;
Disclosing a source of information or an author's name without their consent.

Violating the rights of a journalist as established by this Law, insulting the honor and dignity of a journalist in connection with their professional activities, threatening a journalist's life, health, or property, committing violence or aggression against them, are actions that entail liability according to the law.

CHAPTER 14. REGULATION OF ONLINE ADVERTISING ON ONLINE PLATFORMS

Article 116. Requirements for Online Advertising

Online advertising must be identifiable and marked (labeled).

The marking (labeling) of online advertising is carried out by the authorized body in the field of advertising.

The placement and distribution of online advertising are carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Advertising" and the requirements of this Code.

Article 117. Targeted Online Advertising

Online platforms provide users with the ability to identify targeted online advertising through text, graphics, or other symbols.

Targeted online advertising must include:

Indicators (text, graphics, or other symbols) showing that the content is online advertising;

Identification of the user account that placed the online advertisement.

Profiling based on users' racial or gender identity, health information, political views, biometric data, or personal data that can identify an individual is prohibited.

Targeted online advertising should not be used by online platforms in relation to minors (users).

Article 118. Sponsored Content

Sponsored content must include text, graphics, or other symbols that identify the sponsor.

Sponsored content must not include: Discrediting physical or legal persons, their products, or services;

Incorporating opinions, audio recordings, or photo and video images of third parties without their consent.

If sponsored content contains recommendations, comments, or supporting documents, there should be a possibility to verify their authenticity.

Article 119. Identification and Storage of Online Advertising

Online platforms must provide technical means to users for identifying online advertising through text, graphics, or other symbols.

Online platforms must have a secure storage facility that includes information about online advertising, including targeted online advertising. This information must be stored for one year from the last placement or distribution of the online advertisement.

The storage or distribution site for online advertising must not contain users' personal data.

Article 120. Moderation of Advertising on Online Platforms

Online platform owners must moderate the advertising they place to ensure compliance with advertising legislation and adherence to commercial activity requirements on online platforms.

During the moderation of placed advertisements, if violations of advertising legislation, consumer rights, or the requirements of Article 128 of this Code are identified, or if user complaints about the advertising content are substantiated through a feedback system, online platform owners are required to take measures to limit or remove such advertisements.

SECTION FOUR

INFORMATION SECURITY

CHAPTER 15. BASIC RULES

Article 121. Protection of Information

Any information must be protected if its unauthorized handling could potentially harm the owner, possessor, user, or other individuals related to the information.

The protection of information involves: Preventing threats to the security of individuals, society, and the state in the information sphere.

Ensuring the confidentiality and secrecy of information, preventing its unauthorized distribution, theft, or loss.

Preventing the misinterpretation and falsification of information.

Article 122. Individual's Information Security

An individual's information security is ensured by creating necessary conditions and guarantees for free access to information, protecting the privacy of their personal life, and safeguarding against unlawful psychological influences through information media.

Personal data related to physical persons are classified as confidential information.

Without the consent of a physical person, it is prohibited to collect, store, process, distribute, and use information related to their private life, as well as to infringe on the secrets of their private life, correspondence, telephone conversations, postal, telegraph, and other communication secrets, except as provided by law.

The use of information about individuals to inflict material harm and moral damage, as well as to hinder the realization of their rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests, is prohibited.

Legal and physical persons who obtain, own, and use information about citizens are legally responsible for violating the rules of using this information.

The mass media may not disclose the source of information or the name of the author using a pseudonym without their consent. The name of the information source or author can only be disclosed by a court order.

Article 123. Society's Information Security

Society's information security is achieved through the following measures:

Ensuring the development of democratic civil society foundations and the freedom of mass information.

Preventing the use of information media to unlawfully influence or manipulate social consciousness.

Protecting and enhancing society's moral, cultural, and historical wealth, as well as the country's scientific and technical potential.

Combating the spread of false information that threatens public order or safety, and cyberbullying.

Establishing a system to counter information attacks aimed at disrupting national self-awareness, distancing society from historical and national traditions and customs, destabilizing the socio-political situation, and undermining interethnic and interfaith harmony.

Article 124. State's Information Security

State information security is ensured through the following means:

Implementing economic, political, organizational, and other types of measures against threats to information security.

Protecting state secrets and safeguarding state information resources from unauthorized use.

Integrating the Republic of Uzbekistan into the global information space and modern telecommunication systems. Protecting against the dissemination of information that openly incites the violent alteration of the constitutional order of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the breach of its territorial integrity and sovereignty, the seizure of power, the displacement of legally elected or appointed government representatives, and other forms of aggression against the state system.

Acting against the dissemination of information that promotes war and violence, cruelty, and the ideas of terrorism and religious extremism aimed at inciting social, national, racial, and religious hatred.

Article 125. Protecting Children from Information Harmful to Their Health

Administrative and organizational measures must be taken to protect children from information harmful to their health. The circulation of such information in public places is prohibited without employing programmatic and technical tools.

The distribution of print materials containing information harmful to children's health is allowed only in sealed packaging in public places.

The distribution of information products containing harmful content in educational institutions, children's medical, sanatorium and resort facilities, physical training and sports institutions, and children's cultural, recreational, and health organizations is prohibited.

In public performances showing content harmful to children's health, an audio announcement must be made before the start of the event, stating the restriction or prohibition of children's participation based on their age category.

Children's participation in public performances showing information products unsuitable for their age category is prohibited. The protection of children from information harmful to their health is regulated by law.

Article 126. Protection of Information Resources and Information Systems

The protection of information resources and information systems is implemented for the following purposes:

Ensuring the information security of individuals, society, and the state.

Preventing the unauthorized dissemination, theft, loss, misinterpretation, obstruction, forgery, and other unauthorized use of information resources.

Preventing unauthorized actions related to the destruction, blocking, copying, distortion of information, and other forms of interference in information resources and information systems.

Protecting state secrets, confidential and classified information in information resources.

Article 127. Organization of Protection of Information Resources and Information Systems

Information resources and information systems must be protected if unauthorized interactions with them could cause harm to the owners of information resources or information systems, or other legal and physical entities.

State organs, legal, and physical entities are required to ensure the protection of information resources and information systems that contain state secrets and confidential information.

The procedure for organizing the protection of information resources and information systems is independently determined by their owners.

The procedure for organizing the protection of information resources and information systems containing state secrets and confidential information is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 128. Ensuring Safety in Mass Media, Including Online Platforms

Owners of mass media, websites, or other information resources, including bloggers, must not allow the publication or broadcast of information on their information network or other information resources that are accessible to the public which may:

Call for violent changes to the constitutional system, territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

Incite mass disorder, violence against citizens, or participation in unauthorized meetings, rallies, street marches, and demonstrations, as well as coordinate such illegal actions;

Spread false information or cyberbullying that threatens public order or safety;

Promote war, violence, terrorism, and the ideas of religious extremism, separatism, and fundamentalism;

Disclose state secrets or other information constituting a secret protected by law;

Disseminate information inciting national, racial, ethnic, or religious hatred, as well as information that damages the dignity and honor of citizens, invades their personal life;

Disseminate disrespectful information towards society, the state, state symbols, including information expressed in an indecent form;

Promote narcotics, psychotropic substances, and precursors;

Deny family values, form a disrespectful attitude towards parents and other family members;

Encourage citizens, including minors, to engage in illegal actions that threaten their own life and health or the life and health of others;

Distribute information aimed at inducing or otherwise involving in illegal activities that could lead to criminal and other liabilities.

It is mandatory to prevent the use of information for purposes that could lead to actions causing legal liabilities.

Owners of mass media, websites, or other online resources, including bloggers, are responsible for moderating and verifying the accuracy of any publicly accessible information before publication on their Internet website, webpage, or other information resources. If any published information or comments are found to be unlawful, they must be promptly removed.

Owners, including bloggers, must conduct monitoring of their mass media, website, or other online resources, including instant messaging systems, to identify information and materials specified in the first part of this Article. If such information is identified, immediate removal is mandatory.

Failure to comply with the obligations set out in the first and second parts of this Article may lead to restrictions on the use of the information resource, as established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Violation of the requirements specified in the first and second parts of this Article will result in liability according to the law.

Individuals whose rights and legitimate interests are violated due to non-compliance with the requirements set out in the first and second parts of this Article by the owners of mass media, websites, webpages, or other information resources, including bloggers, have the right to seek legal protection of their rights, honor, dignity, and business reputation. This includes filing claims for compensation of damages, including moral damages, in accordance with established legal procedures.

CHAPTER 16. FINAL RULES

Article 129. Resolution of Disputes

Disputes arising in the field of information are resolved in accordance with the procedures established by legislation.

Article 130. Liability for Violation of Legal Documents by the Information Code

Individuals found guilty of violating the laws stipulated in the Information Code are held accountable in accordance with established procedures.

Article 131. Violation of Information Circulation Procedures in Information Systems

Violating the order of information circulation in information systems, disrupting the established information exchange algorithms using various technical means, or illegally interfering with the information system leads to accountability in accordance with established procedures.

Article 132. Destruction, Moderation, and Falsification of Information Resources

Breaching the protection system of information resources and disabling, restricting, or destroying the functioning of information resources leads to accountability in accordance with established procedures.

Article 133. Disruption, Attack, and Threat to Information Systems

Disruption, attack, and threatening of information systems refer to unauthorized interference with organized information resources, information technologies, and communication means, causing their malfunction. Such actions lead to accountability in accordance with established procedures.

Article 134. Unauthorized Disclosure of Information Resources

Unauthorized disclosure of information intended for a restricted group of people and other confidential information resources, as well as their illegal distribution or transfer to third parties, leads to accountability according to established procedures.

Article 135. Disclosure of Personal Information

Violating the rules of using personal information, illegally disclosing it to third parties, processing, storing, and distributing it for various purposes leads to accountability according to established procedures.

Irrespective of the ownership form, personal information entered into information systems and information resources must be stored and not disclosed without the consent of the individual.

Article 136. Failure to Ensure Transparency in the Activities of State Authorities

Individuals found guilty of violating legislation regarding the transparency of the activities of state authorities and administrative bodies are held accountable in accordance with established procedures.

Article 137. Disclosure of Information Pertaining to the Author of a Citizen's Appeal in the Process of Considering the Appeal

Violating the legislation during the consideration of citizens' appeals, as well as disclosing information related to the author of the appeal without their consent, leads to accountability as established by law.

Article 138. Violation of the Procedure for Disclosing Details of Websites, Social Networks, and Instant Messaging Services

In accordance with the legislative requirements for online platforms, individuals responsible for violating the procedure for publishing the details (requisites) of websites, social networks, and instant messaging services are held accountable as established by law.

Article 139. Violation of Advertising Duration

Advertisers are held responsible for violating the legislative provisions regarding the timing, placement, and means of advertising distribution as defined in the advertising legislation.

Article 140. Violation of Regulations Related to Advertising Restricted Information

The advertiser is held responsible for violating the legislative provisions related to the content of information provided for preparing advertisements, unless it is proven that this violation occurred due to the fault of the advertisement creator or distributor.

Article 141. Obstruction of Mass Media Activities

Individuals found guilty of violating legislation pertaining to mass media are held accountable in accordance with established procedures.