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# 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.

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## 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

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

## POST TAG

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. jury ruling
4. Level 6
5. safety
6. social media

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