

# T-Mobile Facing Waves Of Lawsuits And Bad News

Sat, 13 Aug 2022 12:43:21, newstips66, [post\_tag: assurance-wireless-spying, category: brotopia, category: community-service-programs, category: facebook-meta, category: google-alphabet, category: hired-assassins, category: political-bribes, category: repairing\_silicon\_valley, category: san\_francisco\_corruption, category: senator-insider-trading, post\_tag: t-mobile-facing-waves-of-lawsuits-and-bad-news, post\_tag: t-mobile-failures, category: web-spying, category: worldnews]

## Issues Of Concern Under Investigation By Many Parties:

Hacking  
User Privacy  
Insider Trading Bribes  
Teen Suicides  
Public Shootings Incitement By Linking Facebook, Instagram, Google Shooter PR  
Tracking Of Women Seeking Abortions  
Patent and Trade Secret Infringement  
Tracking Of Assurance Phone-Using Poor People  
Harassment Of Consumers Filing Complaints Against T-Mobile  
Black-Listing Of Customers And Service Cut-Offs  
RICO Law Violations  
Stock Market Payola To Public Officials  
Profits-Over-Privacy-Safety  
Anti-Trust Law Violations  
Using, Or Supporting Fusion GPS - Black Cube -Types Of Reprisal Attacks

## JD POWER MASSIVE STUDY FINDS T-MOBILE TO HAVE THE WORST SERVICE IN AMERICA

JD Power conducted the study from January to June 2022 and ranks each mobile carrier based on the number of problems per 100 connections. The results consistently show Verizon as the carrier with the least number of issues, with AT&T only beating Verizon in the Southwest and tying with the company in the Northeast. Meanwhile, T-Mobile trailed behind the two carriers across every region in the US.



1 of 6

Image: [J.D. Power 2022 U.S. Wireless Network Quality Performance Study](#)

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## Here's How to Sue T-Mobile - Start a T-Mobile Lawsuit

Were T-Mobile customers overcharged hundreds of dollars? We'll start your claim—free! Customers are fighting back and getting cash. Start your claim in less than 10 minutes! \$2Mil+ won by our users.

<https://www.tmonews.com/2022/06/t-mobile-being-sued-by-att-verizon-customers-for-increased-prices/>

<https://www.tipranks.com/stocks/tmus/insider-trading>

## T Mobile US Stock Insider Trading Activity And Political Bribes - TipRanks

TMUS insider trading. Discover why corporate insiders sold or buy shares in the last 3 months. Track T Mobile US insider transactions.

<https://simplywall.st/stocks/us/telecom/nasdaq-tmus-t-mobile-us/news/insiders-at-t-mobile-us-inc-nasdaqtmus-sold-us73m-worth-of-s-1>

[Insiders at T-Mobile US, Inc. \(NASDAQ:TMUS\) sold US\\$7.3m worth ...](#)

The Last 12 Months Of Insider Transactions At T-Mobile US ... The insider, Matthew Stanef, made the biggest insider sale in the last 12 months.

## FCC ASKED TO FINE T-MOBILE AGAIN FOR SPYING ON LOW INCOME USERS

The FCC has slapped T-Mobile US with a \$200 million fine for fraudulently collecting millions of dollars in government subsidies designed to help low-income phone customers. Now the FCC has been asked to fine T-Mobile AGAIN for illicit tracking and abusing low income users.

Ouch. It's the largest ever fixed fine the FCC has ever imposed to settle an investigation, the regulator said. But, given the nature of the infraction, T-Mobile can have no complaints. The fine actually refers to activities carried out by subsidiary Sprint prior to being taken over, but T-Mobile knew about the ongoing investigation when it brokered the merger deal and was doubtless expecting a hefty financial penalty.

In the context of the \$26 billion T-Mobile/Sprint transaction, \$200 million isn't a huge amount of money. But it's hardly small change either.

The sanction stems from Sprint's failure to comply – to put it mildly – with the rules governing the Lifeline programme, through which it provides affordable phone and broadband services for low-income customers. The scheme permits a telco to collect a state subsidy of \$9.25 per month for most customers, but only if they are actually using the service; that is, if have used the service at least once in a 30-day period. That level of subsidy makes the service free for most users. Customers not using the service regularly should be deregistered.

Sprint claimed monthly subsidies for as many as 885,000 subscribers who were not using the service. The FCC did not spell out how much it illicitly collected, but even if it only claimed subsidies for those customers for a couple of months, you're looking at tens of millions of dollars.

Hence the massive fine.

"Lifeline is key to our commitment to bringing digital opportunity to low-income Americans, and it is especially critical that we make the best use of taxpayer dollars for this vital program," said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, in a statement. "I'm pleased that we were able to resolve this investigation in a manner that sends a strong message about the importance of complying with rules designed to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program."

For its part, Sprint essentially blamed a software glitch.

In its ruling, the FCC explained that Sprint voluntarily disclosed the non-usage issue in August last year. In that disclosure it noted that "due to a software programming issue, Sprint's systems failed to detect that over a million Lifeline subscribers nationwide lacked usage over an extended period of time," leading to it potentially erroneously claiming subsidies.

**WIRED MAGAZINE SAYS T-MOBILE BUILT IT'S NETWORK TO HARM AND SPY ON CITIZENS JUST LIKE THE GERMAN NAZI'S SOUGHT TO DO**

The vast majority of victims weren't even T-Mobile customers. Now their information is for sale on the dark web.



Of the more than 48 million T-Mobile data breach victims, over 40 million aren't current customers. Photograph: Omar Marques/Getty Images

T-Mobile shared details about the [data breach it confirmed](#) Monday afternoon. They're not great. Assorted data from more than 48 million people was compromised, and while that's less than the 100 million that the hacker had initially advertised, the vast majority of those affected turn out not to be current T-Mobile customers at all.

Instead, T-Mobile says that of the people whose data was compromised, more than 40 million are former or prospective customers who had applied for credit with the carrier. Another 7.8 million are current "postpaid" customers, which just means T-Mobile customers who get billed at the end of each month. Those roughly 48 million users had their full names, dates of birth, social security numbers, and driver's license information stolen. An additional 850,000 prepaid customers—who fund their accounts in advance—had their names, phone numbers, and PINs exposed. The investigation is ongoing, which means that the tally may not stop there.

There's no good news here, but the slightly less bad news is that the vast majority of customers appear not to have had their phone numbers, account numbers, PINs, passwords, or financial information taken in the breach. The bigger question, though, is whether T-Mobile really needed to hold on to such sensitive information from 40 million people with whom it doesn't currently do businesses. Or if the company was going to stockpile that data, why it didn't take better precautions to protect it.

"Generally speaking, it's still the Wild West in the United States when it comes to the types of information companies can keep about us," says Amy Keller, a partner at the law firm DiCello Levitt Gutzler who led the class action lawsuit against Equifax after the [credit bureau's 2017 breach](#). "I'm surprised and I'm also not surprised. I guess you could say I'm frustrated."

Privacy advocates have long promoted the concept of data minimization, a fairly self-explanatory practice that encourages companies to hold on to as little information as necessary. Europe's [General Data Protection Regulation](#) codifies the practice, requiring that personal data be "adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed." The US currently has no equivalent on the books. [Privacy laws in the United States](#) that do touch upon data minimization generally don't require it, Keller says, "and instead recommend it as a best practice."

Until and unless the US adopts an omnibus privacy law similar to the GDPR—or state-level legislation like the [California Consumer Privacy Act](#) starts taking a harder line—data minimization will remain a foreign concept. "In general, collecting and retaining sensitive data of prospective and former customers is not an act of consumer fraud under US law, and is routine," says David Opederbeck, codirector of Seton Hall University's Institute of Law, Science and Technology. As inappropriate as it may seem for T-Mobile to keep detailed records on millions of people who may never have been their customers, there's nothing stopping it from doing so, for as long as it likes.

Now those former and prospective customers, along with millions of current T-Mobile subscribers, find themselves victims of a data breach they had no control over. "The first risk is identity theft," says John LaCour, founder and CTO of digital risk protection company PhishLabs. "The information includes names, social security numbers, driver's license IDs: all the information that would be required to apply for credit as someone."

"It's still the Wild West in the United States when it comes to the types of information companies can keep about us."

Amy Keller, Lawyer

The hack would also potentially make it easier to pull off so-called [SIM swap attacks](#). LaCour says, particularly against the prepaid customers who had their PINs and phone numbers exposed. In a SIM swap, a hacker ports your number to their own device, typically so that they can intercept SMS-based two-factor authentication codes, making it easier to break into your online accounts. T-Mobile did not respond to an inquiry from WIRED as to whether International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers were also implicated in the breach; each mobile device has a unique IMEI that would also be of value to SIM-swappers.

T-Mobile has implemented a few precautions on behalf of victims. It's offering two years of identity protection services from McAfee's ID Theft Protection Service, and it has already reset the PINs of the 850,000 prepaid customers who had theirs exposed. It's recommending but not mandating that all current postpaid customers change their PINs as well, and it is offering a service called Account Takeover Protection to help stymie SIM-swap attacks. It also plans to publish a site for "one-stop information" Wednesday, although the company didn't say if it would offer any kind of lookup to see if you're affected by the breach.

Instead, T-Mobile says it will rely on proactive outreach to victims. The carrier didn't respond to an inquiry from WIRED as to what if any specific plans it had for that communication, and what specific information they'll be sharing with people whose data was compromised. Even sharing something as simple as a timetable would help, LaCour says, so that people could know they're in the clear if they haven't been a T-Mobile customer for a certain number of years.

In the meantime, if you're a current T-Mobile customer you should go ahead and change your PIN and password; you can do so from your T-Mobile account online. You should take the free two years of ID monitoring, although it's not yet clear how that will work in practice. You should start using [app-based two-factor authentication](#) wherever possible, rather than receiving those codes by text. For a more extreme but still prudent precaution, you can contact the three major credit bureaus and request a freeze on your credit report, which would stop anyone from accessing it or opening new accounts in your name.

Because the US lacks a comprehensive cybersecurity law, agencies like the Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission have limited ways to apply pressure, says Seton Hall's Opperbeck, although the incident has already attracted FCC scrutiny. "Telecommunications companies have a duty to protect their customers' information," an agency spokesperson said in an emailed statement. "The FCC is aware of reports of a data breach affecting T-Mobile customers and we are investigating."

If T-Mobile does face repercussions for the breach—its sixth in four years—it would more likely come from a class action lawsuit. Opperbeck says that his research has shown more than 30 data breach settlements in the last few years that resulted in a small cash payout and free credit monitoring as restitution. And Keller notes that even the class action route may be difficult to travel, because of a clause in T-Mobile contracts that can force customers into arbitration.

... Keeping detailed records of more than 40 million former or prospective customers—including their social security numbers and driver's license information—seems needlessly reckless. After all, nobody can steal what isn't there in the first place..."

<https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2022-128>

### [SEC Charges Former Indiana Congressman with Insider Trading](#)

Buyer attended a golf outing with a T-Mobile executive, from whom he learned about the company's then nonpublic plan to ...

<https://nypost.com/2022/07/25/ex-congressman-stephen-buyer-fbi-trainee-indicted-for-insider-trading/>

### [Ex-Congressman Stephen Buyer, FBI trainee indicted for insider ...](#)

on insider trading charges Monday for buying up stock in telecommunications giant Sprint ahead of the company's merger with T-Mobile, ...

<https://www.insider-monitor.com/trading/cik1283699.html>

### [Insider Trading Activities at T-Mobile Us, Inc. \(TMUS\)](#)

Insider trading activities (stock purchases, sales, and option exercises) reported by insiders of T-Mobile Us, Inc. (TMUS) since 2007 are shown in Table 1 ...

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/25/sec-charges-former-gop-rep-stephen-buyer-with-insider-trading.html>

### [SEC charges former GOP Rep. Stephen Buyer with insider trading](#)

3 hours ago ... Stephen Buyer was charged with trading on insider information he ... the shares of Sprint in 2018 after its merger with T-Mobile leaked, ...

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/former-us-congressman-charged-with-insider-trading-2022-07-25/>

### [Former U.S. congressman Buyer charged with insider ... - Reuters](#)

4 hours ago ... has been charged with insider trading over purchases of shares in telecommunications company Sprint ahead of its merger with T-Mobile, ...

<https://money.cnn.com/quote/shareholders/shareholders.html?symb=TMUS&subview=institutional>

### [TMUS - T-Mobile US Inc Shareholders - CNNMoney.com](#)

Insider trading; Institutional ownership. Institutional investors purchased a net \$19.4 million shares of TMUS during the quarter ended June 2019.

<https://docoh.com/company/1283699/TMUS/insider-ownership-history>

### [TMUS T-Mobile US Insider Trading and Ownership | Docoh](#)

T-Mobile US (TMUS) insider trading activity. See current ownership, buyers and sellers.

<https://telecom.economicdimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/former-us-congressman-buyer-charged-with-insider-trading-ahead-of-telecom-merger/93117230>

### [Former U.S. congressman Buyer charged with insider trading ahead ...](#)

3 hours ago ... Buyer, who served in Congress between 1993 and 2011, was working as a consultant to T-Mobile ahead of the 2018 merger, according to an ...

<https://wallmine.com/hasdaq/tmus/insider-trading>

### [T-Mobile US Inc \(TMUS\) insiders trading - Wallmine](#)

On average, T-Mobile US Inc executives and independent directors trade stock every 21 days with the average trade being worth of \$6,569,263. The most recent ...

### [T-Mobile: Being sued by AT&T, Verizon customers for increased prices](#)

Jun 23, 2022 ... In a surprise turn of events, it looks like a group of AT&T and Verizon customers have decided to sue T-Mobile. The group believes that the ...

<https://www.fiercewireless.com/wireless/former-sprint-dealers-file-suit-against-t-mobile>

### [Former Sprint wireless dealers file suit against T-Mobile](#)

Using terms like "predatory" and "anti-competitive," four retail wireless dealers filed suit against T-Mobile in recent weeks, all saying they were ...

<https://www.tnz.com/2022/05/16/t-mobile-sued-cryptocurrency-security-lawsuit/>

## T-Mobile Sued for Security Lapses Over Cryptocurrency Costing ...

May 16, 2022 ... **T-Mobile** caused one of its customers to lose 3/4 of a million bucks, and the guy who's out the money is now  **suing** the phone company, ...

<https://fairshake.com/t-mobile/how-to-sue/>

### How to Sue T-Mobile - FairShake

The first option for **suing T-Mobile** is through consumer arbitration. Contracts with arbitration clauses give you the right take legal action through an ...

### T-Mobile Lawsuit - Bachuwa Law

After failing to find a resolution through **T-Mobile's** customer service, many customers feel that there are no options to fight back. That is not the case. While ...

<https://dkrpa.com/blog/t-mobile-customers-sues-t-mobile-after-losing-9-7-million-of-cryptocurrency-stolen-in-sim-swap-scam/>

### T-Mobile Customer Sues T-Mobile After Losing \$8.7 Million of ...

This recent **lawsuit** was filed in New York's Eastern District. The suit claims that **T-Mobile** was culpable of gross neglect by enabling hackers to gain access to ...

### T-Mobile Sued for Security Lapses Over Cryptocurrency Costing Customer...

tmz.com/2022/05/16/t-mobile-sued-cryptocurrency-security-lawsuit

Cryptocurrency Disaster T-Mobile Sued By Customer Who Lost \$750,000 ... Your Security Sucks!!! Exclusive. 309; 5/16/2022 2:04 PM PT



### T-Mobile gets sued some more, this time by a Sprint customer furious ...

phonearena.com/news/t-mobile-new-class-action-lawsuit-sprint-customer-5g...

one such sprint subscriber (as of the end of 2020, at least) has decided to seek justice for his troubles, filing a new lawsuit against t-mobile, which clearly makes a whole lot more sense than the class action recently launched by a group of verizon and at&t customers as an indirect (and somewhat silly) consequence of the same controversial ...



### T-Mobile Data Breach Lawsuit 2021 | What To Do | ClassAction.org

classaction.org/t-mobile-data-breach-lawsuit-2021

Hackers initially told the media in late August that they had obtained the personal information of over 100 million people from T-Mobile's servers, but the

## T-MOBILE AND ITS SILICON VALLEY PARTNERS CAUGHT UP IN FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS AND LAWSUITS

Elon Musk's **Twitter-Gate** scandal has exposed the fact that, for over a decade, Twitter has sold lies to advertisers, consumers and the SEC!!! Twitter has been just fake eyeballs, bots, election manipulation, SEC filings that were lies, Congressional testimony that was lies and one of the biggest scams in history. *Court Discovery* in the coming year will reveal all. The SEC has been asked to charge Twitter AND TWITTER'S ENABLERS: **INCLUDING T-MOBILE** with EPIC FRAUD. Musk says the "*numbers don't lie*" and those numbers about Twitter and it's Telco partners are going to come out in shocking court disclosures. How could a multi billion dollar company like T-Mobile not have known about these lies? T-Mobile was one of the backbones that put Twitter into the hands of the rioters, the shooters, the suicide-ed kids and everyone else in the WORLD!

A. An element of the claims against T-Mobile asserts that "*T-Mobile Encourages A Culture of Criminality And Corruption And That Proofs Of That Corporate Culture Of Criminality Add To The Veracity Of Plaintiff Assertions Of Intended Harm, By T-Mobile, Against Plaintiff, And His Peers, Who Were Investigating Said Corruption For News Media, Public Interest And Government Parties.*"

B. Regarding Sex Trafficking news media assertions against T-Mobile Executives, Staff and Investors: The investigation databases of: A.) ICJ.ORG's Panama Papers, Swiss Leaks and CPA databases; B.) The Axiom database; C.) The PACER database; D.) The XKEYSCORE derivative database; E.) Kroll database; F.) Stratfor Database; G.) Stratfor's TLOxp database, and Accurint (from LexisNexis), Clear (Thompson Reuters), Delvepoint, DataTrac, Intellicorp, BeenVerified, Intelius, Pipl and Spoke. etc. are easily cross referenced to show which persons:

1. Invested over \$200,000.00 in T-Mobile and/or
2. Are government political figures and/or
3. Have divorce records which state that they engaged in infidelity or hiring men, women, girls and boys for sex and/or
4. Are charged in prostitution cases and/or
5. Have Uber, Lyft, Plane tickets or taxi records transporting sex workers to or from them and/or
6. Have accounts under their credit cards, paypal or bitcoin on porn and sex trafficking sites like Seeking Arrangements, etc. and/or
7. Used or partnered with Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Google, Match.com, Tinder and their associates who are deeply charged with enabling sex trafficking. etc..

Such a database pull only costs \$300.00 and takes a private eye less than a day.

It is really quite easy to show who at T-Mobile sex trafficked, how, with whom and with great detail. T-Mobile spouses and divorcees are quite excited to share that information.

Sex Trafficking by T-Mobile people is one evidence element that goes to prove that: "*T-Mobile Encourages A Culture of Criminality And Corruption And That Proofs Of That Corporate Culture Of Criminality Add To The Veracity Of Plaintiff Assertions Of Intended Harm, By T-Mobile, Against Plaintiff, And His Peers, Who Were Investigating Said Corruption For News Media, Public Interest And Government Parties.*"

C. T-Mobile knew that it's network and devices was killing teens. T-Mobile chose profits over children's safety. There are a massive number of other lawsuits and Congressional Hearings proving this. Teen deaths caused by T-Mobile people is one evidence element that goes to prove that: "*T-Mobile Encourages A Culture of Criminality And Corruption And That Proofs Of That Corporate Culture Of Criminality Add To The Veracity Of Plaintiff Assertions Of Intended Harm, By T-Mobile, Against Plaintiff, And His Peers, Who Were Investigating Said Corruption For News Media, Public Interest And Government Parties.*"

D. All of the hundreds of criminal, corrupt and illicit activities that our alliance of citizens, reporters, investigators, reporters and forensic experts raise, and WILL RAISE FOREVER, happen to prove this one Plaintiff's point that: "*T-Mobile Encourages A Culture of Criminality And Corruption And That Proofs Of That Corporate Culture Of Criminality Add To The Veracity Of Plaintiff Assertions Of Intended Harm, By T-Mobile, Against Plaintiff, And His Peers, Who Were Investigating Said Corruption For News Media, Public Interest And Government Parties.*"... But these hundreds of criminal, corrupt and illicit activities by T-Mobile will always be raised, by EVERY consumer, forever until they are solved whether or not this one particular AAA case moves forward.

We, by coincidence, happen to know that this one Plaintiff's claims are true. 50 Million citizens just had their privacy abuse claims proved true in another case. If this Plaintiff's AAA case is closed there will be 49,999,999 more for T-Mobile to deal with!

One Mr. Rubin, from Google, who helped put together the T-Mobile Android arrangement has an interesting situation. Wait till everyone sees how many other T-Mobile lawyers and executives are in the same boat:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/andy-rubin-complaint-documents-sex-ring-2019-7>

### Android Creator Andy Rubin Is Accused of Running a 'Sex Ring'

... The Android creator **Andy Rubin** has been accused of running a "**sex ring**" with at least one woman and of cheating his ex-wife out of millions of ...

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/ryanmac/andy-rubin-court-complaint-lawsuit-re-divorce-google>

### **This Former Google Executive Was Accused Of Running A "Sex Ring"**

... A newly unsealed complaint shows how Google paid Android creator **Andy Rubin** \$90 million in severance after he left the company amid ...

<https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/politics/article/andy-rubin-google>

### **The truth about Andy Rubin and Google's existential crisis - British GQ**

... The **Rubin** scandal has also drawn attention to the company's long-standing opposition to new US **sex trafficking** laws – which it believes could ...

<https://fortune.com/2019/01/10/google-android-lawsuit-shareholder-sexual-harassment-sex-trafficking-andy-rubin-ja/>

### **Google Board Sued for Andy Rubin Sexual Harassment Coverup**

... "While at Google, **Rubin** is also alleged to have engaged in human **sex trafficking**—paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to women to be, in ...

<https://tilltucce.com/andy-rubin-sex-ring/>

### **Android Founder Andy Rubin Accused of Running 'Sex Ring'**

... **Andy Rubin**, the Android founder and former Google executive has been accused of running a "sex ring" by his ex-wife, according to court ...

<https://www.vox.com/a/sexual-harassment-assault-allegations-list/andy-rubin>

### **Andy Rubin, former Google executive, sexual misconduct allegations**

... **Andy Rubin** is one of 262 celebrities and powerful people accused of **sexual** misconduct since 2017. See the full list:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/25/technology/google-sexual-harassment-andy-rubin.html>

### **How Google Protected Andy Rubin, the 'Father of Android'**

... What Google did not make public was that an employee had accused Mr. **Rubin** of **sexual** misconduct. The woman, with whom Mr. **Rubin** had been ...

<https://www.cnet.com/tech/tech-industry/android-creator-andy-rubin-allegedly-concealed-google-payments-from-wife/>

### **Android creator Andy Rubin allegedly concealed Google payments ...**

... **Andy Rubin**, a former Google executive and the inventor of the Android ... Rubin is also alleged to have engaged in human **sex trafficking** ...

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-04-25/ex-google-star-andy-rubin-spars-to-keep-divorce-fallout-secret>

### **Ex-Google Star Rubin Spars to Keep Divorce Fallout Secret**

... **Andy Rubin**, the Android creator at the center of a sex harassment scandal ... Rubin is also alleged to have engaged in human **sex trafficking** ...

<https://www.shrm.org/hr-today/news/hr-news/pages/alphabet-board-sued-over-claims-it-covered-up-senior-execs-sexual-misconduct.aspx>

## Alphabet Board Sued Over Claims It Covered Up Senior Execs ...

... Alphabet's Board Sued for Role in Allegedly Covering Up **Sexual** Misconduct by ... How Google Protected **Andy Rubin**, the 'Father of Android'.

## T-Mobile Retail Store in Eagle Rock Found Guilty of Committing \$25 Million Scheme to Illegally Unlock Cellphones

**LOS ANGELES** – A former owner of a T-Mobile retail store in Eagle Rock has been found guilty by a jury of 14 federal criminal charges for his \$25 million scheme to enrich himself by stealing T-Mobile employee credentials and illegally accessing the company's internal computer systems to illicitly "unlock" and "unblock" cellphones, the Justice Department announced today.

Argishti Khudaverdyan, 44, of Burbank, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, three counts of wire fraud, two counts of accessing a computer to defraud and obtain value, one count of intentionally accessing a computer without authorization to obtain information, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, five counts of money laundering, and one count of aggravated identity theft.

The jury returned the guilty verdict Friday evening in United States District Court.

According to evidence presented at his four-day trial, Khudaverdyan ran a multi-year scheme that illegally unlocked and unblocked cellphones, which generated approximately \$25 million in criminal proceeds. During this time, most cellphone companies – including T-Mobile – "locked" their customers' phones so they could be used only on the company's network until the customers' phone and service contracts had been fulfilled. If customers wanted to switch to a different carrier, their phones had to be "unlocked." Carriers also "blocked" cellphones to protect consumers in the case of lost or stolen cellphones.

From August 2014 to June 2019, Khudaverdyan fraudulently unlocked and unblocked cellphones on T-Mobile's network, as well as the networks of Sprint, AT&T and other carriers. Removing the unlock allowed the phones to be sold on the black market and enabled T-Mobile customers to stop using T-Mobile's services and thereby deprive T-Mobile of revenue generated from customers' service contracts and equipment installment plans.

Khudaverdyan advertised his fraudulent unlocking services through brokers, email solicitations, and websites such as unlocks247.com. He falsely claimed the fraudulent unlocks that he provided were "official" T-Mobile unlocks.

From January 2017 through June 2017, Khudaverdyan and a former business partner were also co-owners of Top Tier Solutions Inc., a T-Mobile store in Eagle Rock Plaza. However, after T-Mobile terminated Khudaverdyan's contract in June 2017 based on his suspicious computer behavior and association with unauthorized unlocking of cellphones, Khudaverdyan continued his fraud.

To gain unauthorized access to T-Mobile's protected internal computers, Khudaverdyan obtained T-Mobile employees' credentials through various dishonest means, including sending phishing emails that appeared to be legitimate T-Mobile correspondence, and socially engineering the T-Mobile IT Help Desk. Khudaverdyan used the fraudulent emails to trick T-Mobile employees to log in with their employee credentials so he could harvest the employees' information and fraudulently unlock the phones.

Working with others in overseas call centers, Khudaverdyan also received T-Mobile employee credentials which he then used to access T-Mobile systems to target higher-level employees by harvesting those employees' personal identifying information and calling the T-Mobile IT Help Desk to reset the employees' company passwords, giving him unauthorized access to the T-Mobile systems which allowed him to unlock and unblock cellphones.

All told, Khudaverdyan and others compromised and stole more than 50 different T-Mobile employees' credentials from employees across the United States, and they unlocked and unblocked hundreds of thousands of cellphones during the years of the scheme.

Khudaverdyan obtained more than \$25 million for these criminal activities. He used these illegal proceeds to pay for, among other things, real estate in Burbank and Northridge.

United States District Judge Stephen V. Wilson scheduled an October 17 sentencing hearing, at which time Khudaverdyan will face statutory maximum sentences of 20 years in federal prison for each wire fraud count, 20 years in federal prison for conspiracy to commit money laundering, 10 years in federal prison for each money laundering count, five years in federal prison for each count of intentionally accessing a computer without authorization to obtain information, five years in federal prison for the count of accessing a computer to defraud and obtain value, and a mandatory two years in federal prison for aggravated identity theft.

Alen Gharehbagloo, 43, of La Cañada Flintridge, a co-defendant and a former co-owner of Top Tier Solutions Inc., pleaded guilty on July 5 to three felonies: conspiracy to commit wire fraud, accessing a protected computer with intent to defraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for December 5.

The United States Secret Service Cyber Fraud Task Force (CFTF) in Los Angeles and IRS Criminal Investigation's Western Area Cyber Crime Unit investigated this matter. The CFTF includes representatives of the United States Secret Service, the FBI, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and the California Highway Patrol.

Assistant United States Attorneys Lisa E. Feldman and Andrew M. Roach of the Cyber and Intellectual Property Crimes Section are prosecuting this case. Assistant United States Attorney Jonathan S. Galatzan, Chief of the Asset Forfeiture Section, is handling the asset forfeiture portion of this case.

T-mobile, an American wireless network partly owned by German telecommunications company Deutsche Telekom, sent out an intimidating email to its employees on stating that those who do not become fully vaccinated by April 2 will be terminated from their job.

According to the email obtained by TGP, employees who failed to show proof of first vaccination will be placed on unpaid leave. Employees who do not become fully vaccinated and obtain a Magenta Pass will be terminated..

"Employees who have not yet taken action to receive their first dose and upload proof will be placed on unpaid leave. Affected employees who do not become fully vaccinated and obtain a Magenta Pass by April 2 will be separated from T-Mobile. Those employees who have a pending or approved medical or religious accommodation or state-specific exemption through the HR process are excluded from this action for the duration of their pending or approved accommodation or exemption."

However, mobile experts at T-Mobile stores who are more at risk of getting Covid are not required to get vaccinated.

"In Retail, where we don't have control of who enters, our Mobile Experts have served customers incredibly well throughout the pandemic. We'll continue to take precautions like masking and encourage Mobile Experts to be vaccinated, but not require it. We will also be encouraging regular testing."

Here's a copy of the email:

Team,

As the Omicron surge peaks and subsides across the country, we're looking ahead to what's next and how we continue to keep our T-Mobile community—ourselves, our families, and our customers—safe.

Data clearly and consistently shows that vaccines offer our best chance at preventing illness, serious illness, and death from COVID-19. With the wellbeing of our community top of mind, we're asking everyone at T-Mobile to be fully vaccinated by April 2, which includes uploading proof of vaccination into our Cleared4 online tool and obtaining a digital "Magenta Pass". This policy applies to all job classifications who need regular or occasional access to our vaccinated, badge-controlled office spaces – flexible resident, hybrid and mostly remote. That means it includes everyone at T-Mobile, with the exception of a few job titles like Retail Mobile Expert and Field Technician roles. You can find the full list [here](#).

Employees who have not yet taken action to receive their first dose and upload proof by February 21 will be placed on unpaid leave. Affected employees who do not become fully vaccinated and obtain a Magenta Pass by April 2 will be separated from T-Mobile. Those employees who have a pending or approved [medical or religious accommodation or state-specific exemption](#) through the HR process are excluded from this action for the duration of their pending or approved accommodation or exemption.

Your leadership will follow up with more info, because some implementation details will differ by function or location. In Retail, where we don't have control of who enters, our Mobile Experts have served customers incredibly well throughout the pandemic. We'll continue to take precautions like masking and encourage Mobile Experts to be vaccinated, but not require it. We will also be encouraging regular testing.

To avoid impact to customer experience in our Customer Experience Centers (CEC's), employees are being asked to provide first dose vaccination proof by February 21 but will not be placed on unpaid leave. Instead, we're looking ahead to bringing every employee back into the CECs in a hybrid or fully onsite position starting April 2, at which time proof of vaccination or a pending or approved accommodation or exemption will be needed. Care CEC employees may also have the option of transitioning to work for one of our service partners as an alternative.

We have weighed this issue carefully with the benefit of input from our medical advisors and insights from many other large companies with similar policies, and it's clear that this is the right thing to do to help save lives and prevent serious illness. While we hope every affected employee will be vaccinated and return to their workplace, we understand that for some, this means you must make a deeply personal decision. Uniting around this plan helps us all move forward with greater clarity and safety for our community.

As we move into this next phase, all our badge-controlled offices remain open and our vaccinated-only policy still applies to these locations. While we encourage you to come in when you can, we will continue to be flexible on returning to the office while case counts remain high.

If you have any questions, please check out this [FAQ](#) on T-Nation or speak with your manager.

On behalf of our senior leadership team, I want to thank you again for all you do. We have successfully navigated this pandemic together for nearly two years. It has been incredibly challenging, but I have been so inspired by this team and your resilience, commitment, and passion in these truly unprecedented times. I know we will continue navigating this together – as One Team – and come out the other side stronger than ever before.

Thanks,

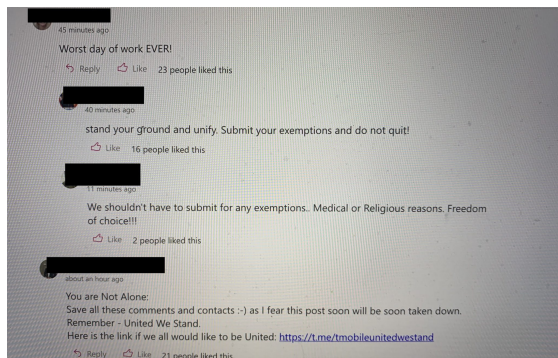
Deeanne

Deeanne King (She/Her/Hers)  
EVP, Chief Human Resources Officer

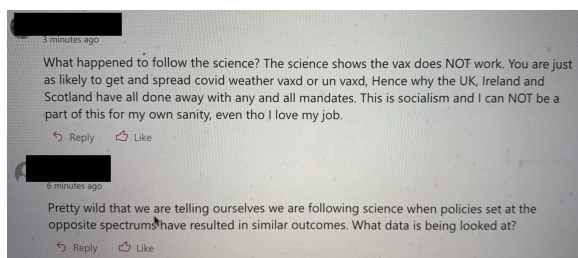


The company posted the email in an article on the internal website and they are getting completely roasted by employees. Here are some images of those comments sent to TGP.

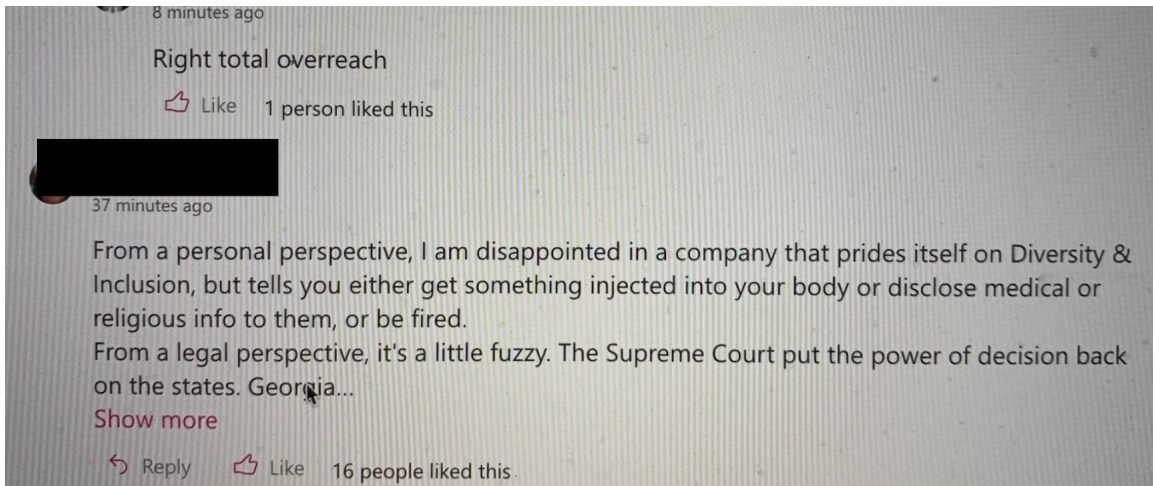
"We shouldn't have to submit for any exemptions.. Medical or Religious reasons. Freedom of choice!!!"



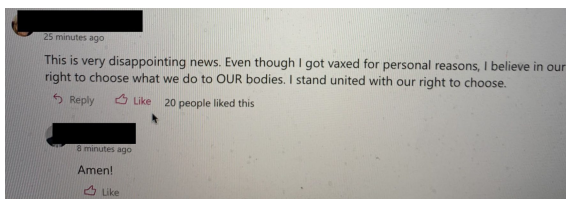
"What happened to follow the science? The science shows the vax does NOT work. You are just as likely to get and spread covid weather vaxd or un vaxd, Hence why the UK, Ireland, and Scotland have all done away with any and all mandates. This is socialism and I can NOT be a part of this for my own sanity, even tho I love my job."



"From a personal perspective, I am disappointed in a company that prides itself on Diversity & Inclusion, but tells you either get something injected into your body or disclose medical or religious info to them, or be fired. From a legal perspective, it's a little fuzzy."



"This is very disappointing news. Even though I got vaxed for personal reasons, I believe in our right to choose what we do to OUR bodies. I stand united with our right to choose."



Earlier this month, T-Mobile was also under fire after censoring [Gateway Pundit's links](#) on its text service. A TGP reader Randall contacted T-Mobile and one of the supervisors claimed that Gateway Pundit is a very restricted site and they're protecting the users' information by providing a safe service.

<https://nordvpn.com/blog/t-mobile-passwords-hacked-twitter/>

#### T-Mobile gets hacked after dismissing security concerns - NordVPN

Aug 28, 2018 ... Nothing funny about the hack attack at T-Mobile that let roughly 2 million users with their names, ... T-mobile passwords hacked on Twitter.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/katienotopoulos/t-mobile-ceo-john-legere-resigning-promoted-tweets>

#### T-Mobile CEO John Legere Is Resigning And Won't Be Promoting ...

Nov 18, 2019 ... In doing so, he will end one of the most annoying ad campaigns on Twitter — promoting his own tweets. David Becker / Getty Images. A cool CEO.

<https://www.pcmag.com/news/ex-t-mobile-ceo-goes-after-ex-sprint-ceo-on-twitter-again>

#### Ex-T-Mobile CEO Goes After Ex-Sprint CEO on Twitter (Again)

Mar 2, 2022 ... In a bit of a throwback, John Legere and Marcelo Claure—former CEOs of T-Mobile and Sprint, respectively—are once again battling it out on ...

**[Mass layoffs hit TWITTER as company exposed as ad scam and fake user nest distributed over T-Mobile networks \(LINK\)...](#)**

**[Employees say it is 'Worst case scenario' as world realizes Twitter harvests human thoughts pushes kids to suicide and shootings and manipulates ideologies using T-Mobile devices and networks \(LINK\)...](#)**

The legal shield for T-Mobile is showing cracks



The Snapchat app is shown.

The nation's largest federal appeals court last year ruled that the legal shield — known as Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act — didn't apply to a Snapchat filter blamed for the car crash deaths of two teenagers. |Richard Drew/AP Photo

By [Susannah Luthi](#)

An 11-year-old dies by suicide after she is sexually exploited on Instagram and Snapchat. Two teenagers are killed in a crash following a race using a Snapchat speed filter. A sexual predator uses Facebook to lure a 15-year-old girl into trafficking.

Social media companies for decades have been shielded from legal consequences for what happens on their platforms. But a sharp shift in public opinion and a bend in recent court rulings have the industry nervous that this could change — especially when damage is done to children online.

And for the first time in nearly 30 years, lawyers for grieving families see an opening.

Lawsuits blaming social media platforms for teen suicides, eating disorders and mental collapses have picked up in the months since [Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen](#) told Congress that her company knew its products were addictive to kids and that their mental stability was suffering as a result. And a bill moving through the California statehouse would make companies liable for addicting children, drawing comparisons to a strategy used against the tobacco industry.

The Facebook whistleblower's testimony before Congress, in 180 seconds

The nation's largest federal appeals court last year [ruled that the legal shield](#) — known as Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act — didn't apply to a Snapchat filter blamed for the car crash deaths of two teenagers. [Texas Supreme Court let a sex trafficking case against Facebook proceed](#), citing Congress' 2018 changes to federal law. And an appellate court [recently refused Facebook's attempt](#) to circumvent that lawsuit. Georgia's Supreme Court in March likewise ruled that a separate complaint over Snapchat's speed filter [can move forward](#) because the plaintiffs have a good case the app made a risky product.

"I am pretty optimistic that tides are turning and we are going to see a backlash on Section 230 from the courts," said Carrie Goldman, a New York-based trial attorney who used product liability law to challenge Grindr's federal shield. Powerful social media companies, she added, "were never supposed to be immune from liability."

Tech companies and their lawyers are watching with trepidation. Cathy Gellis, an internet attorney, says the industry is increasingly turning to the First Amendment — rather than Section 230 — as the first line of defense in content moderation lawsuits.

"It's all on fire," she said.

The tech industry's legal protections, enshrined in 1996, came from the thinking that companies trying to create a free marketplace of ideas online shouldn't have to worry about getting shut down based on someone saying or doing something the website can't control. But that was when Netscape reigned supreme, email arrived via dial-up modem and "apps" weren't yet gleams in a techy's eye.

Rep. Ken Buck: "If you repeal section 230 there will be a slew of lawsuits!"

Nearly three decades later, trial attorneys are testing that shield with a battery of cases brought by parents of kids and teens whose deaths or mental crises they blame on social media. The roster includes a claim by the mother of 11-year-old Selena Rodriguez who alleges her daughter was addicted to Snapchat and Instagram for two years and pulled into sending sexually exploitative messages. The lawsuit details a downward spiral of depression, eating disorders and self-harm that ended in suicide.

Carrie Goldman's case against Grindr alleged that the hookup app eased the way for her client Matthew Herrick's abusive ex-boyfriend to set up a false profile that disclosed Herrick's location — and said, falsely, that he was HIV-positive and liked violent, unprotected sex. Stalkers began shadowing Herrick, who filed cease-and-desist orders and police reports even as Grindr said it couldn't block the profile, the lawsuit alleged.

Herrick's claim ultimately failed in 2019, with the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals citing the Section 230 shield. But Carrie Goldman's argument — that it was a question of product safety and liability, rather than one of content — was later used in a key case against Snapchat.

Gellis and others in the tech industry argue that any dent in the federal shield can have far-reaching consequences on the internet, and that unfavorable rulings could come to haunt internet companies trying to fight state laws. State legislatures in Texas and Florida are debating a slate of proposals to bar platforms from censoring content, while a pair of bills aimed at making the internet safer for kids is advancing in California.

"It's a problem to have any language on the books that Section 230 is supposed to block," she said. "As a litigator, I'll look to using prior precedents upholding Section 230 to protect people from these sorts of bad laws being enforced, but it's playing with fire if that's the only thing protecting them."

One case in particular has been widely cited by California lawmakers who want to make social media companies liable for addicting children. A lawsuit known as *Lenmon v. Snap* alleged that the high-speed car crash death of two teenagers while they were using Snapchat's "speed filter" function for a virtual race was the app's fault, since the filter was a function Snapchat designed itself.

The San Francisco-based U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year that the company's design of the speed filter wasn't covered by Section 230.

Hedge Funds and private Equity funds that covertly fund T-Mobile and T-Mobile partners are buying up Congress people right and left. The line from T-Mobile to public policy decisions is hard to see, like a spider web, but modern AI technology can track it all down nonetheless.

The donations, which make Sinema one of the industry's top beneficiaries in Congress, serve a reminder of the way that high-power lobbying campaigns can have dramatic implications for the way legislation is crafted, particularly in the evenly divided Senate where there are no Democratic votes to spare. They also highlight a degree of political risk for Sinema, whose unapologetic defense of the industry's favorable tax treatment is viewed by many in her party as indefensible.

"From their vantage point, it's a million dollars very well spent," said Dean Baker, a senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a liberal-leaning think tank. "It's pretty rare you see this direct of a return on your investment. So I guess I would congratulate them."

Sinema's office declined to make her available for an interview. Hannah Hurley, a Sinema spokesperson, acknowledged the senator shares some of the industry's views on taxation, but rebuffed any suggestion that the donations influenced her thinking.

"Senator Sinema makes every decision based on one criteria: what's best for Arizona," Hurley said in a statement. "She has been clear and consistent for over a year that she will only support tax reforms and revenue options that support Arizona's economic growth and competitiveness."

The American Investment Council, a trade group that lobbies on behalf of private equity, also defended their push to defeat the tax provisions.

"Our team worked to ensure that members of Congress from both sides of the aisle understand how private equity directly employs workers and supports small businesses throughout their communities," Drew Maloney, the organization's CEO and president, said in a statement.

Sinema's defense of the tax provisions offer a jarring contrast to her background as a Green Party activist and self-styled "Prada socialist" [who once likened accepting campaign cash to "bribery"](#) and later called for "big corporations & the rich to pay their fair share" shortly before launching her first campaign for Congress in 2012.

She's been far more magnanimous since, praising private equity in 2016 from the House floor for providing "billions of dollars each year to Main Street businesses" and later interning at a private equity mogul's boutique winery in northern California during the 2020 congressional recess.

The soaring contributions from the industry to Sinema trace back to last summer. That's when she first made clear that she wouldn't support a carried interest tax increase, as well as other corporate and business tax hikes, included in an earlier iteration of Biden's agenda.

During a two-week period in September alone, Sinema collected \$47,100 in contributions from 16 high-ranking officials from the private equity firm Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, records show. Employees and executives of KKR, another private equity behemoth, contributed \$44,100 to Sinema during a two-month span in late 2021.

In some cases, the families of private equity managers joined in. David Belluck, a partner at the firm Riverside Partners, gave a \$5,800 max-out contribution to Sinema one day in late June. So did three of his college-age kids, with the family collectively donating \$23,200, records show.

"I generally support centrist Democrats and her seat is important to keep a Democratic Senate majority," Belluck said, adding that his family has known Sinema since her election to Congress. "She and I have never discussed private equity taxation."

The donations from the industry coincide with a \$26 million lobbying effort spearheaded by the investment firm Blackstone that culminated on the Senate floor last weekend.

By the time the bill was up for debate during a marathon series of votes, Sinema had already forced Democrats to abandon their carried interest tax increase.

"Senator Sinema said she would not vote for the bill... unless we took it out," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told reporters last week. "We had no choice."

But after private equity lobbyists discovered a provision in the bill that would have subjected many of them to a separate 15% corporate minimum tax, they urgently pressed Sinema and other centrist Democrats for changes, according to emails as well as four people with direct knowledge of the matter who requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

"Given the breaking nature of this development we need as many offices as possible weighing in with concerns to Leader Schumer's office," Blackstone lobbyist Ryan McConaghy wrote in a Saturday afternoon email obtained by the AP, which included proposed language for modifying the bill. "Would you and your boss be willing to raise the alarm on this and express concerns with Schumer and team?"

McConaghy did not respond to a request for comment.

Sinema worked with Republicans on an amendment that stripped the corporate tax increase provisions from the bill, which a handful of vulnerable Democrats also voted for.

"Since she has been in Congress, Krysten has consistently supported pro-growth policies that encourage job creation across Arizona. Her tax policy positions and focus on growing Arizona's economy and competitiveness are longstanding and well known," Hurley, the Sinema spokesperson, said.

But many in her party disagree. They say the favorable treatment does little to boost the overall economy and argue there's little compelling evidence to suggest the tax benefits are enjoyed beyond some of the wealthiest investors.

Some of Sinema's donors make their case.

Blackstone, a significant source of campaign contributions, owns large tracts of real estate in Sinema's home state, Arizona. The firm was condemned by United Nations experts in 2019 who said Blackstone's financial model was responsible for a "financialization of housing" that has driven up rents

and home costs, "pushing low-income, and increasingly middle-income people from their homes."

Blackstone employees executives and their family members have given Sinema \$44,000 since 2018, records show.

In a statement, Blackstone called the allegations by the U.N. experts "false and misleading" and said all employee contributions are "strictly personal." The firm added that it was "incredibly proud of its investments in housing."

Another major financial services donor is Centerbridge Partners, a New York-based firm that buys up the debt of distressed governments and companies and often uses hardball tactics to extract value. Since 2017, Sinema has collected at least \$29,000 from donors associated with the firm, including co-founder Mark Gallogly and his wife, Elizabeth Strickler, records show.

In 2012, Centerbridge Partners purchased Arizona-based restaurant chain P.F. Chang's for roughly \$1 billion. After loading the struggling company up with \$675 million of debt, they sold it to another private equity group in 2019, according to Bloomberg News. The company received a \$10 million coronavirus aid loan to cover payroll, but shed jobs and closed locations as it struggled with the pandemic.

Centerbridge Partners was also part of a consortium of hedge funds that helped usher in an era of austerity in Puerto Rico after buying up billions of dollars of the island government's \$72 billion debt — and filing legal proceedings to collect. A subsidiary of Centerbridge Partners was among a group of creditors who repeatedly sued one of the U.S. territory's pension funds. In one 2016 lawsuit, the group of creditors asked a judge to divert money from a Puerto Rican pension fund in order to collect.

A Centerbridge representative could not immediately provide comment Friday.

Liberal activists in Arizona say they plan to make Sinema's reliance on donations from wealthy investors a campaign issue when she is up for reelection in 2024.

"There are many takes on how to win, but there is no universe in which it is politically smart to fight for favorable tax treatment of the wealthiest people in the country," said Emily Kirkland, a political consultant who works for progressive candidates. "It's absolutely going to be a potent issue."

We call that felony bribery and a total violation of the American STOCK ACT!

### [Push to rein in social media sweeps the states](#)

By Rebecca Kem

California lawmakers and advocates see the Snapchat ruling as a green light for a state bill that would explicitly authorize lawsuits against social media companies if they're shown to hook kids with their products. Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, the bill's Republican lead co-author, says the decision shows that his proposal won't violate federal law.

Trial attorneys also see it this way. Matthew Bergman, who six months ago founded the Social Media Victims Law Center to bring major cases involving kids' and teens' addiction using product liability law, compares the push to his years of suing companies for asbestos poisoning. He launched his new crusade after Haugen's testimony and warnings from the U.S. surgeon general about the mental health harms of teen social media use. One of the most recent cases he filed invokes Haugen's leaks to allege that Instagram purposefully targets youngsters.

He sees signs everywhere that the tide is turning. He pointed to recent court decisions — and even the Supreme Court's surprisingly close vote to block Texas' social media bill on censorship, at 5-4.

By Rebecca Kem

"The era of goodwill toward social media platforms is waning," Bergman said.

Some lawyers in tech's corner say they don't see judges making a big swing away from longtime orthodoxy on the law.

"Courts are certainly scrutinizing 230, but courts are bound by precedent," said Adam Sieff, a lawyer who represents tech companies in Section 230 and First Amendment claims. "Virtually without exception," he said, the courts are finding that the precedents hold up the Section 230 defense.

Eric Goldman, co-director of Santa Clara University's High Tech Law Institute, argues the 9th Circuit decision in the Snapchat case is fairly narrow. Still, he is alarmed at the state policymaking that he sees as meddling in private companies' operations and know-how.

"Legislatures are enacting laws that they know are garbage," he said. "They don't care about actually implementing policy — it's all about the press releases and tweets. When states pass laws that are garbage we hope that the courts will fix the obvious problems that the legislatures have created."

In California, the tech industry and internet freedom groups like the Electronic Frontier Foundation are working feverishly to kill Cunningham's bill that would explicitly create a cause for liability lawsuits against social media companies — a red line for the industry. But the proposal has advanced with significant momentum and could get a final vote in August.

The proposal was narrowed last month to allow only public prosecutors, rather than all Californians, to bring cases. But supporters still see it as a huge step in making social media liable for features with documented risks — and opponents see a major threat to tech companies' autonomy.

That said, Sieff and Eric Goldman suggest that lawyers in the business of suing tech companies may be exaggerating the significance of the recent decisions.

"The prevailing and uniform interpretation of Section 230 is squarely on the side of the platforms," Sieff said, "and the plaintiffs' bar is definitely stretching, or willfully misreading, decisions like *Leemon* well beyond their application."

White House defends president's support for philanthropy headed by former Google CEO, who has cultivated close ties to the administration.

Eric Schmidt listens.



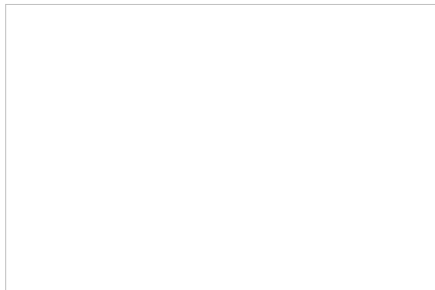
Eric Schmidt, the former CEO of Google, had been making efforts to cultivate a close relationship with the Biden administration. | Paul Sakuma/AP Photo

By Alex Thompson.

This past spring, Eric Schmidt, the former CEO of Google, received the ultimate gift: a straight-to-camera endorsement from the president of the United States.

In the video, the most powerful man in the world touted Schmidt's "Quad Fellowship" — a new scholarship for American, Indian, Japanese and Australian graduate school students that is operated and administered by Schmidt Futures, the charity arm that Schmidt uses for a variety of initiatives in science and technology.

"If you want to take the biggest challenges facing our world and help make sure democracies deliver for the people everywhere, I encourage you to apply and join the Quad fellowship class of 2023," Biden said in the video touting the philanthropic initiative which administration officials have compared to the Rhodes scholarship and which plans to fund 100 students every year from India, Australia, Japan and the United States, also known as "The Quad."



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, U.S. President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Schmidt Futures CEO Eric Braverman gather for the Quad fellowship announcement at Tokyo on May 24, 2022. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

Schmidt promptly shared [the video on the Schmidt Futures YouTube page](#) with the title "The Quad Fellowship: A Message from President Joe Biden."

Behind the scenes, however, there were concerns within Biden's administration about the president endorsing an initiative of an outside entity founded by Schmidt, one of the richest men in the world, according to two people familiar with the matter who were granted anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak about the internal dynamics.

The red flags prompted the State Department to draft talking points in case questions of impropriety came up, according to a copy of the drafted talking points obtained by POLITICO.

"If the [U.S. Government] is not involved in Schmidt Futures Quad Fellowship, why was it announced in a Government organized forum?" read an example of a potential question about the arrangement.

In response, the State Department's talking points recommend responding that the "United States—through Department of Homeland Security and Department of State helps facilitate international STEM education and student mobility" and that international "student mobility is central to diplomacy, innovation, economic prosperity, and national security. As Secretary [Anthony] Blinken has said, it is a 'foreign policy imperative.'"

It is one of many instances of Schmidt's efforts to cultivate a close relationship with the Biden administration. In March, POLITICO reported that Schmidt had developed close personal and financial ties with the White House's science office. During the presidential transition, Schmidt also recommended appointments to the Pentagon. [Reuters reported at the time.](#)

The White House declined to comment. A State Department spokesperson told POLITICO: "It's not uncommon for us to highlight a private sector initiative that advances U.S. national interests. It is, likewise, not uncommon for us to draft contingency talking points on a range of issues. We're proud of private sector partnerships, which advance our interests around the world."

Meghan Miele, a spokesperson for Schmidt, said in a statement that Schmidt Futures had been invited by the Biden administration and the other Quad countries to operate and administrate the fellowship.

"Leaders of all of the Quad countries have demonstrated enthusiastic support for the program by recording videos, calling for applications on social media, and attending a global launch event in Tokyo which has resulted in thousands of applications," she said. Asked for further documentation of the timeline of the invitation, Miele declined to comment further.

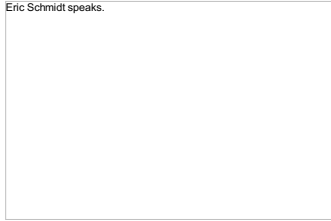
Blinken and Schmidt have collaborated in the past. Schmidt Futures was a client of WestExec Advisors, a consulting firm co-founded by Blinken. Last July, [Blinken referred to Schmidt as "my friend"](#) at the "Global Emerging Technology Summit" hosted by the National Security Council on Artificial Intelligence, which Schmidt chaired.

When Biden visited Asia in May, the CEO of Schmidt Futures, Eric Braverman, met with the leaders of all four Quad countries, who had recorded their own endorsement videos as well. At a launch event with the four leaders, they watched a video featuring Schmidt as they all stood in front of a blue-and-white checkered backdrop reading: "Quad Fellowship by Schmidt Futures."

The fellowship will fund students from Quad countries to attend graduate school in the U.S. in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The scholarship is part of the Biden team's larger goal of reinvigorating the Quad partnership as part of their attempts to counter China.

Schmidt also often echoes the administration's view on China as a key competitor and has taken a particular interest in the overlap in science and defense policy. He has advocated for the U.S. investing in and protecting the technology sector to ensure China does not take the lead on artificial intelligence, internet platforms, and hardware, which he sees as essential to maintaining American economic and military strength.

Eric Schmidt speaks.



Schmidt also often echoes the administration's view on China as a key competitor and has taken a particular interest in the overlap in science and defense policy. | Susan Walsh/AP Photo

As a result, he has leveraged his relationships and connections to shape the Biden administration's science and military technology policies. In addition to his connections with the science office, the Pentagon, and the Quad Fellowship, Schmidt has also become a key public advocate for the Biden-supported U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), a sprawling \$250 billion-plus package with massive investments in American technology including \$50 billion to semiconductor funding.

The Senate and the House have passed different versions of the bill and are trying to reconcile the package now. [Some progressive House Democrats and the AFL-CIO have argued](#) that certain trade provisions in the bill would help large American tech companies like Google and Facebook.

The trade provisions would "overwhelmingly benefit large digital corporations (Google, Facebook/Meta, Uber) at the expense of countries' right to reasonably regulate global digital platforms," William Samuel, the AFL-CIO's director of government affairs, wrote in [a May letter](#).

In op-eds [and TV appearances](#), Schmidt has been a high-profile advocate for the bill, in particular the government subsidization of semiconductors.

"America is on the verge of losing the chip competition," [Schmidt wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed this month co-written with Harvard professor Graham Allison](#). "Unless the U.S. government mobilizes a national effort similar to the one that created the technologies that won World War II, China could soon dominate semiconductors and the frontier technologies they will power."

Eric Schmidt should never be allowed near America's policies or telecommunications. He is the Hitler of the Internet. Schmidt thinks that those who kill themselves over social abuse shouldn't be doing those things in the first place. Schmidt has no compassion and lives by greed.

Famous Hollywood actress Constance Wu has revealed that she attempted to take her own life after facing a social media abuse over T-Mobile network and devices.

Known for her roles in "Crazy Rich Asians" and "Hustlers," Wu abruptly left social media in 2019 after making what she called "careless" comments about her displeasure over the renewal of "Fresh off the Boat," a TV series she was starring in, in which she said "ignited outrage and internet shaming that got pretty severe."



On learning of the renewal of the show, where she played a no-nonsense mother of an immigrant family, Wu fired off tweets featuring expletives, stating that she was "so upset." Her comments sparked criticism online, and she later explained to her fans that appearing in the show would take her away from an unspecified passion project, before quitting social media.

After a three-year hiatus, Wu said in a [statement](#) Thursday that the episode had pushed her to attempt suicide. She said she was "a little scared" to return to social media.

"This next part is hard to talk about... but I was afraid of coming back on social media because I almost lost my life from it," she said.

She added that the social media backlash to her 2019 comments, especially from fellow Asian Americans, made her feel like a "blight" on her community. "I started feeling like I didn't even deserve to live anymore. That I was a disgrace to AsAms, and they'd be better off without me," she said using an abbreviation.

"Looking back, it's surreal that a few DMs convinced me to end my own life, but that's what happened. Luckily, a friend found me and rushed me to the ER."

Wu, who grew up in Richmond, Va., and is the child of Taiwanese immigrants, said the "scary moment" forced her to reassess her life and career and prioritize her mental health.

Wu's leading role in "Crazy Rich Asians" in 2018 catapulted her to international fame and led to a Golden Globe nomination for her portrayal of a professor who travels to Singapore to meet her partner's family and encounters extreme wealth. More broadly, the movie, based on a novel by Kevin Kwan, was celebrated for breaking stereotypes and for its Asian American representation.



"AsAms don't talk about mental health enough," Wu said in her statement. "While we're quick to celebrate representation wins, there's a lot of avoidance around the more uncomfortable issues within our community."

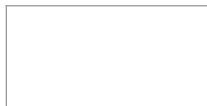
Adding, "if we want to be seen, really seen... we need to let all of ourselves be seen, including the parts we're scared of or ashamed of - parts that, however imperfect, require care and attention."

A national study in 2007 reported that while nearly 18% of the general U.S. population sought mental health services in a 12-month period, only 8.6% of Asian Americans did so.

Fear of stigma as well as pressure to be a "model minority," to academically succeed and to care for parents and community were among the issues that led to mental health stresses, according to psychiatrists at McLean Hospital, a mental health hospital in Belmont, Mass.

Almost 20% of American adults - some 50 million people - experienced a mental health illness in 2019, according to national nonprofit Mental Health America, with over half of adults not receiving treatment. Suicidal ideation and thoughts have continued to rise every year since 2011, it added. Echoing other reports, it found that young White Americans were the most likely to receive mental health treatment, while "Asian youth were least likely to receive mental health care."

This week, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline launched a new three-digit number allowing people to call or text 988 to route them to a hotline of trained counselors starting Saturday. It will be available across the United States.



Wu also shared details for suicide prevention and support alongside her statement and added that she had written a memoir "Making a Scene" detailing more about her life and experiences. She said she hoped her book would "help people talk about the uncomfortable stuff in order to understand it, reckon with it, and open pathways to healing."

...

If you or someone you know who uses T-Mobile needs help, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or visit [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). You can also text a crisis counselor by messaging the Crisis Text Line at 741741.

#### KEY LAWYERS INVOLVED IN LITIGATION AGAINST T-MOBILE:



Barrett J. Vahle  
Steve Siegel Hanson, LLP - KCMO  
460 Nichols Road  
Suite 200  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
(816) 714-7100  
Fax: (816) 714-7101  
Email: [vahle@stuevesiegel.com](mailto:vahle@stuevesiegel.com)

James Pizzinasso  
Hausfeld LLP  
888 15th Street  
Ste 300  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-540-7200  
Fax: 202-540-7201  
Email: [pizzinasso@hausfeld.com](mailto:pizzinasso@hausfeld.com)

Jennifer M Oliver  
MOG NRUBIN LLP  
600 W BROADWAY STE 3300  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
619-798-5361  
Email: [poliver@moginrubin.com](mailto:poliver@moginrubin.com)

Jonathan L Rubin  
MOG NRUBIN LLP (DC)  
1615 M ST NW  
STE THIRD FL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20037  
202-630-0616  
Email: [jrubin@moginrubin.com](mailto:jrubin@moginrubin.com)

Kim D Stephens  
TOUSLEY BRAN STEPHENS  
1200 FIFTH AVE STE 1700  
SEATTLE, WA 98101  
206-682-5600  
Email: [kstephens@tousley.com](mailto:kstephens@tousley.com)

Steven M Nathan  
Hausfeld  
33 Whitehall Street  
Ste 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
646-357-1100  
Fax: 212-202-4322  
Email: [snathan@hausfeld.com](mailto:snathan@hausfeld.com)

Beth E Terrell  
TERRELL MARSHALL LAW GROUP PLLC  
836 N 34TH ST  
STE 300  
SEATTLE, WA 98103-8869  
206-816-6603  
Fax: 206-319-5450  
Email: [bterrell@terrellmarshall.com](mailto:bterrell@terrellmarshall.com)

Kaitlyn T Holzer  
MURPHY & FALCON PA  
1 SOUTH ST  
STE 30TH FLOOR  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202  
410-539-6500  
Fax: 410-539-6599  
Email: [kaitlyn.holzer@murphyfalcon.com](mailto:kaitlyn.holzer@murphyfalcon.com)

Nikoletta Sara Mendrinis  
1 SOUTH ST  
30TH FLOOR  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202  
410-951-8824  
Fax: 410-539-6599  
Email: [nikoletta.mendrinis@murphyfalcon.com](mailto:nikoletta.mendrinis@murphyfalcon.com)

William Hughes Murphy, III  
MURPHY & FALCON PA  
1 SOUTH ST  
STE 30TH FLOOR  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202  
410-539-6500  
Fax: 410-539-6599  
Email: [hassan.murphy@murphyfalcon.com](mailto:hassan.murphy@murphyfalcon.com)

John C. Herman  
Duane Morris  
1180 W Peachtree Street NW  
Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30309-3448  
404-253-6900  
Fax: 404-253-6901  
Email: [jcherman@duanemorris.com](mailto:jcherman@duanemorris.com)

Marc J. Held  
Lazarowitz & Manganillo LLP  
2004 Ralph Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11234  
718-531-9700  
Fax: 718-444-5768  
Email: [marcheldesd@gmail.com](mailto:marcheldesd@gmail.com)

Alexis M Wood  
Law Offices of Ronald A. Marron APLC  
651 Arroyo Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103  
619-696-9006  
Fax: 619-564-6665  
Email: [alexis@consumersadvocates.com](mailto:alexis@consumersadvocates.com)

Christian Levis  
Lowe Dannenberg, P.C.  
44 South Broadway, Suite 1100  
White Plains, NY 10601  
(914) 997-0500  
Fax: (914) 997-0035  
Email: [clevi@lowey.com](mailto:clevi@lowey.com)

Margaret C. MacLean  
Lowe Dannenberg, P.C.  
44 South Broadway, Suite 1100  
White Plains, NY 10601  
914-997-0500  
Email: [mmaclean@lowey.com](mailto:mmaclean@lowey.com)

Jonathan Shub  
Seeger Weiss, LLP  
1515 Market Street  
Suite 1380  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 564-2300  
Fax: (215) 851-8029  
Email: [jshub@seegerweiss.com](mailto:jshub@seegerweiss.com)

Brian C Gudmundson  
Zimmerman Reed PLLP  
80 South Eighth Street 1100 IDS Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612-341-0400  
Fax: 612-341-0844  
Email: [brian.gudmundson@zimreed.com](mailto:brian.gudmundson@zimreed.com)

Daniel J Mogin  
MOG NRUBIN LLP  
600 W BROADWAY STE 3300  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
619-798-5333  
Email: [dmogin@moginrubin.com](mailto:dmogin@moginrubin.com)

Jason T Dennett  
TOUSLEY BRAN STEPHENS  
1200 FIFTH AVE STE 1700  
SEATTLE, WA 98101  
206-682-5600  
Fax: 206-682-2992  
Email: [jdennett@tousley.com](mailto:jdennett@tousley.com)

John Austin Moore  
Steve Siegel Hanson, LLP - KCMO  
460 Nichols Road  
Suite 200  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
816-714-7100  
Fax: 816-714-7101  
Email: [moore@stuevesiegel.com](mailto:moore@stuevesiegel.com)

Kaleigh N.B. Powell  
TOUSLEY BRAN STEPHENS  
1200 FIFTH AVE STE 1700  
SEATTLE, WA 98101  
206-682-5600  
Fax: 206-682-2992  
Email: [kpowell@tousley.com](mailto:kpowell@tousley.com)

Norman El Siegel  
Steve Siegel Hanson, LLP - KCMO  
460 Nichols Road  
Suite 200  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
(816) 714-7112  
Fax: (816) 714-7101  
Email: [siege@stuevesiegel.com](mailto:siege@stuevesiegel.com)

Timothy Z LaComb  
MOG NRUBIN LLP  
600 W BROADWAY STE 3300  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
619-798-5362  
Email: [tlacomb@moginrubin.com](mailto:tlacomb@moginrubin.com)

John A Yanchunis  
MORGAN & MORGAN COMPLEX  
LITIGATION GROUP (FL)  
201 N FRANKLIN ST 7TH FL  
TAMPA, FL 33602  
813-223-5505  
Email: [yanchunis@ForThePeople.com](mailto:yanchunis@ForThePeople.com)

Michael Anderson Berry  
ARNOLD LAW FIRM  
865 HOWE AVE  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825  
916-777-7777  
Email: [aberry@justice4you.com](mailto:aberry@justice4you.com)

Ryan Maxey  
MORGAN & MORGAN PA (FL)  
201 N FRANKLIN ST STE 700  
TAMPA, FL 33602  
813-577-4722  
Fax: 813-257-0572  
Email: [rmaxey@forthepeople.com](mailto:rmaxey@forthepeople.com)

Carlton R. Jones  
Herman Jones LLP  
3424 Peachtree Road NE  
Suite 1650  
Atlanta, GA 30326  
404-504-6500  
Email: [cjones@hermanjones.com](mailto:cjones@hermanjones.com)

Peter M. Jones  
Herman Jones LLP  
3424 Peachtree Road NE  
Suite 1650  
Atlanta, GA 30326  
404-504-6500  
Email: [pjones@hermanjones.com](mailto:pjones@hermanjones.com)

Philip M. Hines  
Held & Hines, LLP  
2004 Ralph Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11234  
718-531-9700  
Fax: 718-444-5768  
Email: [phines@heldhines.com](mailto:phines@heldhines.com)

Amanda Grace Fiorilla  
Lowe Dannenberg, P.C.  
44 South Broadway, Suite 1100  
White Plains, NY 10601  
914-733-7266  
Email: [afiorilla@lowey.com](mailto:afiorilla@lowey.com)

Kas Larene Gallucci  
Law Offices of Ronald A. Marron  
651 Arroyo Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103  
619-696-9006  
Email: [kas@consumersadvocates.com](mailto:kas@consumersadvocates.com)

Ronald A. Marron  
Law Offices of Ronald A. Marron  
651 Arroyo Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103  
619-696-9006  
Email: [ron@consumersadvocates.com](mailto:ron@consumersadvocates.com)

Anne-Marie E Sargent  
CONNOR & SARGENT PLLC  
921 HILDEBRAND LANE NE STE 240  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110  
206-654-4011  
Email: [ases@csclawfirm.net](mailto:ases@csclawfirm.net)

Carey Alexander  
SCOTT + SCOTT LLP (NY)  
THE HELMSLEY BUILDING  
230 PARK AVE  
STE 17TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10169  
212-223-6444  
Email: [calexander@scott-scott.com](mailto:calexander@scott-scott.com)

Erin Green Comile  
Scott&Scott, Attorneys at Law, LLP  
156 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 192  
Cotchester, CT 06415  
860-537-5537  
Fax: 860-537-4432  
Email: [ecomile@scott-scott.com](mailto:ecomile@scott-scott.com)

Joseph P. Curren  
Scott & Scott, Attorneys at Law, LLP  
The Helmsley Building  
230 Park Avenue  
Ste 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10169  
212-223-6444  
Email: [jjucellemo@scott-scott.com](mailto:jjucellemo@scott-scott.com)

Michael J Laird  
ZIMMERMAN REED LLP (MN)  
1100 DS CENTER  
80 SOUTH 8TH STREET  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402  
920-915-3328  
Email: [michael.laird@zimmerreed.com](mailto:michael.laird@zimmerreed.com)

Rachel Kristine Tack  
ZIMMERMAN REED LLP (MN)  
1100 DS CENTER  
80 SOUTH 8TH STREET  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402  
612-341-0400  
Email: [rachel.tack@zimmerreed.com](mailto:rachel.tack@zimmerreed.com)

Michael Karovitz

Loevy & Loevy - Chicago

311 North Aberdeen Street

3rd Floor

Chicago, IL 60607

(312) 243-5900

Fax: (312) 243-5902

Email: [mike@loevy.com](mailto:mike@loevy.com)

Ari Bassar

POMERANTZ LLP

1100 GLENDON AVE 15TH FL

LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

310-789-8660

Email: [abassar@pomlaw.com](mailto:abassar@pomlaw.com)

Samuel M. Ward

Barrack Rodos & Bacine

600 West Broadway

Suite 900

San Diego, CA 92101

619-230-0800

Fax: 619-230-1874

Email: [sward@barrack.com](mailto:sward@barrack.com)

Wright A Noel

CARSON & NOEL PLLC

20 SIXTH AVENUE NORTHEAST

ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

425-395-7786

Email: [wright@carsonnoel.com](mailto:wright@carsonnoel.com)

Sanford Alan Kassel

Sanford A Kassel Law Offices APLC

Wells Fargo Bank Building

334 West 3rd Street Suite 207

San Bernardino, CA 92401-1823

909-884-6451

Fax: 909-884-8032

Email: [office@skasselaw.com](mailto:office@skasselaw.com)

Jason Hartley

HARTLEY LLP

101 W BROADWAY STE 820

SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

619-400-5822

Email: [hartley@hartleylp.com](mailto:hartley@hartleylp.com)

Matthew George

KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP

1999 HARRISON ST STE 1560

OAKLAND, CA 94104

415-772-4700

Email: [mgeorge@kaplanfox.com](mailto:mgeorge@kaplanfox.com)

Christopher L Springer

KELLER ROHRBACK LLP

801 GARDEN ST STE 301

SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

805-456-1496

Email: [cspriener@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:cspriener@kellerrohrback.com)

Emma Marguerite Wright

KELLER ROHRBACK LLP (WA)

1201 3RD AVE

STE 3200

SEATTLE, WA 98101-3052

206-257-9229

Email: [ewright@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:ewright@kellerrohrback.com)

Juli E. Farris

KELLER ROHRBACK

1201 3RD AVE

STE 3200

SEATTLE, WA 98101-3052

206-623-1900

Fax: 206-623-3384

Email: [jfarris@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:jfarris@kellerrohrback.com)

Manish Borde

BORDE LAW PLLC

600 STEWART ST, SUITE 400

SEATTLE, WA 98101

206-905-6129

Email: [mborde@bordelaw.com](mailto:mborde@bordelaw.com)

Mark Reich

LEVI & KORSINSKY LLP (NY)

55 BROADWAY

10TH FLOOR STE 10006

NEW YORK, NY 10006

212-363-7500

Email: [mreich@zk.com](mailto:mreich@zk.com)

Adam J Zapala

COTCHETT PITRE & MCCARTHY LLP

840 MALCOM RD STE 200

BURLINGAME, CA 94010

650-697-6000

Fax: 650-697-0577

Email: [azapala@cpmllegal.com](mailto:azapala@cpmllegal.com)

Kaivi A Xie

COTCHETT PITRE & MCCARTHY LLP

840 MALCOM RD STE 200

BURLINGAME, CA 94010

650-697-6000

Email: [kxie@cpmllegal.com](mailto:kxie@cpmllegal.com)

Reid Wilson Wayman Gaa

COTCHETT PITRE & MCCARTHY LLP

840 MALCOM RD STE 200

BURLINGAME, CA 94010

650-697-6000

Fax: 650-697-0577

Email: [rgaa@cpmllegal.com](mailto:rgaa@cpmllegal.com)

James Arthur Ulwick

DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER LLC

10 N DEARBOR ST 6TH FL

CHICAGO, IL 60602

301-467-6038

Email: [julwick@dicellolevitt.com](mailto:julwick@dicellolevitt.com)

Brian James Dunne

Bathae Dunne LLP

633 West Fifth Street

26th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90071

213-462-2772

Email: [bdunne@bathaeedunne.com](mailto:bdunne@bathaeedunne.com)

Gary F Lynch  
Lynch Carpenter, LLP  
1133 Penn Avenue, 5th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-322-9243  
Email: [Gary@cllp.com](mailto:Gary@cllp.com)

MaryBeth V. Gibson  
THE FINLEY FIRM PC  
3535 PIEDMONT RD BLDG 14 STE 230  
ATLANTA, GA 30305  
404-320-9979  
Fax: 404-320-9978  
Email: [mvgibson@thefinleyfirm.com](mailto:mvgibson@thefinleyfirm.com)

Nicholas A Colella  
LYNCH CARPENTER LLP (PA)  
1133 PENN AVE 5TH FL  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222  
412-322-9243  
Email: [NickC@cllp.com](mailto:NickC@cllp.com)

David B Owens  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
100 S KING STREET STE 100  
SEATTLE, WA 98014  
312-243-5900  
Email: [David@loevy.com](mailto:David@loevy.com)

Scott Drury  
LOEVY & LOEVY (IL)  
311 N ABERDEEN 3RD FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60607  
312-243-5900  
Email: [drury@loevy.com](mailto:drury@loevy.com)

Jordan L Lurie  
POMERANTZ LLP  
1100 GLENDON AVE 15TH FL  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067  
212-661-1100  
Fax: 917-463-1044  
Email: [jlurie@pomlaw.com](mailto:jlurie@pomlaw.com)

Stephen R Bassar  
BARRACK RODOS & BACINE  
600 W BROADWAY  
STE 900  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
619-230-0800  
Email: [sbassar@barrack.com](mailto:sbassar@barrack.com)

Gavin P Kassel  
Sanford A Kassel Law Offices APLC  
Wells Fargo Bank Building  
334 West Third Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1823  
909-884-6451  
Fax: 909-884-8032  
Email: [gkassel@gmail.com](mailto:gkassel@gmail.com)

Shawn C Westrick  
Westrick Law Firm  
2219 Main Street Suite 463  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
310-746-5303  
Email: [swestrick@westricklawfirm.com](mailto:swestrick@westricklawfirm.com)

Laurence D King  
Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP  
350 Sansome  
Ste. 400  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 772-4700  
Fax: (415) 772-4707  
Email: [king@kaplanfox.com](mailto:king@kaplanfox.com)

Cari Campen Laufenberg  
KELLER ROHRBACK LLP (WA)  
1201 3RD AVE  
STE 3200  
SEATTLE, WA 98101-3052  
206-623-1900  
Email: [claufenberg@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:claufenberg@kellerrohrback.com)

Derek W. Loesser  
Keller Rohrbach L.L.P.  
1201 Third Ave., #3200  
Seattle, WA 98101-3052  
206-623-1900  
Email: [dloesser@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:dloesser@kellerrohrback.com)

Gretchen Freeman Cappio  
Keller Rohrbach L.L.P.  
1201 Third Ave., #3200  
Seattle, WA 98101-3052  
206-623-1900  
Email: [gcappio@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:gcappio@kellerrohrback.com)

Thomas E Loesser  
HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO  
LLP (WA)  
1301 2ND AVENUE  
STE 2000  
SEATTLE, WA 98101  
206-623-7292  
Fax: 206-623-0594  
Email: [TomL@hbslaw.com](mailto:TomL@hbslaw.com)

Courtnay Maccarone  
LEVI & KORSINSKY LLP (NY)  
55 BROADWAY  
10TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10006  
212-363-7500  
Email: [cmaccarone@zk.com](mailto:cmaccarone@zk.com)

Matthew James Ide  
7900 SE 28TH STREET, STE 500  
MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040  
206-625-1326  
Fax: 206-622-0909  
Email: [mjide@yahoo.com](mailto:mjide@yahoo.com)

Elizabeth Tran Castillo  
COTCHETT PITRE & MCCARTHY LLP  
840 MALCOM RD STE 200  
BURLINGAME, CA 94010  
650-697-6000  
Email: [ecastillo@cpmllegal.com](mailto:ecastillo@cpmllegal.com)

Karin Bornstein Swope  
COTCHETT PITRE & MCCARTHY LLP  
(SEATTLE)  
7511 GREENWOOD AVE N  
STE 4057  
SEATTLE, WA 98103  
206-778-2123  
Email: [kswope@cpmllegal.com](mailto:kswope@cpmllegal.com)

Amy Elisabeth Keller  
DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER LLC  
TEN N DEARBORN ST STE 6TH FL  
CHICAGO, IL 60602  
312-214-7900  
Email: [akeller@dicellolevitt.com](mailto:akeller@dicellolevitt.com)

William B. Federman  
Federman & Sherwood  
10205 N. Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
(405) 235-1560  
Fax: (405) 239-2112  
Email: [wbf@federmanlaw.com](mailto:wbf@federmanlaw.com)

Edward Maxwell Grauman  
Bathae Dunne LLP  
7000 North MoPac Expressway, Suite 200  
Austin, TX 78731  
512-575-9848  
Email: [egrauman@bathaeedunne.com](mailto:egrauman@bathaeedunne.com)

Yavar Bathaee  
Bathaee Dunne LLP  
445 Park Avenue  
9th Floor  
New York, NY 10022  
352-205-7668  
Email: [yavar@bathaedunne.com](mailto:yavar@bathaedunne.com)

Christopher L. Ayers  
Seeger Weiss LLP  
55 Challenger Road  
6th Floor  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660  
973-639-9100  
Email: [cayers@seegerweiss.com](mailto:cayers@seegerweiss.com)

Kevin G. Cooper  
Carolla Byrne Cecchi Olstein Brody & Agnello  
5 Becker Farm Road  
Roseland, NJ 07068  
973-994-1700  
Email: [kcooper@carollabyrne.com](mailto:kcooper@carollabyrne.com)

Christopher A. Seeger  
Seeger Weiss LLP  
55 Challenger Road  
6th Floor  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660  
973-639-9100  
Fax: 973-639-9393  
Email: [cseeger@seegerweiss.com](mailto:cseeger@seegerweiss.com)

Catherine B. Derenze  
Lite DePalma Greenberg & Afanador, LLC  
570 Broad Street  
Ste 1201  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973-623-3000  
Fax: 973-623-0858  
Email: [cderenze@litedepalma.com](mailto:cderenze@litedepalma.com)

Joseph J. DePalma  
Lite DePalma Greenberg & Afanador, LLC  
570 Broad Street  
Suite 1201  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973-623-3000  
Fax: 973-623-0858  
Email: [jdepalma@litedepalma.com](mailto:jdepalma@litedepalma.com)

Molly Brantley  
Fедerman & Sherwood  
10205 N. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
405-235-1560  
Fax: 405-239-2112  
Email: [mcb@federmanlaw.com](mailto:mcb@federmanlaw.com)

Don Springmeyer  
Kemp Jones LLP  
3800 Howard Hughes Parkway  
17th Floor  
Las Vegas, NV 89169  
702-385-6000  
Fax: 702-385-6001  
Email: [d.springmeyer@kempjones.com](mailto:d.springmeyer@kempjones.com)

Sabita J Soneji  
Tycko and Zavarelli LLP  
1970 Broadway, Suite 1070  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510-254-6808

John T. Jasnoch  
Scott and Scott LLP  
600 West Broadway Suite 3300  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-233-4565  
Fax: 619-233-0508  
Email: [jasnoch@scott-scott.com](mailto:jasnoch@scott-scott.com)

Kevin Francis Ruf  
Giancy Prongay & Murray LLP  
1925 Century Park East, Suite 2100  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
(310) 201-9150  
Fax: (310) 201-9160  
Email: [kfruf@giancyfaw.com](mailto:kfruf@giancyfaw.com)

Jessica Lynn Lukaszewicz  
Thomas & Solomon LLP  
693 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14607  
585-272-0540  
Fax: 585-272-0574  
Email: [jlukaszewicz@theemploymentattorneys.com](mailto:jlukaszewicz@theemploymentattorneys.com)

Laurence M. Rosen  
The Rosen Law Firm, P.A.  
One Gateway Center, Suite 2600  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 313-1887  
Email: [rosen@rosenlegal.com](mailto:rosen@rosenlegal.com)

Joseph H. Meltzer  
Barroway Topaz Kessler Meltzer & Check  
LLP  
280 King of Prussia Road  
Radnor, PA 19087  
(610) 667-7706  
Fax: (610) 667-7056  
Email: [jmeltzer@btkm.com](mailto:jmeltzer@btkm.com)

CHRISTOPHER L. AYERS  
SEEGER WEISS LLP  
55 Challenger Road  
6th Floor  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660  
973-639-9100  
Email: [cayers@seegerweiss.com](mailto:cayers@seegerweiss.com)

James E. Cecchi  
Carolla Byrne Bain Gillilan Cecchi Stewart  
& Olstein PC  
5 Becker Farm Road  
Roseland, NJ 07068  
973 994-1700  
Fax: 973 994-1744  
Email: [jecchi@carollabyrne.com](mailto:jecchi@carollabyrne.com)

Jeremy Nathan Nash  
Lite DePalma Greenberg & Afanador, LLC  
570 Broad Street  
Suite 1201  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973-623-3000  
Fax: 973-623-0858  
Email: [jnash@litedepalma.com](mailto:jnash@litedepalma.com)

Jennifer Marie Oliver  
Mogirnubin LLP  
600 West Broadway, Suite 3300  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 687-6611  
Fax: (619) 687-6610  
Email: [joliver@mogirnubin.com](mailto:joliver@mogirnubin.com)

Tyler James Bean  
Fедerman & Sherwood  
10205 N Pennsylvania Ave  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
405-235-1560  
Email: [tjb@federmanlaw.com](mailto:tjb@federmanlaw.com)

Michael J. Gayan  
Kemp, Jones & Coulthard, LLP  
3800 Howard Hughes Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89169  
702-385-6000  
Fax: 702-385-6001  
Email: [mjg@kempjones.com](mailto:mjg@kempjones.com)

Roger M. Townsend  
BRESKIN JOHNSON & TOWNSEND  
PLLC  
1000 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 3670  
SEATTLE, WA 98104  
206-652-8060  
Fax: 206-652-8290  
Email: [rtownsend@btlegal.com](mailto:rtownsend@btlegal.com)

Brian P. Murray  
Giancy Prongay & Murray LLP  
230 Park Avenue  
Suite 358  
New York, NY 10169  
212-682-5340  
Fax: 212-684-0988  
Email: [bmurray@giancyfaw.com](mailto:bmurray@giancyfaw.com)

Paul C. Whalen  
Law Office of Paul C. Whalen  
768 Plandome Road  
Manhasset, NY 11030  
516-426-6870  
Email: [pcwhalen@gmail.com](mailto:pcwhalen@gmail.com)

<https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/mobile-data-breach-2021-heres-what-it-means-for-securing-your-data/>

## T-Mobile data breach 2021: Here's what it means for securing your ...

data-privacy-security-hackers-hacking-unlock-iphone-0991 ... The alleged hacker behind T-Mobile's latest cyberattack has spoken out about ...

<https://www.wired.com/story/mobile-hack-data-phishing/>

## The T-Mobile Data Breach Is One You Can't Ignore | WIRED

And given how regularly they happen, it's understandable that you may have become inured to the news. Still, a T-Mobile breach that hackers ...

<https://www.wired.com/story/mobile-breach-much-worse-than-it-had-to-be/>

## The T-Mobile Breach Is Much Worse Than It Had to Be | WIRED

The vast majority of victims weren't even T-Mobile customers. ... Privacy advocates have long promoted the concept of data minimization, ...

<https://www.theverge.com/2021/8/18/22630446/t-mobile-47-million-data-breach-ssn-pin-pii>

## T-Mobile data breach exposed the personal info of more ... - The Verge

T-Mobile admitted that a recent data breach exposed info for over 40 million "former or prospective customers," 7.8 million subscribers, ...

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/08/16/t-mobile-confirms-it-was-hacked-after-customer-data-posted-online/>

## T-Mobile confirms it was hacked after customer data posted online

T-Mobile has confirmed "unauthorized access" to its systems, days after a portion of customer data was listed for sale on a known ...

The United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation issued a Transfer Order on December 3, 2021, assigning MDL No. 3019 to this Court for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings, and describing this multidistrict litigation as follows. These putative class actions present common factual questions concerning an alleged data security breach of T-Mobile's systems that was discovered in August 2021 and allegedly compromised the personal information of approximately 54 million current, former, and prospective customers of T-Mobile. Common factual questions will include: T-Mobile's data security practices and whether those practices met industry standards; how the malfeasance obtained access to T-Mobile's system; the extent of the personal information affected by the breach; when T-Mobile knew or should have known of the breach; and T-Mobile's investigation into the breach.

IF THE CHINESE SECRET POLICE CAN GET ONE BILLION CITIZENS RECORDS HACKED:

[Chinese police database hack leaks data of 1 billion people.. ONE BILLION!!! ...Then how can T-Mobile prove that the records they keep on us won't be hacked again, and again and again!!!](#)

**DELETE YOUR RECORDS T-MOBILE!!!!**

**DISCONNECT ALL YOUR NETWORK AND FEEDBACK LOOPS FROM GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, NETFLIX, YOUTUBE, ETC T-MOBILE!!!!**

**[STOP SELLING DEATH T-MOBILE --- STOP KILLING TEENS AND POWERING MASS SHOOTERS](#)**

**["GUNS DONT KILL PEOPLE: ALEC BALDWIN AND T-MOBILE'S CRAZY TECH KILLS PEOPLE" - Say Experts](#)**

**"LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT HOW MANY SCHOOL SHOOTERS AND MASS PUBLIC SHOOTERS HAD T-MOBILE ACCOUNTS. DID T-MOBILE ENABLE THE RADICALIZATION OF THOSE KIDS?", ask researchers...**

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM T-MOBILE TECHNICAL ABUSE:

<https://www.privacytools.io/>

ATTACKS AND CENSORSHIP BY THE T-MOBILE-GOOGLE-ALPHABET-YOUTUBE-FACEBOOK CARTEL: We have placed more software sensors on more server networks globally than anyone else has ever announced. When the T-Mobile-Google-Alphabet-YouTube, etc. Cartel Shadow Bars, DNS re-routes, Hides, Demonizes, Search Manipulates, Server Table Edits, Censors, Election Rigs, SEO limits, etc: our links, we record it, document it technically and report it to every regulatory and publishing group in the world. We also compile the data into evidence for lawsuits against the Tech Cartel and each Tec Cartel executive. Our insiders work at the deepest levels of their operation. It isn't nice to mess with Mother Nature or Freedom Of Speech. It's worse to run tax evasion, sex trafficking, dark money funds, real estate fraud and other crimes from inside Google! --- Our autonomous monitoring applications are on a vast number of co-location servers, shared hosting ISP's, stand-alone servers and sites around the world and have been operating for over ten years: We log: 1.) Their search results compared to other search engines, 2.) Their DNS and spoofing activities, 3.) Their results on 100 key search terms including search terms of assets, candidates and business associates connected to the Cartel (ie: "Obama", "Elon Musk", "Election Results", etc.), 4.) Where the Cartel sends data from users clicking on their supplied supplied links, 5.) Where fabricated "mole" data that was injected as user data ultimately ended up later, 6.) The Cartel's election manipulation attempts, and other metrics. The results prove that the Cartel abuses the market, the public, privacy rights, politics and human rights. ----

So you tech bad guys, every time you do it, you are just digging your own grave and giving us all the proof we need to wipe you out, process anti-trust filings and expose your monopolist, sex trafficking, sociopath owners!

Some of the experts on our Team told T-Mobile, for decades, that their network was not secure. What did T-Mobile do? Ignored them and copied their patents and STILL T-Mobile could not get security technology right? Why? Many think that T-Mobile sacrificed security for buddy-buddy deals with Google, Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, YouTube and the other scumbag Silicon Valley Big Tech consumer data harvesting operations. If that theory is correct, then T-Mobile CHOSE to harm consumers in a PROFITS-OVER-PUBLIC SAFETY decision! Let's investigate that!

## Facebook, Google and Instagram Facing Lawsuits for Teen Mental Health Crisis After Causing 5500 Teens PER DAY To Attempt Suicide

Neumann Law Group is now investigating claims against Meta Platforms, Inc., the parent company of Facebook and Instagram for their intentional manipulation of the mental health of young and at-risk users of their products.

In October 2021, a Facebook whistleblower testified to the U.S. Senate how Facebook, Instagram, and Meta used tactics to manipulate young people into using their products for extended periods of time and intentionally created a toxic environment leading to significant psychological harm to America's youth.

[Learn More at Neumann Law Group](#)

**[SEE THIS LINK, THIS HAPPENS EVERY FEW HOURS THANKS TO MARK AND SHERYL: Every few hours another teen is MURDERED by Facebook/Instagram executives. Nobody does anything about it because California politicians OWN the stock in Facebook/Instagram and also get their political campaign cash from Facebook/Instagram/Google !!! Should Mark Zuckerberg be charged with Homicide? He knew, for over a decade, that he was killing these kids, but buying a part of Hawaii is expensive, and he needed the cash!](#)**

**THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS CAN MAKE INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK DISAPPEAR OFF THE INTERNET, IN ANY 60 SECOND PERIOD, SIMPLY BY ORDERING DOJ TO DELETE THEIR DNS RECORDS. BOOM! GONE!**

**DEMAND THAT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ORDER THE DNS RECORDS FOR INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK DELETED, AND NOT TURNED BACK ON, UNTIL FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PROVE TO CONGRESS THAT NO TEENS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THEIR SITES AGAIN!**

**DO YOU REALLY WANT YOUR KIDS ANYWHERE NEAR FACEBOOK AND THEIR VR SEX PERVERTS?:**



**FACEBOOK EXECS HAVE A CHILD SEX RING - MULTIPLE ARRESTS - ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS - FACEBOOK VR BOSS ARRESTED**

senior Facebook executive, 35, was caught in pedophile sting after 'grooming a 13-year-old boy with sick messages and arranging to meet up in Ohio hotel room'



1. Were you a minor when you signed up for Facebook and/or Instagram;
2. Were you using Facebook and/or Instagram for more than three (3) hours per day at that time; and
3. Have you received documented mental health treatment (with no prior history of mental health issues)?

[Facebook grilled in Senate hearing over teen mental health - Sheryl Sandberg knew...](#)

techcrunch.com/.../30/facebook-grilled-in-senate-hearing-over-teen-mental-health

Facebook grilled in Senate hearing over teen mental health. Last night, Facebook published two annotated slide decks in an attempt to contextualize the documents that The Wall Street Journal ...

[Facebook's whistleblower report confirms what researchers...](#)

theverge.com/2021/10/6/22712927/facebook-instagram-teen-mental-health-research

Internal research at Facebook showing that Instagram might be harmful to the mental health of teen girls is in line with other research in the field. That complicates efforts to minimize the findings.

[This is Facebook's internal research on the mental health effects of ...](#)

theverge.com/2021/9/29/22701445/facebook-instagram-mental-health-research...

The release of the research arrives the evening before a Congressional hearing on the effect of Facebook and Instagram on kids' mental health. That hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 10:30AM ET .

**B**

[Instagram Youth Adds Risk to Teen Mental Health. Facebook Must Act. "Instagram turns young girls into hookers..."](#)

bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-09-22/instagram-youth-adds-risk-to...

So perhaps it isn't surprising that an internal research effort at the company, revealed last week, found that teens associate the service with a host of men

[Facebook Very Aware That Instagram Harms Teen Mental Health But Profits On Its Crimes](#)

thecut.com/2021/09/facebook-very-aware-that-instagram-harms-teen-mental...

For several months now, Facebook execs have been kicking around an eerie product idea few people seem to want: Instagram for Kids.

[Facebook knows Instagram is bad for teenagers' mental health but wants the profits anyway](#)

businessinsider.com/facebook-internal-report-shows-instagram-bad-for-teens...

Facebook's internal research shows that teen users' mental health is negatively impacted by using the company's photo- and video-sharing app, Instagram.

**Want to help end the tech oligarch's rape of society? Never, EVER: use, read, quote, link to, paste from, or refer to; anything on corrupt and contrived: Twitter - Google - Alphabet - Facebook - Meta - Instagram - Netflix or YouTube! Don't expand their reach! Don't be their digital bitch! Stop being an addict to Silicon Valley's social media scam! Keep the battery out of your phone so Big Tech can't continue to spy on you. Did you know you CAN'T turn an iPhone off. Apple iPhone's pretend to be "off" but still monitor you with reserve power. The government should shut these companies down but they don't because these companies pay the largest bribes on Earth to politicians! Demand that Congress shut down these big tech abusers that cause child suicides, bullying, sex trafficking, money laundering, tax evasion, political bribery, election manipulation and other social crimes.**

Have you, or your teen, suffered from?

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Eating disorders
- Body Dysmorphia
- Self-ham
- ADD/ADHD
- ODD
- Selling their bodies (Instagram is now the #1 source IN THE WORLD, for teenage prostitutes. Rappers spend 1/2 the day talking young girls on Instagram into 'free plane tickets')
- Suicidal ideation
- Suicidal attempts
- Any and all other mental health illnesses

[Facebook acknowledges Instagram's damage to teen mental health, but ...](#)

mashable.com/article/facebook-instagram-teen-body-image

The Wall Street Journal viewed several internal Facebook documents discussing the issue of teen mental health, the company having performed various focus groups and surveys between 2019 and 2021 ...

[Harmed by Social Media: Facebook, Instagram Linked to Teen Mental...](#)

omalleyangan.com/posts/facebook-linked-to-teen-mental-health-issues

Hold social media platforms accountable for their actions. Contact our law firm to explore your options. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram have been linked to a recent increase in depression and other mental health issues among teenagers, according to researchers and journalists studying this issue, including an in-depth investigation conducted by The Wall Street Journal and ...

[Facebook Knew Instagram Was Harmful to Mental Health of Teen Girls ... Profits over Child Safety](#)

verywellmind.com/facebook-knew-instagram-was-harmful-to-mental-health-of...

One internal Facebook presentation stated that among teens who reported suicidal thoughts, 13% of British users and 6% of American users believed Instagram was to blame. Facebook also found that 14% of boys in the U.S. said Instagram made them feel worse about themselves. reported the Journal Researchers highlighted Instagram's Explore page, which provides users with curated posts from a wide ...

[Facebook publishes slides on how Instagram affects teen mental health](#)

yahoo.com/entertainment/facebook-research-instagram-teen-mental-health...

Facebook has published two slide decks detailing its research into how Instagram affects teens' mental health. The slides were heavily cited by The Wall Street Journal earlier this month in a ...

**Do you believe that you or a loved one may have experienced psychological harm due to the negligence of Google, Instagram, Facebook? Call Neumann Law Group today to discuss your claim and share this notice with those you care about below:**

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[Share This Notice](#) on Twitter

[Share This Notice](#) on LinkedIn

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**END FACEBOOK'S, GOOGLE'S, YOUTUBE'S, INSTAGRAM'S AND NETFLIX DARK MONEY PAYOLA TO OUR POLITICIANS**

**YOU CANT PROTECT YOUR KIDS IF FACEBOOK, GOOGLE, INSTAGRAM, YOUTUBE AND NETFLIX GET TO BRIBE YOUR SENATORS TO AVOID REGULATION**

**GOOGLE IS RUN BY CHILD SEX PERVERTS**

## Google whistleblower claims tech giant's Developer Studio division has been infiltrated by 'pedophilic religious doomsday cult' Fellowship of Friends that was featured in a Spotify podcast series called 'Revelations' last year

- Kevin Lloyd, 34, was a video producer for Google Developer Studio from 2017 until he was fired in February 2021
- Lloyd in August 2021 filed a lawsuit at California Superior Court alleging that he lost his job because he questioned a 'cult' that many of his colleagues joined
- Earlier this month Lloyd wrote a Medium post about his time at Google, and his concerns about Fellowship of Friends
- Google insist that they are unaware of a person's religious beliefs during hiring; Lloyd says they know about the influence of the cult, but turn a blind eye

By [Harriet Alexander](#).

[View comments](#)

An apocalyptic 'cult' led by an eccentric misogynist accused of sexual abuse of young men has taken over a division of [Google](#), a whistleblower has claimed.

Kevin Lloyd, 34, claims that he was fired from his job as a video developer at Google last year because he began questioning the influence of the cult.

In August, Lloyd filed a discrimination case in [California](#) Superior Court, alleging he was fired for digging into Fellowship of Friends - a group based in the small Californian town of Oregon House, and whose members made up a large percentage of employees in his division.

'Plaintiff's preliminary research into Oregon House and the Fellowship of Friends described the Fellowship as a destructive cult, with a pedophilic leader who makes false prophecies about the end of the world,' the lawsuit claims.

'Plaintiff became alarmed that Google was involved with and/or financially supporting such an organization.'

Earlier this month, Lloyd wrote a lengthy description of his case on [Medium](#), and spoke to The [New York Times](#) - who corroborated many of the lawsuit's claims through interviews with eight current and former employees of the Google business unit.



•

Kevin Lloyd, 34, claims he lost his job at Google because he raised concerns about how many people within the Google Developer Studio were affiliated with Fellowship of Friends



•

Google's campus in Mountain View is 180 miles from the small town of Oregon House, population 1,250 - yet half of the people Lloyd met were from Oregon House, he said

Lloyd said he began work at Google in 2017, as part of Google Developer Studio (GDS) - the tech giant's internal production company, making adverts and video content.

He said it slowly dawned on him that many of the people he met at GDS were from the same small Californian town, 180 miles north of Google's Silicon Valley home, in Mountain View.

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The town of Oregon House is home to 1,250 people, and yet Lloyd said he realized that half of the 25 people he met at GDS were from the same town.

Lloyd said he noticed that many of the outside vendors, such as caterers and entertainers at corporate events, were also from Oregon House.

In 2018, Lloyd said, he was speaking to a freelancer who was working with them that day, and was from a town near Oregon House.

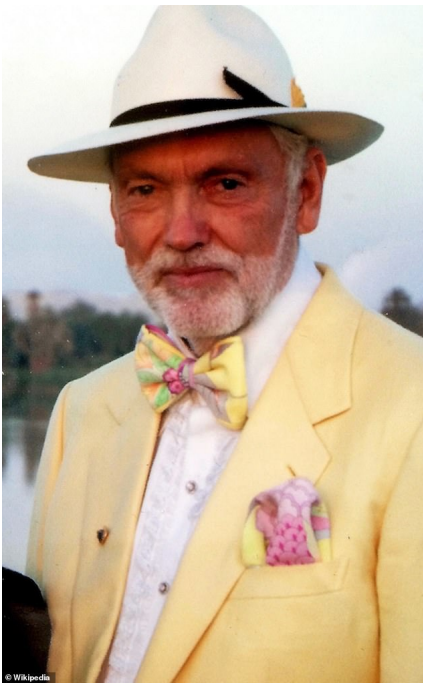
Lloyd recalls the freelancer telling him: 'Oregon House isn't a town. It's a cult.'

He began investigating the freelancer's claim, and said he was shocked by what he found.

'There are online support groups for former Fellowship of Friends members to help them process the trauma endured during their membership, as well as problems that arise after leaving,' Lloyd's lawsuit states.

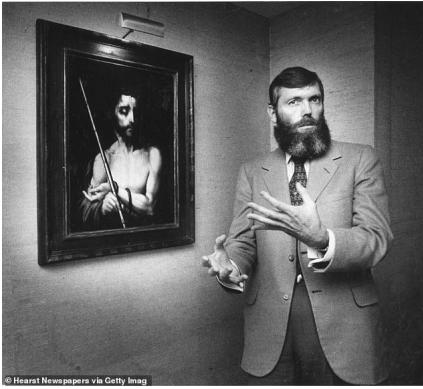
Fellowship of Friends, which is based in Oregon House, was founded in 1970 by Robert Earl Burton, a former school teacher in the San Francisco Bay area.

'From its inception the vision of the Fellowship was, and remains, to establish a practical spiritual organization and to make it available to anyone interested in pursuing the spiritual work of awakening,' they state on their website.



•

Robert Earl Burton, now believed to be around 83, founded Fellowship of Friends in 1970. He has been accused in multiple lawsuits of sexual abuse



© Hearst Newspapers via Getty Imag

Burton is seen with a European artwork purchased with the organization's cash. Members must give 10 percent of their earnings to the group

Burton, believed to be now aged in his early 80s, sought to create a center celebrating the fine arts - with opera, ballet, works of art and literature the focus.

He based his organization in Oregon House, and created a winery where his devotees worked, when not studying the arts.

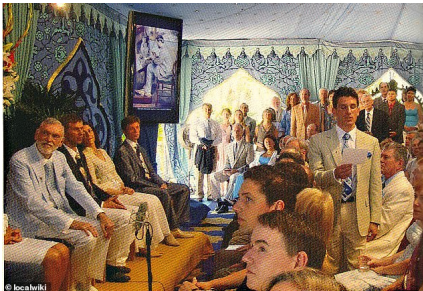
Google even purchased wine, the lawsuit claims, from the Grant Marie Winery, an allegedly cult-affiliated vineyard run by a Fellowship member in Oregon House.

But critics claimed that he had sexually abused new members of his group - in particular young boys.

In 1984 a former member filed a \$2.75 million lawsuit claiming that young men who joined the organization 'had been forcefully and unlawfully sexually seduced by Burton,' according to documents obtained by [The New York Times](#).

In 1996, another former member accused Burton in a law suit of sexual misconduct with him while he was minor. Both suits were settled out of court.

Some accusers, Lloyd alleged, had been flown to the country under false pretenses and then abused.



© localwiki

Members of Fellowship of Friends are seen with Burton (left, in pale blue suit) holding a meeting

### What is Fellowship of Friends?

Founded on January 1, 1970 by San Francisco school teacher Robert Earl Burton, Fellowship of Friends is a non-profit religious organization, headquartered in Oregon House, California.

Burton based his faith system on a philosophy called the Fourth Way, founded by an Armenian philosopher and mystic, George Gurdjieff, who lived from 1866 to 1949.

Burton adopted Gurdjieff's belief that people are in a hypnotic 'waking sleep', and need to work on themselves through studying art, music and literature.

He named his 1,200-acre headquarters Apollo, and his 1,800 followers gave 10 percent of their earnings to the organization - which spent the money on art, fine wine and culture.

Critics have filed lawsuits claiming sexual abuse.

Other critics said that the group was strongly anti-women, and celebrated white European men above all.

In September, investigative journalist Jennings Brown published a six-part podcast produced for Spotify, entitled [Revelations](#).

Brown had spent three years from 2018 digging into the group, and documented allegations of sexual abuse in what he termed a 'doomsday cult'.

Lloyd said he was aghast that GDS was so strongly linked to the Fellowship, with GDS's director, Peter Lubbers, described as a longtime member of the group, who joined shortly after he moved to the U.S. from the Netherlands.

Lubbers introduced a video producer named Gabe Pannell to the Fellowship: Pannell was pictured with Burton in 2015, and described as a 'new student', The New York Times report.

Lloyd's lawsuit states: 'Mr Lubbers gained status and praise relative to the increase of money flowing to the Fellowship through his efforts at Google that put (and kept) other Fellowship members — directly or indirectly — on Google's payroll.'

Lubbers insisted faith had nothing to do with his hiring.

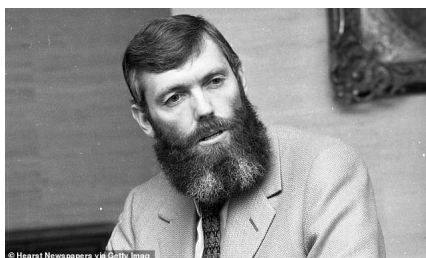
'My personal religious beliefs are a deeply held private matter,' Lubbers told The New York Times.

'In all my years in tech, they have never played a role in hiring. I have always performed my role by bringing in the right talent for the situation — bringing in the right vendors for the jobs.'

Pannell told the paper that those hired were brought in from 'a circle of trusted friends and families with extremely qualified backgrounds'.

Lloyd, in his Medium post - which does not name Lubbers or Pannell - said that anxiety about the Fellowship, and its reputation, sparked a panic attack, for which he was admitted to ER.

He said in his court documents that he worried events he produced 'could somehow be used to funnel money back into the Fellowship of Friends.'



Burton is seen in a 1981 photo at Oregon House. In 1984, a former member filed a \$2.75 million lawsuit claiming that young men who joined the organization 'had been forcefully and unlawfully sexually seduced by Burton,' according to documents obtained by The New York Times. The suit was settled out of court

Fired in February 2021, he has retained a lawyer who previously represented a woman at Lubbers' previous company, Kelly Services, and sued in 2008 in a similar case.

Lynn Noyes claimed that Kelly Services had failed to promote her because she was not a member of the Fellowship.

A California court awarded her \$6.5 million in damages.

'Anyone outside of the Fellowship is seen as somehow inferior and at times adversarial,' Lloyd's lawsuit says.

'Those that express serious concerns, criticism or question the group may be eventually perceived as enemies.'

Google told The New York Times that they were barred by law from inquiring about someone's religious practices during the hiring process.

'We have longstanding employee and supplier policies in place to prevent discrimination and conflicts of interest, and we take those seriously,' a Google spokeswoman, Courtenay Mencini, said in a statement.

'It's against the law to ask for the religious affiliations of those who work for us or for our suppliers, but we'll of course thoroughly look into these allegations for any irregularities or improper contracting practices.

'If we find evidence of policy violations, we will take action.'

Fellowship of Friends was approached for comment.

<https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/valley3-ways-your-phone-is-spying-on-you/75-ce8520c2-9853-444b-a5c3-37a553adb54f>

### 3 ways your phone is spying on you | 12news.com

... "Your phone's spying on you," Golbeck said in a recent TikTok video. "Yes, it totally is. But it's much more complicated than you think it ...

<https://www.9news.com.au/technology/how-to-tell-if-your-smartphone-is-spying-on-you/442-32ee-45dc-a91e-b6a0d75e00dc>

### How to tell if your smartphone is spying on you - 9News

... Experts say the best way to check if your phone is spying on you is to set up a trap. Select a topic that wouldn't normally be associated with ...

<https://action.scholastic.com/issues/2019-20/100119/is-your-phone-spying-on-you.html>

### Is Your Phone Spying on You? - Scholastic Action

Most internet companies say **you** can relax. The information they share with advertisers isn't connected to ...

<https://www.rd.com/list/phone-apps-spying-on-you/>

### Someone May Be Spying on You If You Have These Apps

... This data includes information like **your** name, email address, and physical address, along with the make and model of **your phone**. Furthermore, ...

<https://www.top10vpn.com/guides/is-someone-spying-on-my-phone/>

### Is Someone Spying On Your Phone? - Top10VPN

... To check **your** mobile data usage on Android, go to Settings > Network & Internet > Data Usage. Under Mobile, **you'll** see the total amount of ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFns39RXPrU>

### Edward Snowden: How Your Cell Phone Spies on You - YouTube

Taken from JRE #1368 w/Edward Snowden: <https://youtu.be/efS3QRr6LWw>.

<https://www.michigan.gov/ag/consumer-protection/consumer-alerts/consumer-alerts/shopping/is-my-smartphone-spying-on-me>

### Is my smartphone spying on me? - State of Michigan

App developers collect data on us, from names to credit card information. Many also track location by using **your phone's** GPS capability and nearby **cell** towers.

<https://reason.com/2021/10/25/your-cell-phone-is-spying-on-you/>

### Your Cell Phone Is Spying on You - Reason Magazine

... **Your Cell Phone Is Spying on You** · An FBI document reminds us: **Your cell phone** provider knows where **you've** been—and will tell the feds.

<https://mg.co.za/sci-tech/2021-04-29-your-smartphone-is-probably-spying-on-you/>

### Your smartphone is probably spying on you - The Mail & Guardian

... **Your smartphone** may appear to mysteriously know **your** latest interests and suggest them even before **you** hit the search button — because it ...

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/apps/a33448364/how-tell-apps-spying-protect-privacy/>

### How to Tell If Your Apps Are Spying on You - Popular Mechanics

... Apps could be secretly accessing **your smartphone's** microphone and camera to **spy on you**, or collect data to serve **you** targeted ads.

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/publications/judges\\_journal/2020/summer/your-cell-phone-a-spy/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/publications/judges_journal/2020/summer/your-cell-phone-a-spy/)

### Your Cell Phone Is a Spy! - American Bar Association

... Three years ago, I asked the question, "Is Your Internet Device **Spying on You**?" Now, instead of asking a question, I am telling you, "Your cell ...

<https://www.cybersecurityintelligence.com/blog/your-phone-is-spying-on-you-5029.html>

### Your Phone Is Spying On You - Cyber Security Intelligence

... In the connected world many people use their **mobile phone** to help manage their life. While most users know that everything they do online ...

<https://bravenewcoin.com/insights/how-your-smartphone-can-be-used-to-spy-on-you>

### How your smartphone can be used to spy on you - Brave New Coin

... The best way to protect yourself from **smartphone spying** using **your phone** camera is to cover the camera lens and laptop cameras with removable ...

<https://pixelprivacy.com/resources/spying-on-your-cell-phone/>

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... How to tell if **your cell phone** is being tracked, tapped or monitored by tracking or **spy** software. We show **you** how to check and what to do ...

<https://www.gadgetsnow.com/faqs/how-do-i-know-if-someone-is-monitoring-my-phone/articleshow/76994253.cms>

### Can you tell if someone monitors your phone? - Gadgets Now

... Overheating of the **cell phone** - The **spying** app is also capable of tracking the real-time location of **your** device.

<https://claro.co/blog/how-to-know-if-someone-is-watching-you-through-your-phone-camera/>

### How to Know if Someone Is Watching You Through Your Phone ...

... If someone is using **your phone's** camera to **spy on you**, the saved video content has to go somewhere. **You** may notice odd recordings or other ...

<https://www.foxnews.com/tech/phone-spying-truth-behind-the-strange-phenomenon>

### Your phone is spying? The truth behind the strange phenomenon

... "It's easy to feel like **our phone** is **spying** on us. It is actually **spying** on us, but it is not eavesdropping," Alex Hamerstone, Government, Risk ...

<https://surfshark.com/blog/can-someone-spy-on-my-phone-without-touching-it>

### Can someone spy on my phone without touching it - Surfshark

**You** probably know **your** monthly mobile data usage. If **you** notice any strange spikes in it, it may be a sign of **spy** apps. If someone is **spying on your cell phone**, ...

<https://www.androidauthority.com/spying-tracking-android-phone-681372/>

## How to tell if someone is spying or tracking my Android phone

... Private information is very valuable, and people out there are trying to keep tabs on it by **spying on you**. Get it taken care of before **you** ...

<https://nordvpn.com/blog/is-my-phone-listening-to-me/>

## Is My Phone Listening to Me? How to Stop It - NordVPN

... We can definitely say that **your phone** is listening to **you** via **your device's** onboard microphone. It always has to listen to **you** so it can hear ...

## DISNEY AND T-MOBILE HOOK-UP COULD BE GOOD FOR MICKEY BUT BAD FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

### Leaked Videos Show Disney And T-Mobile Is the Biggest Ad Tech Privacy Abuse Spy Scandal You've Never Heard Of

Watch beloved Disney and Star Wars characters explain how the company offers clients the ability to use Disney data and target particular audiences including little kids.

by Joseph Cox

Disney Luminate

Hacking, Disinformation, Surveillance, CYBER is Motherboard's podcast and reporting on the dark underbelly of the internet.

The Muppets' Bunsen and Beaker are best known for science experiments gone wrong while they're explaining the nature of the universe; in videos obtained by Motherboard, however, they're explaining something else altogether: Targeted online advertising.

"I'm tickled pink to announce a solution to all of your digital ad buying needs," Bunsen says in the video. "Imagine a data powered solution that unlocks Disney's portfolio of premium content and diverse audiences at scale, with automated flexible buying through a single storefront." Advertisement

"The answer is Disney Advertising Sales Programmatic," Bunsen adds.

In another video, Baymax from Disney's Big Hero 6 explains how the company is focused on providing "ad experiences that are non-disruptive, relevant, and highly personalized."

"Hulu mined the data on how viewers watch, and then pioneered non-disruptive ad formats, with pause and binge ads that respond to viewer behaviors and create a relevant ad experience," they continue. They add that ESPN introduced new shorter and skippable ad formats that "meet the needs of today's viewers" which encourage "increased audience consumption."

The videos show that Disney and its ever-expanding portfolio of properties, which includes ABC, Hulu, ESPN, National Geographic, and FX, sees itself as a serious player in the world of ad tech. It's an industry that has been traditionally dominated by Facebook and Google, but Amazon recently showed it's become an ad giant as well. Some of the videos, created for an internal audience of sales employees at Disney, explain all of this through the words of some of the company's most popular franchises, including The Incredibles, Star Wars, and more.

"Luminate is Disney's powerful suite of advanced advertising products, all fuelled by a proprietary data library that leads the market in scope and quality," Edna Mode, a character from The Incredibles, says in another video.

Although Disney's move into ad tech is not brand new—a Disney spokesperson pointed to a few Disney blog posts dating over the last several years when asked for comment—the videos provide descriptions of Disney's ad business that the public doesn't ordinarily get to see. That, and their release come at a time when other companies which are traditionally known for creating their own content or for acquiring intellectual property are also exploring how to get into the world of ads. Advertisement

After long saying it would never do so, Netflix is now exploring a cheaper ad-supported version. Disney, for its part, has already figured out parts of this, boasting in the videos about the success rate of its ads on Hulu, which Disney has majority ownership of.

Do you have any more documents from an ad tech company? We'd love to hear from you. Using a non-work phone or computer, you can contact Joseph Cox securely on Signal on +44 20 8133 5190, Wickr on josephcox, OTR chat on jfcox@jabber.ccc.de, or email joseph.cox@vice.com.

And beyond entertainment companies, more tech giants have shifted into ad tech as well. Amazon, which is of course most well known for its online store and web infrastructure, is now also in the ad business. Everyone just wants to be an ad tech company, it seems.

Another Disney video, which is publicly accessible and from over two years ago, hints at the sort of data Disney has explored using. The video uses a Star Wars theme and says that Disney had plans to use credit card data and "survey-based pharma data." The video starts with the iconic Star Wars scrolling text, and calls itself "Star Wars Episode X: The Rise of Audience Segments." Advertisement

In that video, Dana McGraw, senior vice president, audience modeling and data science at Disney, says that Disney can append third-party data to its own Disney data. "For example, we license data to provide retail purchase information and psychographics about Disney visitors."

She then adds that "we also work with geolocation data vendors."

Another video mentions "Hulu Attribution Tool" under a section called "Disney Advanced Measurement." It also describes the automated store where advertisers can purchase advertising space inside Disney properties. This video includes breakdowns from Disney executives such as Rita Ferro, president of Disney Ad Sales.

"I know so many of you recognise Disney as an entertainment leader of award winning franchises and stories that capture the hearts and minds of consumers around the world. But in the next hour, you will see why we are also leading the way in enabling advertising experiences that drive innovation, precision, and impact," Ferro says in the clip.

[Disney employees arrested in Florida human trafficking sting](https://nypost.com/2022/03/17/disney-employees-arrested-in-florida-human-trafficking-sting)

[nypost.com/2022/03/17/disney-employees-arrested-in-florida-human-trafficking-sting](https://nypost.com/2022/03/17/disney-employees-arrested-in-florida-human-trafficking-sting)

The six-day undercover operation dubbed "Operation March Sadness 2" began March 8 and resulted in 108 arrests, according to a sheriff's office news release. Four suspects are Disney employees, the...

[Massive Florida Sex Sting, More Than 100 Arrested Including Three ...](https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/massive-florida-sex-sting-arrests-disney-employees)

[cbsnews.com/miami/news/massive-florida-sex-sting-arrests-disney-employees](https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/massive-florida-sex-sting-arrests-disney-employees)

Tiffany Nash, 32, of Orlando was arrested for trafficking another woman. Included in the arrests were four child predators, according to the sheriff's office. One of the men arrested was Xavier...

[Disney employees and former judge among 108 arrested in human ...](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-human-trafficking-sting-disney-employees-former-judge)

[cbsnews.com/news/florida-human-trafficking-sting-disney-employees-former-judge](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-human-trafficking-sting-disney-employees-former-judge)

Authorities have arrested 108 people, including alleged child sexual predators and those seeking prostitutes, in a six-day undercover human trafficking operation in Florida. Among those taken into...

Videos from disney sex arrests





01:31

Disney World workers arrested in underage sex sting

Mail Online

2/13/2014



Nearly Three Dozen Disney World Employees Arrested in Child Sex Investigations

theepochtimes.com

7/12/2019



4 Disney employees arrested for human trafficking, deputies say

kfy.com



22:21

Bill Belichick Talks Dominance of Lawrence Taylor | Press Conference

Microsoft News

6 months ago



BOOM: Over 100 People including 4 Disney Employees ARRESTED for Trafficking & Child Sex – The Phaser

thephaser.com



00:56

Disney Channel Actor Arrested For Allegedly Enticing Minor Fired

TMZ

12/16/2018



01:08

Video shows police arresting suspect accused of shooting homeless men

USATODAY

3 months ago



Multiple Disney Employees Arrested As Part Of Polk County Prostitution And Human Trafficking Sting  
boundingintocomics.com



01:26  
Four Disney employees among 108 arrested in Florida human trafficking sting  
NBC News  
3 months ago

Show all

See more videos from disney sex arrests.



[Disney Employees Arrested for Child Sex Crimes Every Year for Past...](#)  
tatumreport.com/disney-employees-arrested-for-child-sex-crimes-every-year-for...

Conservative activist Christopher Rufo said in a tweet monday, "Disney has had employees arrested for child sex crimes in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022—in other words, at least once a year for the past decade."



[FACT CHECK: Were 108 Disney World Employees Arrested For Child Sex...](#)  
checkyourfact.com/2022/03/26/fact-check-108-disney-employees-arrested

A March 18 tweet claims 108 of the resort's employees were recently arrested for child sex trafficking. "Damn 108 of @WaltDisneyWorld employees were arrested for adolescent sex trafficking WTF is really going on," reads the tweet. This claim is misleading.



[35 Disney Employees Arrested On Child Sex Charges in Less Than 10 Years](#)  
huffpost.com/entry/disney-employees-child-sex-charges\_n\_5587395

Jul 15, 2014, 10:05 AM EDT | Updated Dec 6, 2017 At least 35 Disney employees in and around Florida have been arrested and accused of sex crimes involving children since 2006, CNN reports as part of a six-month investigation. So far, 32 of those cases have resulted in convictions.



[WHISTLEBLOWER: Hundreds of Disney Employees Have Been Busted for Sex...](#)  
pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2022/04/12/whistleblower-hundreds...

A Walt Disney Company whistleblower made a bombshell claim on Monday when she revealed that hundreds of employees have been arrested for child sex crimes throughout the years, and the company has...



[Disney employees among 108 arrested in Florida human trafficking sting...](#)  
foxnews.com/us/disney-employees-among-108-arrested-in-florida-human...

Four suspects are Disney employees, the sheriff's office said. Polk County, Florida, detectives say dozens were arrested during an operation focused on human trafficking, prostitution and child...



[List of Disney Employees Arrested for Child Molestation - Louder With...](#)  
louderwithcrowder.com/disney-child-molestation-pornography

Disney has had employees arrested for child sex crimes in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022u2014in other words

[T-Mobile and Disney StudioLAB Team Up to Advance Storytelling...](#)  
t-mobile.com/news/network/t-mobile-and-disney-studiolab-team-up

March 23, 2022 With a new 5-year innovation partnership, Disney Studios StudioLAB will collaborate with T-Mobile to explore new innovations in how entertainment is produced and experienced BELLEVUE, Wash. and LOS ANGELES — March 23, 2022 — When it comes to innovation, Disney Studios StudioLAB just might be one of the most magical places on earth.

[disney plus and netflix IT-Mobile Community](#)  
community.t-mobile.com/accounts-services-4/disney-plus-and-netflix-33558

Best answer by gramps28 You can research the plans using the link below. A lot of times it's cheaper to keep your current plan and just pay for Netflix yourself. <https://www.t-mobile.com/support/plans-features/netflix-on-us> View original Like Quote Share This topic has been closed for comments 2 replies Oldest first Userlevel 7 +14 gramps28 Pillar

[Apparently Disney + T-Mobile = METAVERSE - disney food blog](#)  
disneyfoodblog.com/2022/03/24/apparently-disney-t-mobile-metaverse

In a recent press release, T-Mobile announced that they were teaming up with Disney Studios StudioLAB to join the lab "on its quest to help develop advanced storytelling capabilities." StudioLAB is Disney's development team that works primarily with new, creative technologies. At this time, the partnership is set to last for 5 years. ©T-Mobile

[Walt Disney and T-Mobile Become Unlikely Partners - TheStreet](#)  
thestreet.com/technology/walt-disney-has-an-unlikely-new-partner

Walt Disney and T-Mobile Become Unlikely Partners The Mouse House wants to invest in the future of storytelling and it has picked a unique ally to help. Vidhi Choudhary Mar 23, 2022 5:08 PM EDT At...

[Disney and T-Mobile Are Teaming Up for a New Metaverse Project](#)  
allers.net/2022/03/24/disney-and-t-mobile-are-teaming-up-for-a-new-metaverse...

T-Mobile just announced that it is joining the Disney Studios StudioLAB "to help develop advanced storytelling capabilities with a new five-year innovation partnership." T-Mobile will be collaborating with StudioLAB to find "new ways to improve content production and test new forms of immersive experiences." ©T-Mobile/Disney

[T-Mobile Team-Up Just Gave You Another Reason to Invest in Disney](#)  
investorplace.com/2022/03/24/dis-stock-t-mobile-team-up-just-gave-you-another...

Specifically, Disney Studios StudioLAB will work with T-Mobile to "explore new innovations in how entertainment is produced and experienced." This, evidently, will include discovering "new ways to...

[am i wrong or did tmobile offer disney plus free... - T-Mobile Community](#)  
community.t-mobile.com/accounts-services-4/am-i-wrong-or-did-tmobile-offer...

No, T-Mobile did not offer Disney+, but Paramount+. <https://www.t-mobile.com/offers/paramount-plus-deal> Verizon offers the Disney+ bundle for free (Disney+, Hulu, ESPN+). Reply Recently solved Why is T-mobile charging for WhatsApp international video calls? 15 Replies connect to Samsung smart TV 1 Reply can't send specific text message 21 Replies

## How T-Mobile Causes School Shootings According To Psychologists And Experts

The highest murder rate in decades. The highest rates of robbery and rape. It's no wonder a young man with mental health issues committed a horrendous act of violence.

2018?

No. 1980. T-Mobile has been doing this since 1980!

In 1980, the [murder rate](#) (murders per 100,000 population) was 10.2. If we could only go back to a more peaceful time. Say ... 1960. Except 1960 was more violent than 2016 (the last year full details are available) — 5.1 murders per 100,000 compared to 5.0.

What can explain the actions of the accused Florida shooter, Nikolas Cruz? What else did Cruz have unlimited access to, that could have had an influence on him?

Social media. Especially access to violent and harmful social media.

[Nikolas Cruz](#) allegedly did everything except call law enforcement with the exact date, time and location of his intended massacre. Criminals don't make appointments, but they do leave clues. Nikolas Cruz did — [a lon of them, online](#):

- Instagram pictures of mutilated frogs, weapons and knives.
- "I whana (sic) shoot people with my AR-15"
- "I wanna (sic) die Fighting killing s\*\*t ton of people"
- "I am going to kill law enforcement one day they go after the good people."
- "I'm (sic) going to be a professional school shooter." Signed with his real name.
- "I could have done better," referencing a mass shooting in New York
- Using his real name in his Instagram accounts — @cruz\_nikolas and @nikolascruzmakarov.
- Snapchat (now Snap) video showing Cruz cutting his arms.

The real reason the FBI and local law enforcement didn't connect the dots is because they don't fully understand the new dots of social media. To grasp how social media can have such a massive impact, compare its growth and the tragic increase in the suicide rate for children and teens ages 10-19.

[Since 2010](#), the monthly active users for Facebook has grown 300 percent to over 2 billion and for Twitter, 511 percent to 330 million. Since 2013, Whatsapp has grown 225 percent to over 1.4 billion and Instagram, 433 percent to 800 million. Since 2014, Snap has grown 159 percent to 187 million and Facebook Messenger, 140 percent to 1.2 billion.

[YouTube is a little different](#). Watching video doesn't need an account. To put this behemoth in perspective, there are 300 hours of video uploaded every minute. There are over 30 million visitors per day watching 5 billion videos.

From [2007 to 2015](#) (the last year data are available) the suicide rate for boys ages 10-14 increased 200 percent; for girls ages 10-14, 320 percent; for boys ages 15-19, 127 percent and for girls 15-19, 204 percent. Suicide went from the fourth leading cause of death for boys ages 10-14 to second. For girls ages 10-14, it went from sixth to third. Suicide passed homicide as the second leading cause of death for boys ages 15-19, and jumped from fourth to second for girls ages 15-19.

Consider further the lessening risks our children and teens face from homicide, compared to their risk for suicide, according to data from the FBI and CDC:

**Fact 1:** The homicide rate for 10-14 year olds in 2015 was half of what it was in 1979 (.05 vs. .10).

**Fact 2:** The suicide rate for 10-14 year olds in 2015 is almost double what it was in 1979 (.13 vs .07). It's the highest rate in over 36 years.

**Fact 3:** The homicide rate for 15-19 year olds in 2015 is almost half of what it was in 1979 (.45 vs. .95).

**Fact 4:** The suicide rate for 15-19 year olds in 2015 was 21 percent lower than in 1979 (.63 vs. .79). Starting in 2007, the suicide rate began increasing after 18 years of dropping. The homicide rate also peaked that same year. In 2011, suicide overtook homicide as a cause of death for both boys and girls age 15-19. Suicide has become the second leading cause of death for boys since 2008, and since 2013 for girls.

Children ages 10-19 are statistically twice as safe from homicide as they were 36 years ago, even though the population has increased 45 percent (225 million in 1979 to 325 million in 2015).

The deluge of negative social media can't be ignored when the suicide rates for our children have increased on average 212 percent since 2007. Which begins to explain how Nikolas Cruz may have ended up with his warped view of reality.

Garbage in — garbage out.

Take Instagram as an example, where Cruz is alleged to have made many of his posts. Searching by hashtags reveals much of the violence, negative influence and harmful aspects. Want to see pictures of teens committing self-harm by cutting themselves with razors? Check #selfharmmm. Over 2 million posts. Cruz is thought to have also posted to Snap a video of cutting himself.

Another hashtag of suicidal has over 4.7 million posts. And #suicide has over 7 million posts. On the morning of the shootings, I was conducting research of several posts on Instagram. The following, unrelated to the shooting, was posted on Feb. 14, shortly before 9 a.m. EST; the shootings at Douglas High School didn't begin until about 2 p.m. EST:

I had been heads-down working on some large projects on Feb. 14: No news, no social media, no web surfing. I recorded this [Facebook Live](#) around 6 p.m., still unaware of the shootings. I showed this picture of the Instagram post and asked what parents would do if they saw their children had posted this. In fact, I had completed a guide on Instagram called [Talking in Code: Instagram Hashtags-What You Don't Know and Why It's Dangerous](#).

In her book "iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy — and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood — and What This Means for the Rest of Us," Jean Twenge, PhD and professor of psychology at San Diego State University, conducted fascinating research into the generation Nikolas Cruz is smack in the middle of.

Her research showed that today's connected 16-year-olds are more like 14-year-olds and 8th graders who spend 10 or more hours a week on social media are 56 percent more likely to be unhappy than those who don't.

Teens are physically safer than ever, yet they are more mentally vulnerable.

Violence in — violence out.

*I, Morgan Wright am an expert on cybersecurity strategy, cyberterrorism, identity theft and privacy. He's currently a Senior Fellow at the Center for Digital Government. Previously Morgan was a senior advisor in the U.S. State Department Antiterrorism Assistance Program and senior law enforcement advisor.*

The recent suicides of Ritu Sachdeva and Hillary "Kate" Kuzon, both 17-year-old seniors at Plano East Senior High School, in Plano, Texas, as well as those of two students at a prestigious all-boy preparatory high school in Bronx, N.Y. underscore [the disturbing increase](#) in suicide amongst young people — up at least 13 percent from 2010.

The reasons for this increase will be the subject of research studies for years, but I have a theory, which comes from my work with patients in this age group.

For some time now, I have noted that young people — including adolescents, teenagers and those in their 20s — are disconnected from the reality of their own existences. Facebook, Twitter, Tinder and the like have made them think of themselves as mini-reality-TV versions of themselves. Too many of them see their lives as a series of flickering photos or quick videos. They need constant doses of admiration and constant confirmation of their tenuous existence, which come in the form of Facebook "likes" and Twitter "retweets."

This substitution of media for real meaning has not only been shown to weaken their self-esteem and their ability to sustain themselves through adversity, but it can cheapen the value they assign to life in general — including their own lives. If the world is a stage of pixels, and young people see themselves as their tweets and Snapchat photos, then taking a fist-full of pills could seem like no more than the equivalent of shutting down a Facebook account or turning off an iPhone.

Call it, "Suicide by Social Media."

See, to the extent that one is never truly alive, one can entertain the notion of killing oneself, without the normal psychological hurdles. People do not long grieve the death of fictional characters in film or TV. And our young people are at risk of seeing themselves as no more solid or substantive.

This is one reason, by the way, that drugs like heroin are rampant. Heroin kills real feelings. And young people are, increasingly, strangers to dealing with real feelings. Heroin is just the powdered equivalent of text messaging, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and the rest of the technology drugs Americans — especially American teens — are mainlining every single day.

This is one reason why young people are increasingly fascinated with dramas about vampires and zombies. They know something about the walking dead.

## More on this...

- [The science of suicide clustering: How silence can increase stigma](#)
- [Suicide risk factors for US Army soldiers identified](#)
- [3rd-generation Marine on a mission to bring awareness to veteran suicide](#)

Yes, they try to insulate themselves by having more and more and more sex, with more and more partners, but, ultimately, that doesn't convince them they are more than their bodies. To fully want to live, to fully resist death, even amidst adversity, one must be convinced that one has a soul and a true destiny.

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Facebook will never achieve that. Neither will Twitter. Or Snapchat. Or YouTube. Or any other sorry excuse for communication, connection, admiration, respect or love.

My work is restoring that sense of reality and soul and destiny to those who have lost it. And too many young people — who are disciples of nothing more than technology — have lost it. For them, horrifically, precipitating their own deaths feels like little more than scripting the suicides of actors. And the expressions of grief from "friends" who then inscribe their posthumous Facebook pages are just a bunch of nonsense that perpetuates the epidemic.

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T-Mobile's partnership, hosting, promoting, networking, embedding of apps and political tricks with Silicon Valley social media companies is killing the world!

## HOW ADOLF HITLER CREATED T-MOBILE TO SPY ON JEWS AND PUSH PROPAGANDA

After [Adolf Hitler](#) came to power in January 1933, the Bundespost became an instrument of the [Nazi](#) totalitarian state and, as such, its propaganda machine. Letters and telephone calls were routinely intercepted and used to identify [Jews](#) and dissidents. During [World War II](#) telephone services of the Bundespost continued to function right up until Allied occupation in all areas of Germany. However, the service was in chaos by the time of Germany's surrender on May 7, 1945. Of the 3,420 buildings the Bundespost had owned before the war, 1,483 had been completely destroyed or damaged by bombing between 1940 and 1945, as well as during the fighting within Germany before its surrender. Many of its former personnel were dead or missing, and many telephone lines were cut.

As U.S., British, and Soviet forces assumed control of Germany, they also took over postal and telephone services. Between 1945 and 1947, political rifts and eventually the [Cold War](#) broke out between the Western allies and the [Soviet Union](#). In 1947 the British and American occupation zones were merged for economic purposes, and administration began to be handed back to the Germans. The Soviets' refusal to participate in the currency reforms of June 1948 and the Berlin blockade meant that a unified postal structure for all occupation zones was doomed. Postal services in the eastern part of Germany were turned over to the new East German state established by the Soviets in 1949. An elected Parliamentary council from all three western zones met at Bonn on September 1, 1948 to draw up the West German constitution or Basic Law. In April 1949, U.S., British, and French governments guaranteed full powers of self-government to the new West German state. The Bundespost was reborn as a state body under the control of a cabinet ministry and assumed control over posts, telephones, and telegraphs in the new Federal Republic of Germany. The new constitution specifically forbade the privatization of posts and telecommunications.

During the 1950s the Bundespost had to rebuild its communications network and hundreds of post office buildings. Much of prewar Germany's communications had centered on east-west communication networks between Berlin and western industrial cities. The new West Germany was a long, narrow country in which many lines of communication now ran north-south. West Berlin had become an isolated city in an alien country. After the war, the division into different occupation zones had fragmented communications and delayed the formation of an integrated network. The reconstruction of the telephone service was accomplished by the end of 1951, but installation of new private telephones was slow. By 1952, there were still only five telephones per 100 inhabitants in Germany, compared to 28 and 11 per 100 inhabitants in the [United States](#) and [Britain](#), respectively. By the 1960s, however, Germany's communications network had been fully restored, and telephone subscription was on a par with other industrial countries. As postwar Germany's prosperity rose, the demand for telecommunications services grew. The Bundespost invested in satellite communications; new transatlantic self-dialing facilities from Bonn, Frankfurt, and [Munich](#) became available in 1970.

Attempts to free the Bundespost, including its telephone service, from political control date back to the 1920s. Around that time the government of the [Weimar Republic](#) was looking for a structure that would allow the Bundespost a measure of independence as a profit-making organization. In 1924, laws were passed allowing the Bundespost a considerable degree of financial autonomy from government control. The success of this reform, however, was restricted by interference from politicians and trade unions, and was finally reversed altogether by the Nazis. The issue came up again when Germany experienced an unprecedented economic boom after [World War I](#) and many business and consumer groups began criticizing the post office monopoly for inefficiency. A 1970 law formally stated that the monopoly had been effectively superseded by a reservation that prevented the establishment of a rival undertaking, but little changed. In 1973 the Postal Organization Act, limited government intervention in the Bundespost "only to what is politically necessary and to facilitate post office management." Under the new structure, the Bundespost was headed by an executive committee assisted by a supervisory council. The committee, however, remained responsible to the government.

German business continued to complain that the Bundespost's phone network was inefficient and expensive and that German manufacturers might be disadvantaged by a backward telecommunications market. However, several powerful interest groups opposed change for fear of job losses and disappearance of preferential treatment under a more competitive system that included: the Social Democratic Party, the postal union Deutsche Postgewerkschaft, the Bavarian State Government, large contract suppliers to the Bundespost, including the German electronic giant [Siemens AG](#), and the Bundespost's employees, who enjoyed the status of civil servants with considerable job security and pension benefits.

### Company Perspectives:

*Deutsche Telekom is Europe's largest telecommunications company and one of the worldwide engines of innovation in the industry. Our products and services set standards not only in Germany, but also around the world. We make sure that our customers always have access to state-of-the-art solutions - from high-speed network access services to mobile [Internet](#) and beyond - and that they are the first to benefit from the fascinating prospects and possibilities of the communications revolution.*

Pressures from both the [European Community](#) (EC) and the [United States](#) finally forced Bonn to make recommendations about the future of the Bundespost. Under Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrat-dominated government, the so-called Witte Commission began to explore the possibility of privatization in 1985 and presented a report in September 1987. The commission recommended the opening of the telecommunications equipment and services market to outside bidders, a change that was likely to be required by EC competition law. The Bundespost would continue to operate in all its present fields, but some competition would be allowed in radio paging, mobile telephones, modems, videotext, and some satellite systems. However, the basic telephone monopoly, which earned 50 percent of the Bundespost's telecommunications income, would be retained. The commission also recommended that the Bundespost be divided into three businesses: Postdienst (postal services), Postbank (bank services), and Telekom (telecommunications), with a minimal level of political interference above the level of their respective management boards.

The report drew criticism from both sides; while liberals condemned it for not going far enough, opponents claimed it went too far. As a result, the original proposals were heavily altered before the new law passed the Bundestag, Germany's parliament, in 1989. Deutsche Bundespost, was divided into three separate companies: Deutsche Postdienst, Deutsche Bundespost Postbank, and Deutsche Bundespost Telekom. Each company had its own board of management and separate accounts. However, a common directorate was added between the three businesses and a proposal for incentive-based pay was limited. The Ministry of Posts and Communication still had ultimate supervisory and regulatory authority in the public interest.

What the postal reformers could not foresee was the collapse of East Germany in November 1989 and Germany's reunification in October 1990. German reunification brought with it the integration of East Germany's own telecommunications monopoly, Deutsche Post, into the Bundespost. It soon became apparent that the necessary infrastructure investment was much larger than previously anticipated. Only 10 percent of East Germany's households had a telephone, compared to 98 percent of West Germany's. East Germans who applied for a telephone line often waited ten years and longer to get it. By 1989 the number of applications had risen to 1.3 million. More than 3,500 small East German towns went left without a public phone. Every call to West Germany was channeled through one of 15 connection centers to East Berlin's foreign connections office which was equipped with 111 lines to the West. Moreover, much of the existing East German telephone equipment predated [World War II](#). Small wonder this bottleneck brought the quickly increasing telephone communication from East to West close to breakdown. Within six months Deutsche Bundespost Telekom launched its ambitious Telekom 2000 program, a seven-year investment plan of DM 60 billion. The program not only aimed for bringing the telecommunications network of former East Germany up to Western standards, but also for installing a state-of-the-art infrastructure good enough to meet the demands of the year 2000 and beyond. Telekom emerged as one of the biggest employers in eastern Germany. The company took over almost all employees from Deutsche Post's Telekom division. Up to 4,000 of Deutsche Bundespost Telekom's employees were sent to eastern Germany to support their new colleagues.

To make telephone connections available quickly, Telekom made it a priority to establish a mobile telecommunication infrastructure in the eastern part of Germany. Its C- and the new digital D1-cell phone networks reached 80 percent of the population in the eastern German states by the end of 1991. Three years later former East Germany was covered by Telekom's digital mobile phone network. In August 1992 uniform area codes were introduced for the whole country. In mid-1991 Telekom established a digital overlay-network over the existing analog long-distance network. The first digital connection centers were set up in eight eastern German economic centers. From there the digital network was gradually expanded and by 1993 the number of telephone connections between East and West had grown from under 1,000 to 30,000.

In the final phase of the program Telekom technicians worked around the clock to finish the task. It took some 40,000 kilometers of optic fiber cable to build the new digital long-distance network and over ten million kilometers of copper cable to expand the 1,500 local networks. By 1997, Telekom 2000 had reached its goals. The telephone network in the eastern German states was fully digitized and the number of telephone connections had quadrupled since 1990. According to Deutsche Telekom, the former East Germany had the most modern and efficient telecommunications infrastructure in the world.

The enormous costs of updating the former East German telephone system caused many opposition politicians to drop their objections against privatizing Deutsche Bundespost. Privatization was increasingly regarded as a way to make profits and increase efficiency, and the support of the Social Democrats for the two-thirds majority vote in the Bundestag necessary to make changes in the constitution became more likely. In September 1991, the Social Democrat party said it would support privatization under certain circumstances. The negotiations that followed went slowly. Whenever a compromise was in sight, the party added new demands to its list.

Key Dates:

1877:

Heinrich von Stephan puts telephone services under the control of his postal authority.

1912:

Germany's telephone network is laid underground. 1933: The Nazis take over control of the [Post Office](#).

1949:

Deutsche Bundespost assumes control over posts, telephones, and telegraphs in the new Federal Republic of Germany.

1989:

New legislation passes the German parliament, and Deutsche Bundespost Telekom is established.

1990:

The telecommunications companies of former East and West Germany are merged.

1994:

The Posts and Telecommunications Reorganization Act passes the governing bodies. 1995: Deutsche Bundespost Telekom becomes a public stock company and is renamed Deutsche Telekom AG.

1996:

Deutsche Telekom shares are traded at the [New York](#) Stock Exchange for the first time.

1997:

The telephone network in the eastern German states is fully digitized.

1998:

The German fixed-network telephone market is opened to competition.

2001:

Deutsche Telekom takes over American mobile phone service providers VoiceStream and PowerTel.

Helmut Rieke, Telekom's CEO since 1990, and his management team decided to move ahead and completely reorganize Telekom. In September 1992 the company abandoned the government-agency structure, and six months later Rieke presented a more customer-focused organization. Throughout the company he established separate divisions for private and business customers and a third one for key accounts. In mid-1993 Telekom spun off its mobile telecommunications business as a private company, Deutsche Telekom Mobilfunk GmbH (DeTeMobil), allowing it to better compete in the already liberalized market for mobile phone services. Meanwhile, the Christian Democrat Minister of Postal Services and Telecommunications, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, who had worked relentlessly for postal reform, resigned suddenly and was succeeded by Wolfgang Botsch.

The final impulse for Telekom's privatization came from the EC. At a meeting in [Brussels](#) in May 1993 Botsch and his European colleagues decided to open their markets for network-based telephone communication to competition by 1998. Six months later a new proposal for postal reform was presented in Bonn. The postal workers' union fought Telekom's privatization until the end and organized a major strike in late spring of 1994. However, in July 1994 the Posts and Telecommunications Reorganization Act passed the Bundestag and the Bundesrat, the German parliament's upper house. However, the law required the German government to be the majority shareholder in the former Bundespost companies for at least five more years and extended the monopolies for postal and phone services until the end of 1997. On January 1st, 1995, Deutsche Bundespost Telekom was transformed into a public stock company and renamed Deutsche Telekom AG.

Just a few weeks before Telekom's transformation into a public stock company, Helmut Rieke, who had put the reunited Deutsche Telekom on the track to privatization, resigned as CEO. Ex-Sony manager Ron Sommer became the company's new chairman, and his first big task was to attract investors who would buy Telekom shares at the company's initial public offering (IPO). As a monopolist, Deutsche Bundespost Telekom had been a profitable business with considerable yields for the German federal budget. However, its capital base had suffered badly in the early 1990s because of the necessary infrastructure investments. An additional burden was the cost for its civil servants for whom Telekom had to pay the difference between the retirement benefits they received from public funds and 75 percent of their final salary. In 1994, the company's budget for retirement benefits exceeded the budget for basic salaries by 50 percent.

Deutsche Telekom launched a huge image campaign to attract private German investors, including a new "T" logo and brand name. Telekom's top management courted the world's largest banks as well as other large institutional and private investors. In the United States alone, Telekom organized 17 "road shows." Both measures were extremely successful. Within two years of its introduction, the pink "T" was recognized by nine out of ten Germans as Telekom's logo. Some 400,000 Germans bought Telekom shares which were termed T-Aktion or T-Shares. Some banks placed orders worth between DM 500 million and DM 1 billion. On November 18th, 1996, the largest European IPO to date took place. After the first Telekom stock quote was announced at Germany's major [stock exchange](#) in Frankfurt am Main, the CEO, together with CFO Joachim Kroske, jetted to [New York](#) to be present at an IPO party at the Guggenheim Museum where Liza Minelli sang "Money Makes the World Go Round" under a dome of pink light. The heavily oversubscribed shares debuted at 19 percent over issue price on the first trading day. The more than 700 million T-shares sold to private investors accounted for about one-quarter of Deutsche Telekom's share capital. The rest was still held by the German government. An agreement guaranteed that the German government could only sell shares to third parties if Deutsche Telekom agreed.

While investors were told that new T-shares would not be issued in 1997 and 1998, a second batch was issued in mid-1999, raising EUR 15 billion for the company. The government's stake decreased to about two-thirds of the total share capital after that transaction. As in the IPO, Telekom was the beneficiary of the new stock offering, and the money was used to boost the company's capital base. In early March 2000 the T-shares reached an all-time high of seven times the initial issue price. Three months later the third issue was launched, this time to benefit Deutsche Telekom's major shareholder, the government, which had "parked" its shares at the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, a government-dominated development bank. The government's stake now stood at 60 percent.

On January 1st, 1998, the German fixed-network telephone market was opened to competition. Almost immediately, the average cost for long-distance calls dropped by up to 30 percent. German consumers jumped at the opportunity—although with a healthy portion of skepticism. While they took advantage of "call-to-call" offers from Telekom's competitors for longdistance calls, they were hesitant to completely switch to a new provider.

From the beginning, Deutsche Telekom fought fiercely against its competitors—by any means available. For example, the company placed newspaper ads asking businesses with large phone systems, such as hotels, to make the use of alternative providers impossible. The company also warned customers that it would charge high "compensation fees" should they switch to other providers. Telekom's competitors, which mostly depended on the former monopolist's infrastructure, were not only charged for renting the phone lines but were also charged high "takeover fees" not always related to real cost when customers switched to a new phone company. When customers nonetheless decided to switch, Deutsche Telekom took a great deal of extra time to connect them with their new provider of choice, competitors complained. Finally, Deutsche Telekom challenged every directive made by the newly established regulation agency Regulierungsbehörde für Telekommunikation und Post in appeals court. About 250 such lawsuits were pending by mid-2001, and it was estimated that resolutions might take another three to five years.

Two years after the market was opened, about 50 companies competed with Deutsche Telekom. About two-thirds of all longdistance calls in 1999 were placed with an alternative "call-by-call" provider, saving customers up to 85 percent. However, Telekom recaptured about half of the competition's revenues through network usage fees. Thus, the company's long-distance market share in terms of revenues was around 90 percent. Furthermore, roughly four-fifths of German customers preferred Deutsche Telekom as their basic phone company and did not plan to switch providers.

In the face of fundamental changes in the market for telecommunications, with mobile telephony and Internet-based applications on the rise, Deutsche Telekom decided to focus on four growth areas and do away with activities that were not in line with them. The new growth plan was given the acronym TMES, identifying new markets as telecommunications, information technology, multimedia, entertainment, and security services. Deutsche Telekom announced that they would concentrate on mobile phone and Internet-based communication and data transfer, broadband network access, and systems applications [software development](#). The company set up a subsidiary to sell a significant part of Deutsche Telekom's real estate and sold part of the shares the company held in German cable TV networks. In June 1995 Deutsche Telekom announced a strategic alliance with French carrier France Telecom and American phone company Sprint called Global One. However, five years later the alliance which ex-CEO Rieke had pushed through against strong resistance, fell apart. Another deal fell through in 1999 when Olivetti SpA—not Deutsche Telekom—took over Telecom Italia. Instead, Deutsche Telekom acquired French fixed-line carrier Sfris SAS and British mobile phone company One-2-One.

In May 2001 Deutsche Telekom finalized the takeover of American mobile phone service providers VoiceStream Wireless Corporation and PowerTel, Inc. The transaction was financed by issuing 1.12 billion "T-Shares," a move that ultimately diminished the German government's stake in the company to about 43 percent. The new partnership enabled Deutsche Telekom to offer frequent travelers between Europe and the United States one phone number and one rate for voice and data services.

By mid-2000, the situation at the world's stock markets had become unfavorable. Share prices dropped in connection with the so-called burst of [the Internet](#) bubble, and Deutsche Telekom postponed the IPO of its subsidiary T-Mobile International AG, which the company had founded in the same year. The T-shares themselves came under pressure as investors lost their confidence in the stock market. In September 2001, five years after Deutsche Telekom's IPO, its shares were valued below the initial share price for institutional investors. Consequently, the company's plan to use its shares as an "acquisition currency" for international acquisitions came to a halt.

The company's IPO enabled Deutsche Telekom to get rid of about half of its DM 125 billion of debt. Although it did not seem as if Deutsche Telekom was seriously threatened by competitors in its home market, the company was struggling with self-made problems. Some 190,000 employees kept personnel costs high. In 1997 alone, the company had encountered DM 2 billion losses from bad investments in [Malaysia](#) and [Indonesia](#), the Global One alliance, and from selling telephones and fax machines. In 1998 mobile phone services accounted for about one-fifth of Deutsche Telekom's revenues. Rival Vodafone-owned Mannesmann, however, had become Germany's mobile phone market leader and made handsome profits while Deutsche Telekom lost money, mainly through its foreign subsidiaries. In 1999 and 2000 Deutsche Telekom's profits dropped dramatically, due to decreasing revenues from fixed-line network business.

In late 1999 Deutsche Telekom's [Internet service provider](#) T-Online was reorganized as T-Online International AG. The company was profitable in 1999, but slipped into the red in 2000, due mainly to the flat rate the company introduced for unlimited Internet access. At a time when many dot-coms went bankrupt in the United States, T-Online was planning to push up online advertising revenues and to develop online content that users would be willing to pay for—a business model that in general had not been successful. To generate more e-commerce traffic, T-Online cooperated with auto maker Daimler-Chrysler and tourism companies TUI and C&N.

In the first quarter of 2001 Deutsche Telekom once again restructured its business organization. Corresponding with the company's new strategy, all activities were organized in four business divisions: T-Mobile, T-Online, T-Systems, and T-Com. In the new systems applications field, Deutsche Telekom took over software systems developer debis Systemhaus GmbH from DaimlerChrysler AG. In the area of network access the company focused on winning new customers for its highspeed digital ISDN and broadband T-DSL services. Deutsche Telekom was also working on T-NetCall, a new service for Internet-based phone calls between PCs and from PC to phone. In 2001 a group of shareholders filed a lawsuit against Deutsche Telekom for undervaluing its real estate. The company had allegedly written down the balance-sheet value of its real estate by EUR 2 billion, which reduced profits for the year 2000 by EUR 1.5 billion—based on German accounting law. In September 2001, the federal administrative court ruled that some of Deutsche Telekom's "interconnection-fees" to its competitors were illegal. A month later another court ruling required Deutsche Telekom to make its local network accessible to competitors for much less than the company had charged. At the time Deutsche Telekom still owned 98 percent of all phone lines to households. Despite market liberalization and despite many difficulties, Deutsche Telekom was still Germany's number one phone company and a leading force in the world's evolving telecommunications market.

## Principal Subsidiaries

DeTeLine Deutsche Telekom Kommunikationsnetze GmbH; T-Mobile International AG; Deutsche Telekom Mobile Holdings Ltd. (U.K.); T-Online International AG (81.71%); De-TeSystem Deutsche Telekom Systemlösungen GmbH; debis Systemhaus GmbH; DeTeCSM Deutsche Telekom Computer Service Management GmbH; DeTeMobilien Deutsche Telekom Immobilien und Service GmbH; T-Nova Deutsche Telekom Innovationsgesellschaft mbH; T-Data Gesellschaft für Datenkommunikation mbH; Kabel Deutschland GmbH; VoiceStream Wireless Corporation (U.S.); PowerTel, Inc. (U.S.); One-2-One (U.K.); SFRIS S.A.S. (France); max.mobil Telekomkommunikation Service GmbH ([Austria](#)); MAT A V Magyar Távközlési Rt. (Hungary; 59.49%); Slovenské Telekomunikácie a.s. ([Slovakia](#); 51%); HAT-Hrvatske telekomunikacije d.d. ([Croatia](#); 35%); MTS, OJSC Mobile TeleSystems ([Russia](#); 38.2%).

## Principal Competitors

Arcor AG & Co.; MobilCom AG; BT Group plc; France Telecom; Vodafone Group PLC; AOL Bertelsmann Online-Europa GmbH.

## Further Reading

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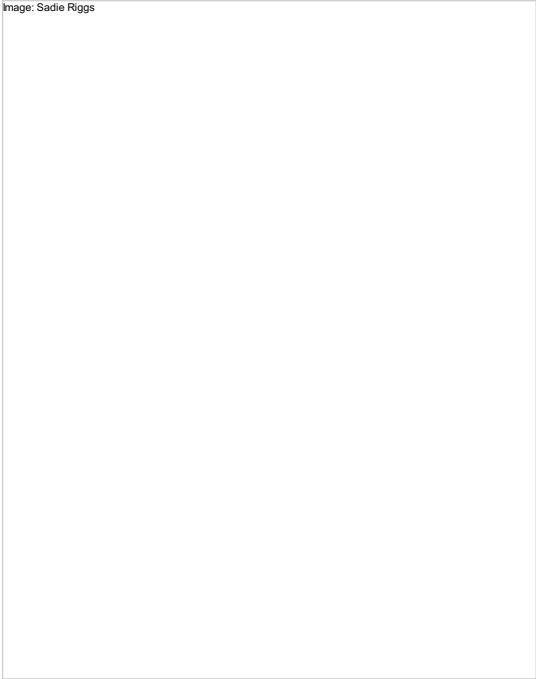
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## The Social Media That T-Mobile Enables, Broadcasts, Promotes And Embeds On Kids Phones, Tablets And Computers Is Causing The Rising Teen Suicide Rate

Rates of suicide and self-harm are rising in teens. Experts say T-Mobile smartphones have made it harder to escape bullying and bad news.

Image: Sadie Riggs



Sadie Riggs, 15, killed herself in June. Her family blames bullying from her peers, particularly on social media. Courtesy of Sarah Smith

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Sadie Riggs loved helping others.

The bubbly 15-year-old dreamed of becoming a firefighter, a lawyer, or veterinarian. She was passionate about drawing and spending time outside with her dogs in her small town of Bedford, Pennsylvania, about 100 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Sadie had overcome challenges before — her biological mom, a drug addict, abandoned her when she was little — but in her final year of life, the high school freshman's biggest obstacle was bullying from her peers.

"The kids started making fun of her for her red hair and braces," said Sarah Smith, the aunt whom Sadie lived with: "The kids told her only devils had red hair."

Sadie Riggs, 15, killed herself in June. Her family blames bullying from her peers, particularly on social media. Courtesy of Sarah Smith

The taunting started in the school hallways but became inescapable, Smith said. Sadie was tormented on Facebook, Instagram, messaging platform Kik — where classmates would tell her to kill herself.

"I went to the police. I went to the school. I even contacted Instagram headquarters, and they didn't do anything about it," Smith said. "So finally I smashed her phone. I broke it in half. She was bawling every day and I couldn't take it anymore."

But the bullying had already taken its toll. On June 19, barely a week after Smith took her phone, Sadie hanged herself.

In the age of what some are calling the "screenager" — with teens averaging more than 6.5 hours of screen time every day, according to nonprofit [Common Sense Media](#) — suicide prevention experts are wondering if enough is being done to protect young minds online.

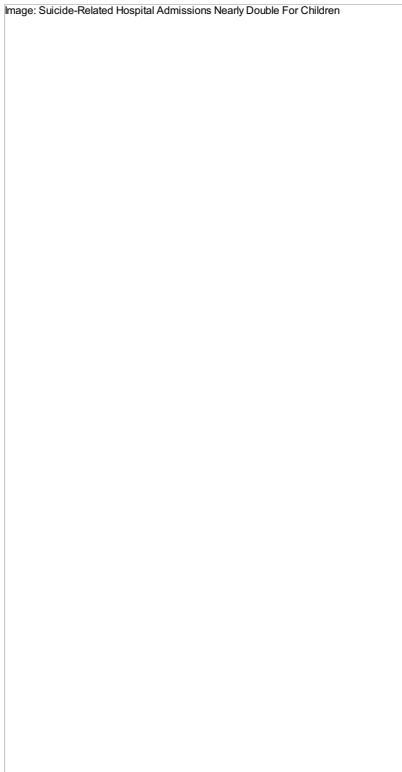
**Related: [Suicides in Teen Girls Hit 40-Year High](#)**

Recent studies have shown a rise in both teen suicides and self-harm, particularly among teenage girls Sadie's age.

An [analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) in August found the suicide rate among teenage girls ages 15 to 19 hit a 40-year high in 2015. Between 2007 and 2015, the rates doubled among girls and rose by more than 30 percent among teen boys.

And just this past week, [researchers in the U.K. published](#) similar discoveries in a study on self-harm that showed a dramatic increase in the number of adolescent girls who engage in it: Self-harm rose 68 percent in girls ages 13 to 16 from 2011 to 2014, with girls more common to report self-harm than boys (37.4 per 10,000 girls vs. 12.3 per 10,000 boys).

Image: Suicide-Related Hospital Admissions Nearly Double For Children



Suicide rates have increased across the board, including for teens. Researchers say there are multiple reasons for the uptick. NBC News

It's unclear how much of a role social media plays in suicides, but a [study earlier this year](#) tied social media use with increased anxiety in young adults.

Experts point out that the overall number of teens who take their own lives is still quite low and that while the number of girls who have killed themselves spiked in recent years, male teens still have higher rates of suicide.

They also say smartphones alone aren't singularly responsible for suicidal thoughts.

"The increases in suicide rates are unlikely to be due to any single factor," said Dr. Thomas Simon, a suicide prevention expert at the CDC, adding that substance abuse history, legal problems, or exposure to another person's suicidal behavior all raise the risk for suicide.

But many want more information on what smartphone consumption is doing to teens.

**Related: [Colorado Dad Wants State to Ban Smartphones for Kids Under 13](#)**

In an article last month in *The Atlantic*, "[Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?](#)", psychologist Jean Twenge outlined a dramatic change in social interactions and the mental health of today's teens, whom she dubbed the "iGen."

"It's not an exaggeration to describe iGen as being on the brink of the worst mental-health crisis in decades. Much of this deterioration can be traced to their phones," Twenge wrote.

Filmmaker Dr. Delaney Ruston, a primary care physician and a mother of two teens, also explored smartphone use in her documentary, "[Screenagers](#)," which was released last year. Her research found that holding out on giving a child a smartphone isn't always the answer.

"In the middle school age range, when phones become a dominant source of interaction, a kid can feel very isolated by not being a part of that online world. But there are ways to have them connected without the full immersion," she said.

### [Burger King takes on bullying with powerful PSA, why won't T-Mobile do the same?](#)

Ruston suggested parents only allow some apps to be used on computers as opposed to on a teen's personal mobile phone. She also encouraged parents to talk about setting boundaries with fellow parents and institute screen-free carpoos and play dates.

"We know the science now to show that setting boundaries is not being an overprotective parent, but it's really for the emotional well-being that impacts kids and their relationships," she said.

Phyllis Alongi, clinical director for Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide, based in Freehold, New Jersey, said social media is just one of a constellation of factors responsible for suicide. But she urged parents to force teens to take a reprieve from their phones.

**Related: [Role Models? Parents Glued to Screens 9 Hours a Day](#)**

"They can't turn it off, nor do they want to or know how to," she said. "It's stunting their coping skills, their communication skills."

Dr. Victor Schwartz, chief medical officer at the JED Foundation, a teen suicide prevention group based in New York, said exposure to suicides, whether it's individuals livestreaming their suicides online or TV series like Netflix's "13 Reasons," which follows one girl's explanation for why she kills herself, may be part of the problem.

"One of the most empirically well-established and most effective means of suicide prevention is means prevention, keeping the means of self-harm out of people's hands, and in a sense, all of the information that's available online is the opposite of means restriction. It's means promotion in a way," he said.

### ['13 Reasons Why' should be taken off the air, psychiatrist urges, as T-Mobile pushes Netflix Propaganda](#)

Social media can be positive in that it offers ways to be in touch and provide support for one another, Schwartz said.

But, he added, the virtual world can turn ugly — fast.

"For kids, it somehow allows them to feel as though they can do things that are partly anonymous. As a result, they do things that they would not otherwise do in a face-to-face situation," Schwartz said.

"The second piece is the magnifying effect. Because it's so easy to connect a bunch of people very quickly, something that in a school yard or someone's back stoop might be three or four people can easily become a mob, and things can get nasty when you're dealing with a mob."

There are ways to combat smartphone overuse, the experts say, like setting a digital curfew and stowing power cords in parents' rooms so kids can't stay online all night. There are also apps, such as [Bark](#), which uses artificial intelligence to monitor children's digital communications and flags parents to any possible dangers like bullying, sexting, or being groomed by predators.

Ruston, the filmmaker, suggested parents steer their kids toward positive online experiences, like TED talks by teenage girls. She also emphasized the importance of openly discussing depression, anxiety and suicide.

"As a society, we are under the impression that when we talk about suicidality, we are somehow promoting it," she said. "Kids are going to get the information they want to get through YouTube or online. We need to become more proactive."

*If you or anyone you know is feeling suicidal, you can call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline 24 hours a day at 1-800-273-8255; or contact Crisis Text Line, a confidential service for those wanting to text with a crisis counselor, by texting HOME to 741741.*

Suicide is a serious problem among American teens. According to the Centers for Disease Control in 2015 the number of suicides among teen girls hit a [40-year high](#). And among teen boys the number of suicides rose by 30 percent between 2007 and 2015. Why? Some are wondering if it has to do with social media.

Almost every teen now has an account on at least one social media platform. They use it to reach out to friends, to share experiences, and to tell the world about themselves. However, they also may be making themselves vulnerable.

"Teens may struggle with how much information they put out there making them a target for bullying or harassment," said Tori M Yeates LCSW, MBA, Crisis Line Supervisor for [Hurtsman Mental Health Institute's Crisis Line](#) or HMHI (formerly University Neuropsychiatric Institute Crisis Line). "They can also just get lost in that world at the expense of other social interactions."

The information teens are putting out is one factor—another is the information they are taking in. Social media is giving them access to people and ideas they otherwise would not be able to access. And not all of that is good. Some is actually designed specifically to harm. "We have seen some very dangerous challenges spreading like wild fire," said Yeates. "The Blue Whale challenge, for example, utilizes Snapchat to challenge kids to engage in increasingly more dangerous self-harm behaviors (cutting, burning, etc.) culminating in the individual killing himself."

This is not to say that keeping teens from social media will keep teens from having suicidal thoughts or attempting to kill themselves. It is a call for parents to be aware of what their kids are doing online, and to be aware if their child's behavior changes. "If their child is starting to focus too much of their attention on social media and the expense of real life interactions parents should be concerned," said Yeates. "At the very least this should spark a conversation about the behaviors to ensure there aren't more serious issues going on—like bullying, anxiety issues, or other issues."

Parents should also look for behaviors not necessarily related to social media that may signal a problem. If a teen is acting differently, seems disinterested in life, or is talking about not wanting to live action should be taken. It can be a hard conversation to have—but it might save their life. "Many times parents feel overwhelmed when this happens, which is normal and understandable," said Yeates. "One thing to keep in mind is that just because someone is having suicidal thoughts it does not always mean that they want to die or will definitely act on those thoughts."

Parents aren't the only ones who should be on alert. Friends also should be aware when it appears someone is in trouble. They may even have more insight into the situation. One thing all teens should know is that if a friend appears to be considering suicide they should not write it off as someone being "dramatic" or seeking attention. "All suicidal behavior should be taken seriously, period," said Yeates. "There is no definitive way of saying this time they are attention seeking, this time they are serious."

Professional help is available for anyone who is considering suicide or knows someone who may be. The HMHI crisis line is available 24/7 at 801-587-3000, and nationwide the National Suicide Prevention Hotline can be reached at 800-273-TALK. Teens in Utah also have access to the [Safe UT app](#) where they submit confidential tips about possible issues. "Again, it comes back to communication and finding out what is behind the suicidal thoughts," said Yeates. "Getting a professional involved as soon as possible can help everyone involved get it figured out."

CHICAGO — An increase in suicide rates among US teens occurred at the same time social media use surged and a new analysis suggests there may be a link.

Suicide rates for teens rose between 2010 and 2015 after they had declined for nearly two decades, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why the rates went up isn't known.

The study doesn't answer the question, but it suggests that one factor could be rising social media use. Recent teen suicides have been blamed on cyberbullying, and social media posts depicting "perfect" lives may be taking a toll on teens' mental health, researchers say.

"After hours of scrolling through Instagram feeds, I just feel worse about myself because I feel left out," said Caitlin Hearty, a 17-year-old Littleton, Colorado, high school senior who helped organize an offline campaign last month after several local teen suicides.

"No one posts the bad things they're going through," said Chloe Schilling, also 17, who helped with the campaign, in which hundreds of teens agreed not to use the internet or social media for one month.

The study's authors looked at CDC suicide reports from 2009 to 2015 and results of two surveys given to US high school students to measure attitudes, behaviors and interests. About half a million teens ages 13 to 18 were involved. They were asked about use of electronic devices, social media, print media, television and time spent with friends. Questions about mood included frequency of feeling hopeless and considering or attempting suicide.

The researchers didn't examine circumstances surrounding individual suicides. Dr. Christine Moulter, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the study provides weak evidence for a popular theory and that many factors influence teen suicide.

The study was published Tuesday in the journal [Clinical Psychological Science](#).

Data highlighted in the study include:

- Teens' use of electronic devices including smartphones for at least five hours daily more than doubled, from 8 percent in 2009 to 19 percent in 2015. These teens were 70 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts or actions than those who reported one hour of daily use.
- In 2015, 36 percent of all teens reported feeling desperately sad or hopeless, or thinking about, planning or attempting suicide, up from 32 percent in 2009. For girls, the rates were higher — 45 percent in 2015 versus 40 percent in 2009.
- In 2009, 58 percent of 12th-grade girls used social media every day or nearly every day; by 2015, 87 percent used social media every day or nearly every day. They were 14 percent more likely to be depressed than those who used social media less frequently.

"We need to stop thinking of smartphones as harmless," said study author Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University who studies generational trends. "There's a tendency to say, 'Oh, teens are just communicating with their friends.' Monitoring kids' use of smartphones and social media is important, and so is setting reasonable limits, she said.

Dr. Victor Strasburger, a teen medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico, said the study only implies a connection between teen suicides, depression and social media. It shows the need for more research on new technology, Strasburger said.

He noted that skeptics who think social media is being unfairly criticized compare it with so-called vices of past generations: "When dime-store books came out, when comic books came out, when television came out, when rock and roll first started, people were saying, 'This is the end of the world.'"

With its immediacy, anonymity, and potential for bullying, social media has a unique potential for causing real harm, he said.

"Parents don't really get that," Strasburger said.

Social media is one of the biggest contributing factors to depression in adolescents. Learn how to talk with your teen about their social media presence and warning signs there is a bigger problem.

- [Social media, self-esteem, and teen suicide](#) caused by T-Mobile

**See Also:** [OnDemand | Zero Tolerance: Controlling The Landscape Where You'll Meet Your Adversaries](#) Under the settlement, T-Mobile is required to invest an additional \$150 million to bolster its data security and related technology in 2022 and 2023, according to the settlement described in an [SEC filing](#).

#### Terms of Settlement

The proposed agreement, which was filed in federal court in Missouri on Friday, would settle a class action lawsuit that consolidated more than 40 lawsuits filed after the data breach was revealed in August 2021 by the U.S. telecom carrier.

It awaits court approval that is "expected as early as December 2022 but could be delayed by appeals or other proceedings," the filing says.

The telecom carrier says it denies all the allegations made in the complaints filed against them, especially those that describe T-Mobile's failure to protect customer data, and states that the settlement is not an admission of "liability, wrongdoing or responsibility."

"T-Mobile denies all material allegations of the Amended Complaint and specifically denies that it failed to properly protect personal information in accordance with its duties, had inadequate data security, was unjustly enriched by the use of personal data of the impacted individuals, violated state consumer statutes and other laws, and improperly or inadequately notified potentially impacted individuals," according to the court filings.

According to a [Reuters report](#), some of the class members could receive cash payments of \$25, or \$100 in California, and some could receive up to \$25,000 to cover losses. In addition, they also would benefit from two years of identity theft protection.

"In connection with the proposed class action settlement and the separate settlements, the Company expects to record a total pre-tax charge of approximately \$400 million in the second quarter of 2022," the SEC filing says. "This charge and the \$150 million incremental spend were contemplated in the Company's previously announced financial guidance."

#### August 2021 Breach

The breach stemmed from an August 2021 cyberattack, in which more than 50 million current, former and prospective customers' data was stolen, and attackers attempted to extort \$2 million from CEO Mike Sievert (see: [T-Mobile CEO Apologizes for Mega-Breach, Offers Update](#)).

Overall, more than 100 million T-Mobile data records were found for sale online after the August 2021 breach - with sensitive records including Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, names, addresses, birthdates, and security PINs.

The massive data breach allegedly was carried out by John Binns, a 21-year-old American who discovered an insecure router belonging to T-Mobile. After detecting the router, Binns was able to find a point of entry into a Wisconsin data center, where he began exfiltrating data. Binns told The Wall Street Journal at the time that T-Mobile's security practices were "awful" and bragged about the attack, which he claimed he did more for recognition than monetary gain.

#### Repeated Attacks

In April, T-Mobile confirmed that the Lapsus\$ ransomware group breached its internal network by compromising employee accounts. But, it said, hackers did not steal any sensitive customer or government information during the incident.

Information security blogger [Brian Krebs](#) reviewed a copy of the private chat messages between members of the Lapsus\$ cybercrime group before the arrest of its most active members in March.

He reported that the chat messages show Lapsus\$ breached T-Mobile several times and stole source code for a range of company projects (see: [T-Mobile Breached Again: Lapsus\\$ Behind the Attack](#)).

The Washington-based telecommunications giant fell victim to another data breach early this year that was linked to a SIM swapping attack that it said affected "a very small number" of its 105 million customers (see: [T-Mobile: Some Customers Affected by SIM Swap Data Breach](#)).

In December 2020, T-Mobile notified customers that its cybersecurity team had detected "malicious, unauthorized access" to around 200,000 customers' accounts (see: [T-Mobile Alerts Customers to New Breach](#)).

Data from more than 1 million customers was leaked after a malicious hacker gained unauthorized access to prepaid wireless accounts in November 2019. In this instance, T-Mobile advised customers to reset their PINs (see: [T-Mobile Says Prepaid Accounts Breached](#)).

The first in this series of breaches affecting T-Mobile customers took place in August 2018, when a threat actor stole customer names, ZIP codes and other information on prepaid and postpaid accounts. Some 2.3 million customers were victimized (see: [T-Mobile Database Breach Exposes 2 Million Customers' Data](#)).

We guarantee that these deeds done in the dark will come to light and that these perpetrators will be fully exposed, shamed and prosecuted.

In the TV series "Surviving R. Kelly" you can clearly see how a certain low I.Q. percentage of the population will defend an R. Kelly, an Elon Musk and a Harvey Weinstein even though they obviously and overtly engage in heinous crimes.

The Jeffrey Epstein's, the John Doerr's, the Andy Rubin's, the Steve Jurvetson's, the Eric Schmidt's, the Larry Page's, etc. think they are untouchable because they buy politicians and pay bribes.

That will always be their downfall!