



Mark Zuckerberg Appears in Court Over Teen Social Media Addiction

Description

Billionaire Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified on Wednesday in a crucial trial regarding technology addiction in Los Angeles, where he firmly denied giving orders to increase the time users spend on Meta's platforms or encouraging children under 13 to join.

During intense cross-examination by attorney Mark Lanier, Zuckerberg appeared irritated as Lanier referenced several internal emails and documents. The tension escalated when Lanier presented an email from December 2015, where Zuckerberg expressed hopes to boost "time spent" on the platform by 12% over three years. Lanier pressed Zuckerberg, asking if he had set that goal.

Zuckerberg acknowledged writing the email but claimed he later moved away from focusing on "time spent" targets, opting instead for "milestones" that provided value to users. He described the email as a brainstorming exercise rather than an official directive.

When confronted about the implications of his email, Zuckerberg insisted he was no longer leading the company in that manner. He also stated that Instagram prohibits users under 13, although when pressed, he conceded that it is unrealistic to expect a nine-year-old to read the terms of service.

The trial centres on allegations that platforms like Instagram and YouTube use addictive features designed to engage younger users, despite known risks. The case is led by a Californian woman, known as K.G.M., who claims that her addiction to social media resulted in significant mental health issues.

As the trial unfolds, issues surrounding technology's influence on the youth remain central, with experts linking social media use to rising mental health concerns among young people.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Testified** /'tɛstəˌfaɪd/ (verb): To give evidence as a witness in a court of law.
2. **Irked** /ɪrkt/ (verb): To irritate or annoy someone.
3. **Prohibit** /prə'hɪbɪt/ (verb): To formally forbid something by law rule or other authority.
4. **Implications** /,ɪmplɪ'keɪʃənz/ (noun): The possible effects or results of an action or a decision.
5. **Addictive** /ə'dɪk.tɪv/ (adjective): Causing or likely to cause someone to become addicted.
6. **Concerns** /kən'sɜːnz/ (noun): Worries or interests regarding a particular issue.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What was the main focus of the trial involving Mark Zuckerberg?
 - Option: Technology regulations
 - Option: Technology addiction
 - Option: User privacy
 - Option: Data security
2. Who was the attorney cross-examining Zuckerberg?
 - Option: John Doe
 - Option: Mark Lanier
 - Option: Jane Smith
 - Option: Robert Johnson
3. In which month and year did Zuckerberg write the email regarding boosting "time spent"?
 - Option: January 2016
 - Option: December 2015
 - Option: March 2017
 - Option: February 2018
4. What percentage did Zuckerberg hope to boost "time spent" by over three years?
 - Option: 5%
 - Option: 10%
 - Option: 12%
 - Option: 15%
5. What did Zuckerberg claim Instagram prohibits?
 - Option: Users over 18
 - Option: Users under 13
 - Option: Posting images
 - Option: Advertising
6. What mental health concerns are linked to social media use as stated in the trial?
 - Option: Sleep disorders
 - Option: Anxiety and depression
 - Option: Addiction
 - Option: All of the above



True-False

7. Zuckerberg encouraged children under 13 to join Meta's platforms.
8. Zuckerberg described the email regarding boosting time spent as an official directive.
9. Zuckerberg expressed that he moved away from focusing on time spent targets.
10. The trial is led by a man known as K.G.M.
11. Zuckerberg appeared calm during the cross-examination by attorney Mark Lanier.
12. Experts have linked social media use to rising mental health issues among youth.

Gap-Fill

13. Zuckerberg testified in a trial regarding _____ addiction in Los Angeles.
14. Zuckerberg expressed hopes to boost "time spent" on the platform by _____ over three years.
15. The trial centers on allegations that platforms like Instagram and YouTube use _____ features designed to engage younger users.
16. Zuckerberg stated that it is unrealistic to expect a _____ to read the terms of service.
17. The case is led by a Californian woman known as _____.
18. Issues surrounding technology's influence on the youth remain _____ as the trial unfolds.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Technology addiction 2. Mark Lanier 3. December 2015 4. 12% 5. Users under 13 6. All of the above



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

Gap-Fill: 13. technology 14. 12% 15. addictive 16. nine-year-old 17. K.G.M. 18. central

Answer

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

POST TAG

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. Level 5
4. Mark Zuckerberg
5. social media
6. teen addiction
7. trial

Tags

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Date Created

2026/02/19

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