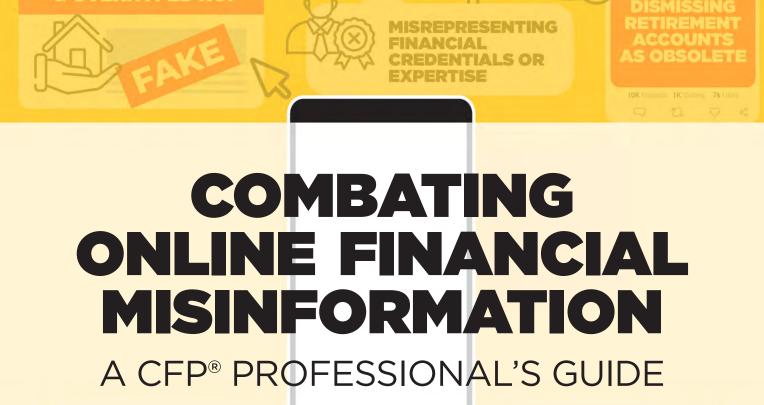
CFP BOARD OF STANDARDS

REAL ESTATE MYTHS & OVERHYPED ROI



Misleading Michae





FINANCIAL MISINFORMATION SPREADS FAST ONLINE AND IT'S OFTEN PERSUASIVE, POLISHED AND DANGEROUSLY WRONG.

As a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professional, you have the expertise to help cut through the noise. This toolkit is designed to support CFP® professionals in recognizing and responding to inaccurate or misleading financial content on social media. Whether you're ready to post or prefer to support others who do, you'll find practical, compliant ways to make a difference.

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USING THE TOOLKIT

CFP BOARD

Check before you post

Get firm approval if required.



Expect pushback

Some posts may attract trolls. Don't be afraid to delete or disengage.



Start small

Not ready to post? "Like" or share content from CFP Board and other trusted sources.



Make it visual

Add a photo. infographic or short videothese get more engagement than plain text.



Long-Form Posts

are tailored for LinkedIn, Facebook or other platforms that do not have character or space limitations.

Together, CFP[®] professionals can play a leading role in promoting trusted financial information online.

Use the marks correctly

Reference the **Trademark Guidelines**

Know the rules

Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

Review the **Social Media Do's and Don'ts** to stay aligned with CFP Board's

when writing your posts.

Boost your reach

Tag **@CFPBoard** and use hashtags #CFPpro and **#CFPproCheck** to amplify vour message.

Short-Form Posts

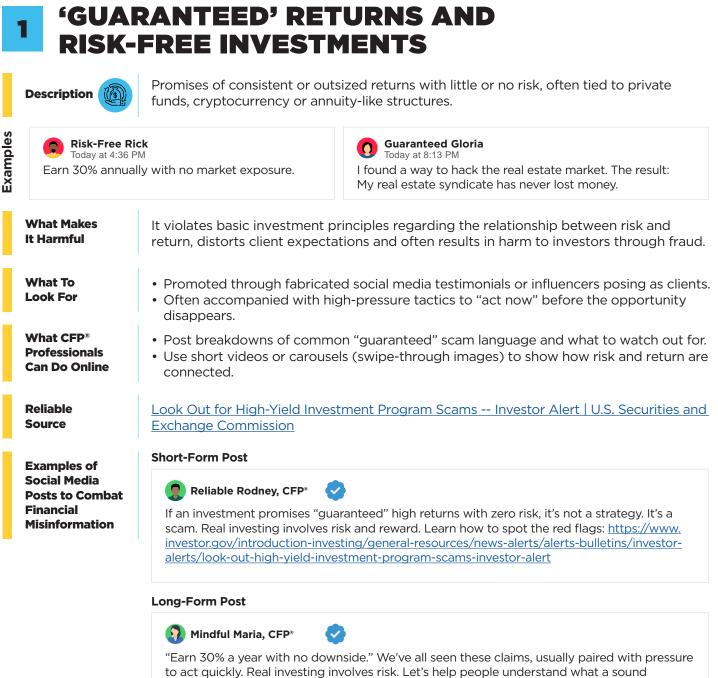
are tailored for X. Bluesky. Instagram, as a script for TikTok, or other platforms that limit characters or length.





TOP 10 FORMSCFP BOARD OF FINANCIAL MISINFORMATION

A guide for CFP[®] professionals to recognize and respond to misleading financial content



to act quickly. Real investing involves risk. Let's help people understand what a sound strategy really looks like: <u>https://www.investor.gov/introduction-investing/general-resources/news-alerts/alerts-bulletins/investor-alerts/look-out-high-yield-investment-program-scams-investor-alert</u>

2 'SECRET' TAX STRATEGIES AND LOOPHOLES



Claims that wealthy people use hidden tax strategies that anyone can copy — if they pay for a course or product.

Examples

Loophole Li Today at 4:36 F Use this S corp/		Misinformation Mark Today at 8:13 PM Avoid taxes forever with a charitable trust hack.
What Makes It Harmful		
What To Look For	 Marketed as "educational content" with no real due diligence. Often sold by non-credentialed influencers or former IRS employees. 	
What CFP® Professionals Can Do Online	 Create myth-busting threads or videos explaining how personalized, legal tax planning works, including the need to use a tax professional when developing a tax-planning strategy. Collaborate with CPAs or Enrolled Agent professionals in content to clarify gray areas. Caution against one-size-fits-all TikTok "hacks" by comparing them to real examples. 	
Reliable Source	Dirty Dozen: Taking tax advice on social media can be bad news for taxpayers; inaccurate or misleading tax information circulating IRS	
Misinformation a warning sign. Tax planning sl		write off everything with an LLC? One-size-fits-all tax tricks are hould be personal and legal. Get the facts: <u>https://www.irs.gov/</u> <u>-tax-advice-on-social-media-can-be-bad-news-for-taxpayers-</u>
	Long-Form Post	
	someone says you can erase y separate fact from fiction: http:	hacks. They often work with credentialed professionals. If your tax bill with a "trust trick," be skeptical. Here's how to os://www.irs.gov/newsroom/dirty-dozen-taking-tax-advice- news-for-taxpayers-inaccurate-or-misleading-tax-

information-circulating

3 REAL ESTATE MYTHS AND OVERHYPED ROI



Narratives that claim real estate is always safer and more profitable than diversified investing.

M vs appreciates — rent covers the mortgage	No-Money-Down Marie Today at 8:13 PM Use leverage to 10x your wealth risk-free.
Encourages risky leverage, underestim	ates costs, and ignores liquidity and vacancy risks.
 "No money down" or Buy, Rehab, Rent, Refinance, Repeat (BRRR) methods. Influencers who omit the high transaction costs of real estate sales, liquidity risks, and high operational costs to maintain and rehabilitate the property. 	
capitalization rate.Comment on viral real estate conten perspectives.	wing real operational costs, income and It with thoughtful questions or alternative estate investments versus real estate within a
How to Use Real Estate in Your Portfol Estate MorningStar	io MorningStarInvesting in REITs vs. Direct Real
claims ignore real risks. Diversification m morningstar.com/portfolios/how-use-rea	o-money-down" and "rent-covers-the-mortgage" latters. Learn what viral posts leave out: <u>https://www.</u> al-estate-your-portfolio
	 *s appreciates – rent covers the mortgage Encourages risky leverage, underestime "No money down" or Buy, Rehab, Ref (BRRR) methods. Influencers who omit the high transa and high operational costs to maintate Share sample property analyses sho capitalization rate. Comment on viral real estate contemperspectives. Educate on the role of indirect real ediversified portfolio. How to Use Real Estate in Your Portfol Estate MorningStar Short-Form Post Real estate isn't always a gold mine. "No claims ignore real risks. Diversification methods.

Long-Form Post

🧖 Trustworthy Terry, CFP* <

"Real estate always wins." It's a myth that can lead people to take on risky debt without fully understanding maintenance costs, liquidity challenges or tenant risk.

Real estate can play a role in a portfolio, but so does balance and long-term planning. More perspective: <u>https://www.morningstar.com/portfolios/how-use-real-estate-your-portfolio</u>

Description

CRYPTOCURRENCY MEME COIN 'INVESTMENTS'

	Description	meme or viral trend.	
Examples	Crypto Chris Today at 4:36 P New altcoin will g		Meme-Coin Meghan Today at 8:13 PM Tired of missing out on the next big meme coin? Click here to follow my proven strategy and become a millionaire.
	What Makes It Harmful	"rug-pull" schemes. P artificially inflate a co	of loss are extreme. asy to create, they are vulnerable to "pump-and-dump" or romoters use social media and market manipulation to in's value, encouraging purchases. Once the price peaks, they using the value to crash.
	What To Look For	-	ers with undisclosed pay or ownership. ar of missing out) tactics or vague blockchain jargon.
	What CFP® Professionals Can Do Online		red flags in videos or LinkedIn posts. people vet crypto assets, then follow up with education.
	Reliable Source	of Financial Services	entiment-Based Virtual Currencies New York State Department
Examples of Social Media Posts to Combat Financial Misinformation			on TikTok, be careful. Meme coins often collapse after a short arning signs: <u>https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/alerts/rapidly-prolif-</u>
		Long-Form Post	
		Proven Peter, CFP*	

Crypto tokens, lacking intrinsic value or a clear use case, often associated with a recent

A new meme coin may be viral, but that doesn't make it viable. Many tokens exist only to lure buyers, inflate briefly and crash. Help clients focus on fundamentals, not fear of missing out. Start here: <u>https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/alerts/rapidly-prolif-sentiment-based-vc</u>

MISLEADING DEBT RELIEF AND FORGIVENESS ADS

Description

Promises to "cancel" or "erase" debt through government programs or legal loopholes.

Examples

Misleading Michael Today at 4:36 PM Loan forgiveness is now live — sign up now!		Debt Relief Debbie Today at 8:13 PM Eliminate credit card debt using this one legal trick.	
What Makes It Harmful	Leads to identity theft, fees for nonexistent services or ruined credit.		
What To Look For	 Fake government logos, urgent language or robocalls. Often uses .org or fake government-like URLs. Urgent language and upfront fees. 		
What CFP® Professionals Can Do Online	 Share trustworthy resources (e.g., StudentAid.gov, NFCC.org) in comments. Share a list of credit counselors you have vetted and that you trust. Post examples of legitimate debt forgiveness routes. 		
Reliable Source	How To Avoid Student Loan Forgiveness Scams Federal Student AidHow To Get Out of Debt Federal Trade Consumer Advice		
Examples of Social Media Posts to Combat Financial Misinformation		bt with a "legal trick." Real help comes from nonprofit credit rt here: <u>https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-get-out-</u>	
	Long-Form Post		
	Authentic Abagail, CFP*	bt" with one legal trick often come with serious risks.	

Ads that promise to "erase debt" with one legal trick often come with serious risks. They can damage your credit, expose your identity and threaten your financial future. These aren't solutions. They are scams. Help clients spot the red flags: <u>https://consumer.ftc.gov/</u> <u>articles/how-get-out-debt#Credit%20Counseling</u>

DISMISSING TRADITIONAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS AS INEFFECTIVE OR OBSOLETE



Claims that traditional retirement accounts such as 401(k)s, IRAs and pensions are outdated or irrelevant, often pushing alternative investments or strategies.

es
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Ε
xa
úì

Alternative Retirement Ana Today at 4:36 PM

Are you still trapping your money in your employer's 401(k) account?



What Makes The promoter is often trying to lure investing dollars toward a product they are selling to It Harmful make money. What To • Out of context or cherry-picked research about retirement plans. Look For Accusations of employers "trapping" employees with a match. Explain how retirement plans work, including employer matching and What CFP® vesting schedules. Professionals • Be transparent about the trade-offs, such as early-withdrawal penalties, **Can Do Online** while explaining why the rules exist and how the benefits outweigh the costs. • Remind listeners to check the motivations of the promoter. Reliable Free Money! | Investor.gov Source Short-Form Post **Examples of** Social Media Caring Catrina, CFP[®] **Posts to Combat** Financial If someone tells you to avoid your 401(k), they may be trying to sell you something. **Misinformation** Traditional retirement accounts still work when used wisely. Get the facts: https://www. investor.gov/additional-resources/spotlight/directors-take/free-money

Long-Form Post

🌻 Steadfast Scott, CFP° 📀

"Rich people don't use 401(k)s" is another common myth that can lead clients to overlook a valuable retirement savings tool. Workplace retirement plans like 401(k)s offer real tax advantages and often come with employer contributions. As the SEC puts it, that's "free money."

Let's help clients cut through the noise and build sound, long-term strategies: <u>https://www.investor.gov/additional-resources/spotlight/directors-take/free-money</u>

AI-GENERATED FINANCIAL ADVICE AND 'BOTS'



Advice generated by AI tools or influencers using AI, often without proper compliance or customization.

Examples

 TikTok videos showing AI-generated plans for FIRE (Financial Independence, Retire Early). Chatbots creating "personalized" investment strategies. 		
What Makes It Harmful	AI may hallucinate (i.e., make up) data and lacks context for real client circumstances.	
What To Look For	 Advice may sound professional, especially if it's based on scraped expert content. Consumers often can't distinguish between real advisors and AI-powered "coaches." 	
What CFP® Professionals Can Do Online	 Explain what AI can and can't do in financial planning. Reemphasize the human context, including professional judgment and fiduciary responsibility: "Did a human review this plan?" Create short videos or explainers comparing AI-generated advice versus real planning. 	
Reliable Source	Al Investment Scams are Here, and You're the Target! California Department of Financial Protection & Innovation	
Examples of Social Media Posts to Combat Financial Misinformation	Short-Form Post Valid Victor, CFP* Chatbots that offer personalized plans often miss the mark. They lack context, oversight and customization. Here's what real planning requires: https://dfpi.ca.gov/news/insights/ai-investment-scams-are-here-and-youre-the-target/	
	Long-Form Post	

Al tools can support planning, but they don't replace professional judgment. Without human review, recommendations can be misleading. Let clients know why experience matters. <u>https://dfpi.ca.gov/news/insights/ai-investment-scams-are-here-and-youre-the-target/</u>

MARKET-TIMING CLAIMS TIED TO EVENTS OR FEAR



Encouraging investors to enter/exit markets based on short-term predictions, current events or news cycles.

	events or news cycles.	
 Prediction Paula Today at 4:36 PM Get out now — interest rates are going up. 		Fearmonger Frank Today at 8:13 PM
Get out now —	interest rates are going up.	Markets always crash before elections.
What Makes It Harmful	Clients may abandon long-term strateg	gies and miss rebounds.
What To Look For	 "Analysis" that relies on selective data or outdated charts. Often framed as being "smart money" versus "average investor."	
What CFP® Professionals Can Do Online	 Use historical evidence showing the of Post visuals showing the long-term of Share historical examples of investors Use trending news to redirect toward 	ost of market-timing mistakes. s who stayed invested through crises.
Reliable Source	Staying Invested Beats Timing the Mark	ket—Here's the Proof MorningStar
Examples of	Short-Form Post	
Social Media Posts to Combat Financial Misinformation		me when there is a market crash. Timing investments ng term: <u>https://www.morningstar.com/portfolios/</u>
	Long-Form Post	
	Faithful Ford, CFP*	

Headlines that push market timing sound smart in the moment. But data shows that staying invested often leads to better outcomes. Help clients stay grounded: https://www. morningstar.com/portfolios/staying-invested-beats-timing-marketheres-proof

DAY-TRADING AND HIGH-FREQUENCY STRATEGIES FOR BEGINNERS



Promoting options, foreign exchange market (forex) or day-trading strategies as something anyone can master.

Bay-Trading Today at 4:36 This options stra no experience r	PMToday at 8:13 PMategy earns me \$500/day —Use leverage to grow faster than with traditional investing.	
What Makes It Harmful	Highly risky and often leads to losses, especially when used without hedging or understanding.	
What To Look For	Traders flaunt screenshots of rare wins and hide long-term results.Paid courses or private social chat groups with no transparency.	
What CFP [®] Professionals Can Do Online	 Share stats on day-trader losses. Dissect viral trading "success stories" with risk analysis. Share day-trading loss data in infographics. Create a "Reality vs. Hype" series using public data and studies. 	
Reliable Source	Thinking of Day Trading? Know the Risks. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission	
Examples of Social Media Posts to Combat Financial Misinformation	Short-Form Post Calculable Carol, CFP* C "Earn \$500 a day with zero experience" is not a plan — it's a trap. Most day traders lose money. Check the data: https://www.investor.gov/additional-resources/spotlight/directors-take/thinking-day-trading-know-risks Long-Form Post Solid Steve, CFP* C	

The hype is everywhere, but most people lose money day trading. Let's use real numbers to show what these strategies actually lead to: <u>https://www.investor.gov/additional-resources/spotlight/directors-take/thinking-day-trading-know-risks</u>

10 MISREPRESENTING FINANCIAL CREDENTIALS OR EXPERTISE



Individuals presenting themselves as experts without licenses or certification, or fabricating credentials.

Examples

 Misrepresenting Mario Today at 4:36 PM
 I built a million-dollar portfolio in my 20s – here's how you can, too.

What Makes It Harmful	Confuses the public and may violate ethical or legal boundaries.
What To Look For	Lack of transparency about qualifications.Framing licensed professionals as biased.
What CFP® Professionals Can Do Online	 Clearly state your credentials and fiduciary duties. Educate on the differences between licensure, certification and registration. Use hashtag campaigns to distinguish CFP[®] professionals from uncredentialed influencers.
Reliable Source	Why Choose a CFP® Professional Let's Make A Plan
Examples of Social Media Posts to Combat Financial Misinformation	Short-Form Post Image: CFP* Image: Constraint of the
	Long-Form Post
	Dutiful Dennis, CFP* "I built a million-dollar portfolio in my 20s" sounds impressive, but without proof of

"I built a million-dollar portfolio in my 20s" sounds impressive, but without proof of strategy or credentials, it's just marketing. Share this to help clients verify who is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER[®] professional. <u>https://www.cfp.net/verify-a-cfp-professional</u>



SOCIAL MEDIA **DO's AND DON'Ts** FOR CFP® PROFESSIONALS

Feel empowered to harness social media while upholding the Code and Standards

DO's

Demonstrate Your Expertise

Highlight your CFP[®] certification and explain that it demonstrates rigorous education, experience, passing an exam and committing to high ethical standards.



Educate



Create posts about particular and practical aspects of financial

wellness, such as creating an emergency fund, strategies for paying off debt or employer matches.

Signal Educational Content

Use these cues to clarify that a post is educational, not personal advice:

"Talk to your CFP[®] professional about..."

- "These general tips..."
- Use hashtags like #financialeducationDOs

Tips for Busting Myths

To combat a post with misinformation respond appropriately:



Consider responding indirectly, through a new thread, to avoid further amplifying the post containing the misinformation.



Be specific and provide evidence in links in the comments of your post so that readers can learn more.

Pause Before You Post

Even quick reposts can imply endorsement. Confirm that you trust the source and know the facts.

Use Visuals to Support Your Message

Enhance posts with compliant, firm-approved visuals, such as:

- 0 Infographics to present data clearly.
- 0 Carousels to explain multi-step topics.
- Polls to increase engagement.

DONT's

关 Do not make statements without a reasonable basis

- Don't make unfounded promises about future investment returns.
- Don't make recommendations (e.g., "Everyone should invest in this strategy.")

X Do not omit or hide important disclosures

- Clearly disclose paid testimonials, referral relationships, or any financial benefit received. Disclosures must be easy to find, not buried in comments, secondary links or fine print.
- Always label affiliate links appropriately.

🗙 Do not reveal confidential client information

Never share or imply a client's identity, personal financial situation or any confidential details without explicit permission.

X Do not post or repost about products or strategies vou are unfamiliar with

Review and confirm the accuracy of any third-party content before reposting or commenting.

X Avoid providing financial advice

What Is Financial Advice?

CFP Board defines Financial Advice as a communication that, based on its content, context and presentation, would reasonably be viewed as a recommendation that the Client take or refrain from taking a particular course of action.

Tailoring Matters

The more personalized a communication is to an individual Client's situation, the more likely it is considered Financial Advice under CFP Board's definition.

REMINDER **Duty of Integrity**

The Duty of Integrity, as well as most financial regulations, require any statement you make to be true and not misleading. You are also prohibited under the Duty of Integrity from engaging in any act that would "operate as a fraud." This includes making unfounded and baseless claims.









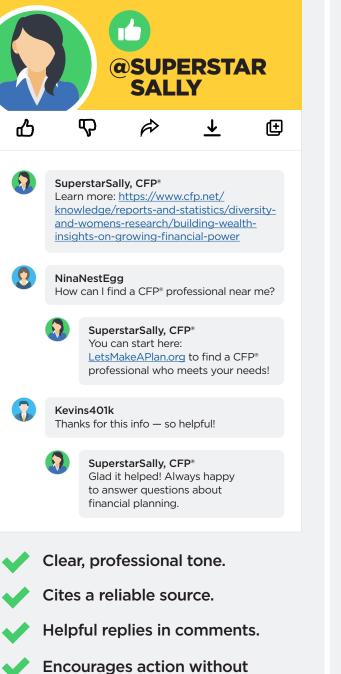


WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T



Superstar Sally, CFP® Today at 4:09 PM

Women are leading household financial decisions, and their influence keeps growing. New CFP Board research shows 2 out of 3 are primary investment decision-makers and 56% trust planners over online tools. How can we as #CFPPros better support them? #FinancialFacts

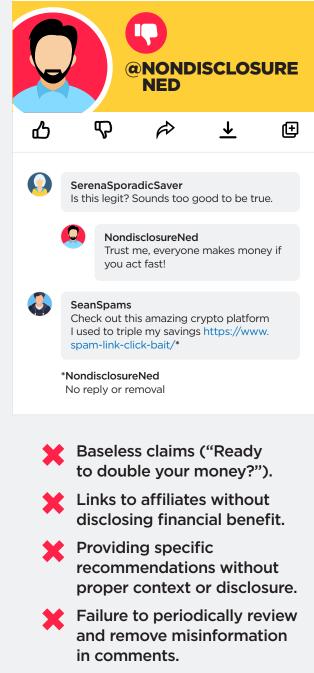


offering specific financial advice.



Nondisclosure Ned Today at 4:09 PM

Ready to double your money this year? Our go-to investing strategies have never let us down. DM me to learn how to start winning today — and don't forget to use "Nondisclose50" at www.example.com/ NonDisclose50 for exclusive access!



DOUBLE CHECK

□ Review Regulatory Requirements

- Confirm compliance with:
 - SEC Marketing Rule (e.g., client testimonials allowed under certain conditions).
 - ° FINRA Rule 2210: Communications with the Public.
 - ° State regulations (some states still prohibit testimonials).

Follow Firm Policies and Procedures

- Review your firm's social media policies for guidance about:
 - ° Posting and reposting content; and
 - ° The use of firm accounts versus personal accounts.
- Complete any required review or approval processes.

Monitor Your Posts and Comments

- Regularly check comments on your posts.
- Remove or respond to misinformation.
- Watch for comments linking to financial products or services.

□ Maintain a Professional Tone

- Keep language clear, respectful and professional.
- If you are critiquing a specific post, be constructive and stay factual.

Remember to archive posts and comments

according to your firm's recordkeeping policies. Include necessary disclosures where required.



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