



Office of the Attorney General

FAQs on Historic Settlement with Meta Platforms, Inc.

September 2026

Q: What was this case about?

A: In a historic multistate lawsuit, state attorneys general sued Meta Platforms, Inc. (parent company of Facebook and Instagram) for deceptive practices and platform features that harm children. Together, after many years of investigation and litigation against Meta, the coalition of states brought Meta to trial in the Northern District of California. Through a series of negotiations, the parties reached a settlement that was joined by 47 states, three U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Q: What are the terms of the settlement?

A: In addition to monetary relief for remediation of the harms done by those platforms, Meta must implement extensive reforms to prevent future harm. These terms include:

- Stronger age assurance to detect and prohibit children under 13 on the platform.
- Daily time limits on content consumption including “productive pauses” which interrupt extended platform use with clear and conspicuous notification after 15 minutes, 60 minutes, and 90 minutes of total use, and a two-hour cap on platform use overall.
- Night access mode, a feature that disables use of Meta platforms for teens between 12 AM and 6 AM.
- School mode, a feature that disables push notifications from 8 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday, from August 15 to June 15
- Secondary account safeguards that detect secondary accounts to prevent teens from bypassing protections
- Feed controls and algorithm options that provide a user-friendly option to switch to a chronological (nonalgorithmic) feed
- Limits on social comparison features such as “likes” and cosmetic surgery filters.
- Increased content safety settings, limiting teen exposure to mature or harmful content including (but not limited to): bullying or harassment, graphic violence, suicide or self-harm, body image, weight loss, etc.

- Enhanced reporting tools to ensure that teens can report harmful content *and* receive a response from Meta within six hours that clarifies what the platform is doing to address the content.
- Protections from harmful interactions via pop ups that notify teens when a message thread is created between the teen and a potentially suspicious adult account.
- Expanded parental supervisions through linked parent accounts that give parents control over default settings, provide parents with detailed time use data for their child’s linked accounts, and enhanced notification and alerts about activity on their child’s accounts.

Q: When will the changes to the platforms be implemented?

A: The timeline for injunctive relief depends on the specific settlement term, but most of the changes must be live on the platforms within six months. For example, Meta has six months to implement a hard cap for teen users (13-17) of two hours per day across its platforms, and disable their nighttime (12 AM to 6 AM) access to the platforms’ content. Content safety changes, including disabling by default social comparison features such as “likes” and reactions, and prohibiting cosmetic surgery filters, must also be in place within six months.

Q: Are these changes included in settlement terms permanent? Why not?

A: The settlement fundamentally changes the way children will experience and interact with Meta’s platforms for years to come. Most of these reforms will remain in place for ten years. A few specific provisions will be in place for five years, and may also continue for up to a decade once we achieve industry-wide accountability to the same standards. These transformative provisions create a new standard that prioritizes the health and safety of our children and the power parents and guardians have to have the final say.

Q: I am a parent, and I’m not familiar with Meta’s social media platforms. How can this settlement help me/how can I help keep my kid safer on Meta’s platforms?

A: The settlement does include many new reporting and control options in recognition that parents want to and should be empowered to take an active role in supervising their teen’s social media use on Instagram or Facebook. From being able to adjust default settings on nighttime hours, to receiving instant notifications if their child has a suspicious interaction on the platform, this agreement is the starting point for giving parents the tools they need to make the best decisions for the safety of their teenagers. While the announcement of this settlement is still very new, we look forward to seeing the implementation roll out and will do all we can to ensure guardians know what the options are and how to use them.

Q: My child was harmed by social media use. Are victims of harm going to receive compensation from the settlement?

A: Individual restitution is not part of the settlement. Rather, the \$353 million that Virginia OAG has been awarded will be put toward remediation efforts including “unplugged”

youth programs, youth mental health resources, parental digital literacy efforts, and, importantly, ongoing investigation and litigation to hold social media platforms accountable and improve protections for kids online. However, the settlement doesn't affect an individual parent or teen's ability to bring a case against Meta if they were harmed by its platforms.

Q: How can you be sure that Meta will do what it's supposed to do in the settlement?

A: The settlement requires that the parties appoint an independent auditor, who will periodically review Meta's compliance with the settlement terms. The auditor will be in place within two months, which means they will begin reviewing Meta's internal processes for compliance before many of the changes are even live. The independent auditor will also issue a report annually on Meta's compliance, an executive summary of which will be available to the public.

Q: I understand there is a monetary component to the settlement. How will this money be spent?

A: The Virginia OAG is guaranteed \$353 million from this Meta settlement, as well as \$11 million as part of a separate Cambridge Analytica settlement, which involved improper data privacy practices by Meta. The settlement also requires that 50% of the funds be used for remediation purposes, which includes directing resources to address youth mental health, and funding programs that prioritize "unplugged" time for youth. Remediation efforts also include prioritizing ongoing litigation funding, to ensure that Meta is in compliance with the settlement and that we are able to achieve industry-wide accountability. Virginia's appropriators will have the opportunity to direct funds to address longstanding needs and make a real difference for Virginia, and the Virginia OAG looks forward to supporting this process by sharing critical insights gleaned throughout the litigation.

Q: What do I do if I see that Meta does not have a feature active with my teen user that should be there?

A: Even with an independent auditor, we still encourage parents to review their teens' social media accounts to make sure that Meta is complying with the settlement. If you notice something is wrong, you can contact our Consumer Protection Section by filing a complaint [online](#) or calling our Consumer Hotline at **1-800-552-9963**.