



Landmark Jury Ruling Sparks Hope for Social Media Safety Changes

Description

Online safety advocates are optimistic that recent trial verdicts this week could prompt changes to social media platforms, as juries deemed Meta, as well as YouTube in one instance, accountable for dangers posed to children and teenagers.

Julianna Arnold, founder of the advocacy group Parents RISE!, expressed her frustration at the lack of previous action regarding their concerns. She believes these legal findings provide confirmation of the dangers associated with platforms like Instagram, which she holds responsible for her daughter's tragic death.

These trials marked a significant moment as juries of ordinary citizens evaluated the impact of social media on youth. Their findings indicated serious reservations about the platforms' safety. A jury in New Mexico held Meta liable for fostering an environment conducive to child predators. Meanwhile, a California jury ruled that Meta and YouTube intentionally designed their platforms to be addictive, neglecting to inform parents and users of associated risks, ultimately endangering a young woman's mental health.

Although the financial penalties awarded were minor in comparison to Meta and Google's market valuations, the companies face numerous additional lawsuits. Continued legal defeats could result in substantial fines and necessitate fundamental changes to their services.

Both Meta and Google have stated their intention to appeal these judgments. A Meta representative emphasised the complexity of teen mental health, asserting that it cannot be attributed solely to their applications. Google disputed the accusations, claiming that YouTube is designed responsibly and should not be classified as a social media platform.

Looking ahead, online safety advocates hope to drive legislative change, reinforcing the need for stricter regulations on tech companies to safeguard children from potential harm.

Vocabulary List:

1. **verdicts** //ˈvɜːdɪkts// (noun): official decision by a jury or judge
2. **liable** //ˈlaɪəbəl// (adjective): legally responsible for causing harm or loss
3. **appeal** //əˈpiːl// (verb): ask a higher court to change a decision
4. **neglecting** //nɪˈɡlektɪŋ// (verb): failing to give needed attention or care
5. **addictive** //əˈdɪktɪv// (adjective): hard to stop using or giving up
6. **legislative** //ˈlɛdʒɪsleɪtɪv// (adjective): relating to laws made by the government



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What did the recent trial verdicts determine about social media platforms?
Option: They are completely safe for children
Option: They could prompt changes to social media platforms
Option: They are entirely the responsibility of parents
Option: They have no impact on youth
2. Who is the founder of the advocacy group Parents RISE!?
Option: Julianna Arnold
Option: Mark Zuckerberg
Option: Susan Wojcicki
Option: Elon Musk
3. Which social media platforms were mentioned in the trials?
Option: Facebook and Twitter
Option: Meta and YouTube
Option: Instagram and Snapchat
Option: TikTok and Reddit
4. What was the result of the jury in New Mexico?
Option: They held Meta liable for safety concerns
Option: They declared YouTube completely safe
Option: They found no issues with social media
Option: They awarded no penalties
5. What did the California jury rule regarding Meta and YouTube?
Option: They were not responsible for youth issues
Option: They intentionally designed their platforms to be addictive
Option: They provided adequate warnings to users
Option: They should be classified as educational platforms
6. What is the nature of the financial penalties awarded to the companies?
Option: Major compared to their market valuations



- Option: Minor in comparison to their market valuations
- Option: Equal to their profits
- Option: None were awarded

True-False

- 7. Julianna Arnold is satisfied with the actions taken by social media platforms regarding children's safety.
- 8. Meta and Google plan to appeal the trial judgments.
- 9. The juries in the trials were composed of social media experts.
- 10. Online safety advocates believe these legal findings confirm dangers associated with social media.
- 11. Google acknowledged that YouTube should be classified as a social media platform.
- 12. The trials have resulted in significant changes to social media regulations.

Gap-Fill

- 13. Julianna Arnold is frustrated at the lack of previous action regarding their concerns about _____.
- 14. A jury in New Mexico held Meta liable for fostering an environment conducive to _____.
- 15. Meta representatives emphasised the complexity of _____ health.
- 16. Online safety advocates hope to drive legislative change to safeguard children from potential _____.
- 17. These trials marked a significant moment as juries of ordinary citizens evaluated the impact of _____ on youth.



18. Meta and YouTube were found to have designed their platforms to be _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. They could prompt changes to social media platforms 2. Julianna Arnold 3. Meta and YouTube 4. They held Meta liable for safety concerns 5. They intentionally designed their platforms to be addictive 6. Minor in comparison to their market valuations

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. social media platforms 14. child predators 15. teen mental 16. harm 17. social media 18. addictive

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which of the following means to hold back from doing something?

- Option: Refrained
- Option: Sustained
- Option: Surged
- Option: Absorbed

2. What is the best way to describe the act of maintaining or prolonging something?

- Option: Absorb
- Option: Neglect
- Option: Sustain
- Option: Recuse

3. Which term describes someone or something dependent on another?

- Option: Surged
- Option: Pertinent
- Option: Reliable
- Option: Reliant

4. What word means critical observation or examination?

- Option: Negotiator
- Option: Registration
- Option: Transaction
- Option: Scrutiny



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5. What term refers to claims made without proof?
Option: Exemptions
Option: Allegations
Option: Verdicts
Option: Breaches
6. What term is used for violations of law or agreements?
Option: Vulnerabilities
Option: Surged
Option: Breaches
Option: Implemented
7. What action is taken to request a higher court to review a decision?
Option: Verdict
Option: Allegation
Option: Neglecting
Option: Appeal
8. Which term is associated with making laws?
Option: Legislative
Option: Addictive
Option: Reliant
Option: Sustain
9. What field focuses on protecting computers and networks from attacks?
Option: Transparency
Option: Cybersecurity
Option: Reassign
Option: Domestic
10. What term is used for the act of conducting business or trade?
Option: Registration
Option: Dealership
Option: Transaction
Option: Motion

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The new policy was successfully _____ to enhance security measures.
12. The team _____ its efforts to improve customer satisfaction.
13. The manager decided to _____ the employee to a different role for better



productivity.

14. The lawyer presented _____ evidence during the trial.
15. Neglecting this issue could lead to serious consequences for the organization.
16. Some video games can be quite _____, causing players to spend hours in front of screens.
17. Certain _____ were made in the new law to accommodate small businesses.
18. The company conducted assessments to identify potential _____ in their system.
19. Sales _____ during the holiday season, resulting in record profits.
20. The firm specializes in _____ trade to boost the local economy.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The judge had to recuse himself from the case due to a conflict of interest.
22. The organization is committed to maintaining transparency in its financial dealings.
23. The car dealership offered a wide range of vehicles and financing options.
24. The process of verification is essential to ensure the accuracy of the information provided.
25. The board put forth a motion to approve the new budget for the fiscal year.
26. The jurors delivered their verdicts after hours of deliberation in the courtroom.
27. The company was found liable for the damages caused by their product.
28. The neglect of safety protocols led to a serious workplace incident.
29. The new legislative measures were put in place to enhance data protection.
30. Investing in cybersecurity is crucial for protecting sensitive information.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Refrained 2. Sustain 3. Reliant 4. Scrutiny 5. Allegations 6. Breaches 7. Appeal 8. Legislative 9. Cybersecurity 10. Transaction

Gap-Fill: 11. implemented 12. sustained 13. reassign 14. pertinent 15. neglecting 16. addictive 17. exemptions 18. vulnerabilities 19. surged 20. domestic

Matching sentence: 1. recuse 2. transparency 3. dealership 4. verification 5. motion 6. verdicts 7. liable 8. neglect 9. legislative 10. cybersecurity

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

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