



RSD Announces Social Media Addiction Representation

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Rueb Stoller Daniel announced expanded representation for families pursuing social media addiction claims following Meta's agreement on August 26, 2026 to pay up to \$17.1 billion to settle allegations brought by 51 state attorneys general. The state officials alleged that Instagram and Facebook were intentionally designed to be addictive for teenagers and young users while the company concealed internal research documenting the harm. The agreement stands as the largest social media accountability settlement to date and strengthens the position of individual plaintiffs pursuing personal injury claims consolidated in MDL 3047.

The settlement follows a March 2026 verdict in which a Los Angeles Superior Court jury found Meta and YouTube liable and awarded plaintiff K.G.M. \$6 million in total damages, including \$3 million in compensatory damages and \$3 million in punitive damages, with the jury finding Meta acted with malice. The verdict was upheld on appeal in June 2026 and marked the first jury finding of liability against a major social media platform for teen mental health injuries tied to addictive platform design.

Social media addiction lawsuits consolidated in MDL No. 3047, *In re Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation*, before Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers in the Northern

District of California, surged 222 percent in case filings during 2025. The docket now ranks among the fastest-growing federal MDLs as families seek accountability for teen addiction, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and suicidal ideation associated with platform design.

The litigation has also produced early school-district results. In May 2026, Meta, Snap, TikTok, and YouTube paid a combined \$27 million to settle the first school-district bellwether case, brought by the Breathitt County School District in Kentucky, which had sought more than \$60 million. More than 1,300 school-district lawsuits remain pending, with the next school-district bellwether trial scheduled for February 2027.

Individual claims allege that Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, and Facebook designed platforms with algorithmically reinforced engagement features, including infinite scroll, variable reward notification systems, and personalized content amplification, that were engineered to maximize time on platform among adolescent users without disclosing documented mental health risks.

Shannon Ludwig, Partner at Rueb Stoller Daniel, said the recent developments carry weight for families weighing their options. "The state settlement and the Los Angeles jury verdict together confirm that platforms built features they knew were harmful to young people and kept that knowledge from parents," Ludwig said. "Families of teenagers who experienced documented depression, anxiety, eating disorders, or suicidal ideation after sustained use, particularly where a child began using a platform before age 16 and treatment records document the harm, now have a litigation path supported by both a jury finding and a multibillion-dollar admission through settlement."

Rueb Stoller Daniel represents families in Social Media Addiction claims for children and teens who experienced depression, anxiety, eating disorders, sleep disruption, self-harm, or suicidal ideation following sustained platform use. Additional information is available through Law RSD on Social Media Addiction.

Rueb Stoller Daniel is a national mass tort and class action law firm representing families in social media addiction lawsuits against Meta, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, and other platforms. The firm operates on a contingency fee basis, with offices in Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, and Washington D.C.

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Rueb Stoller Daniel

Rueb Stoller Daniel is a national mass tort and class action firm led by attorneys with 50+ years combined experience. We hold leadership roles on Plaintiff Steering Committees nationwide, fighting major corporations. No fee unless we win.

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