As you have been learning, there are different types of risks in research. You have learned about physical, social, and psychological risks. Two more types of risks are legal risks and economic risks. These risks are less common, but still important to know about.

Legal risks are about the law.

For example, a research participant might share a story about a time they did something illegal. If someone finds out about it, they might get in trouble.

Researchers sometimes decide not to collect information on things that are illegal. When you do need to collect this information, you work really hard to make sure no one else finds out. You might decide to never collect people's names when you need to ask about illegal activities.

Economic risks are related to money.

For example, if a participant's supervisor found out they shared negative things about their work and fired them from their job.

Just like with information about illegal activities, research teams work really hard to make sure no one else finds out information that could hurt them financially.

You also might need to figure out if anyone on your team has something called a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest in research is when someone doing the research has circumstances that might change how they do the research in bad ways.

For example, if the research study has good findings for their organization, they may earn more money at their job.

Or a researcher who made a new healthcare app might want the research to say the app really helps people so they can sell the app and make money.

This would be a conflict of interest. You might worry that the person with a conflict of interest might make up information, only share the information that makes them look good, or pressure people to be in the study.

When someone has a conflict of interest, your teams need to work together so the conflicts of interest don't cause problems. If you think you might have a conflict of interest, talk to your project leader.