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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA ADOLESCENT
ADDICTION/PERSONAL INJURY
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

This Documents Relates to:

ALL CASES

Case No. 4:22-md-03047-YGR
MDL No. 3047

ORDER SETTING INITIAL CONFERENCE

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (“the Panel”) has transferred to this Court for consolidated pretrial proceedings certain lawsuits “arising from allegations that defendants’ social media platforms are defective because they are designed to maximize screen time, which can encourage addictive behavior in adolescents.” (Transfer Order, Dkt. No. 1 at 1.) The Court assumes the parties’ familiarity with the Transfer Order and the facts of the underlying actions.

Preamble. The Court wishes to express clearly its expectation that professionalism, courtesy, and civility will endure throughout these proceedings. The Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth at section 10.21 captures the spirit in these terms:

The added demands and burdens of complex litigation place a premium on attorney professionalism, and the judge should encourage counsel to act responsibly. The certification requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 11 and 26(g) reflect some of the attorneys’ obligations as officers of the court.

Because of the high level of competence and experience that attorneys ordinarily bring to this type of litigation, the Court is confident that this objective will be achieved without judicial intervention.

1 Prior to the initial case management conference and entry of a comprehensive order
2 governing all further proceedings in this case, the provisions of this Order shall govern the practice
3 and procedure in those actions that were transferred to this Court by the Panel. This Order also
4 applies to all related cases filed in all divisions of the Northern District of California and all “tag-
5 along actions” later filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court.

6 The Court **HEREBY ORDERS:**

7 1. **Initial Conference.** The Court sets an initial **in-person** case management
8 conference with the undersigned **on November 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1, Fourth Floor,
9 Oakland Federal District Courthouse, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, California 94612. Each party
10 represented by counsel shall appear at the initial status conference through the party’s attorney who
11 will have primary responsibility for the party’s interest in this litigation. Parties not represented by
12 counsel may appear in person or through an authorized and responsible agent.

13 a. Attendance. To minimize costs and facilitate a manageable conference, parties are
14 not required to attend the conference, and parties with similar interests are expected to agree to
15 the extent practicable on a single attorney to act on their joint behalf at the conference. A party
16 will not, by designating an attorney to represent its interests at the conference, be precluded
17 from other representation during the litigation; and attendance at the conference will not waive
18 objections to jurisdiction, venue, or service.

19 b. Other Participants. Persons who are not named parties in this litigation but may
20 later be joined as parties or are parties in related litigation pending in other federal and state
21 courts, are invited to attend in person or by counsel.

22 c. Public Access. Public audio via Zoom will be made available for those who wish to
23 listen to the proceedings; active participation by Zoom will not be allowed. Information for
24 accessing public audio is available on the Court’s public calendar.¹ The Court will also set up
25 and maintain a website accessible to counsel, parties, the public, and the press free of charge.
26 This website will include a list of dates and times of upcoming proceedings, along with

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¹ For public access, see <https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/judges/gonzalez-rogers-yvonne-ygr/>.

1 significant court orders and other documents. More information will follow once the website is
2 established.

3 2. **Coordination**. The civil actions transferred to this Court or related to the actions
4 already pending before this Court are coordinated for pretrial purposes. Any “tag-along actions”
5 later filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court, or directly filed in the Northern District of
6 California, will automatically be coordinated with this action without the necessity of future
7 motions or orders. This coordination does not constitute a determination whether the actions
8 should be consolidated for trial, nor does it have the effect of making any entity a party to any
9 action in which he, she, or it has not been named, served, or added in accordance with the Federal
10 Rules of Civil Procedure. To facilitate the efficient coordination of cases in this matter, all parties
11 to this action shall notify the Panel of other potential related or “tag-along” actions of which they
12 are aware or become aware.

13 a. **Related Cases**. Pursuant to the Transfer Order creating this multidistrict litigation,
14 the Court **HEREBY RELATES** the following cases pending in this District:

- 15 i. *Rodriguez v. Meta Platforms, Inc., et al.*, No. 22-401
- 16 ii. *Heffner v. Meta Platforms, Inc., et al.*, No. 22-3849
- 17 iii. *Aranda, et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, No. 22-4209
- 18 iv. *Martin, et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, No. 22-4286
- 19 v. *Spence v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, No. 22-3294
- 20 vi. *Roberts v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, No. 22-4210
- 21 vii. *N, et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, No. 22-4283

22 3. **Initial Case Management Conference Purpose and Agenda**. The conference will
23 be held for the purposes specified in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(a), 16(b), 16(c), and 26(f) and subject to the
24 sanctions prescribed in Rule 16(f). Seven (7) business days prior to the initial conference, the
25 parties shall provide an initial case management conference statement with their perspectives on
26 case management generally, including a proposed agenda to maximize the efficiency of the initial
27 conference. Ideally, the parties will provide one joint statement to streamline the presentation of
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1 information. However, to the extent a joint statement is impracticable at this juncture, or additional
2 issues need to be raised, separate statements may be filed. Counsel is advised that statements shall
3 be objective and shall not be abused for raising argument and hyperbole.

4 4. **Preparations for Conference.**

5 a. Case Identification. Within two (2) days of this Order, defendant Meta Platforms,
6 Inc. shall provide the Court with an excel spreadsheet listing all cases, including the case name,
7 the date the action was commenced, the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, the claims asserted,
8 all defendants implicated, the lawyers for each respective party, and a short summary of the
9 status of the case. A copy of the spreadsheet shall be emailed to ygrpo@cand.uscourts.gov.
10 This spreadsheet shall encompass all cases, even if defendant Meta Platforms, Inc. is not a
11 party. Defendant Meta Platforms, Inc. shall then send an updated spreadsheet by noon every
12 Friday leading up to the status conference. Parties are encouraged to collaborate in order to
13 streamline the generation of this information.

14 b. Attorney List. By Noon on Monday, November 7, 2022, counsel shall file a joint
15 list of all lawyers attending the initial conference, including the party/parties that the lawyer
16 will be appearing on behalf of. A copy of the list shall be emailed to
17 ygrpo@cand.uscourts.gov.

18 c. Procedures for Complex Litigation. Counsel is expected to familiarize themselves
19 with the Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth and be prepared at the conference to suggest
20 procedures that will facilitate the just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution of this litigation.

21 d. List of Affiliated Companies and Counsel. To assist the Court in identifying any
22 problems of recusal or disqualification, counsel will submit to the Court by November 7, 2022,
23 a list of all companies affiliated with the parties and all counsel associated in the litigation.
24 This document shall be filed on the docket and a copy shall be emailed to
25 ygrpo@cand.uscourts.gov.

26 5. **Interim Measures.** Until otherwise ordered by the Court:
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1 a. Master Docket File. The Clerk of the Court will maintain a master docket case
2 file under the style “*In Re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products*
3 *Liability Litigation*” and the identification “MDL No. 3047.” When a pleading is intended to
4 apply to all actions, this shall be indicated by the words: “This Document Relates to: ALL
5 ACTIONS.” When a pleading is intended to apply to fewer than all cases, this Court’s docket
6 number for each individual case to which the document number relates shall appear
7 immediately after the words “This Document Relates to.”

8 b. Admission of Counsel. Attorneys admitted to practice and in good standing in
9 any United States District Court are admitted *pro hac vice* in this litigation. Association of
10 local co-counsel is not required. The Court generally requires in person as opposed to remote
11 appearances for any counsel wishing to participate in a hearing but will allow attorneys to listen
12 to the proceedings if they do not intend to speak.

13 c. ECF Membership. Each attorney of record is obligated to become a Northern
14 District of California ECF User and be assigned a user ID and password for access to the
15 system. If she or he has not already done so, counsel shall register forthwith as an ECF User
16 and be issued an ECF User ID and password. Forms and instructions can be found on the
17 Court’s website at www.cand.uscourts.gov/cm-ecf. All documents shall be e-filed in the
18 Master file, No. 22-md-03047. Documents that pertain to one or only some of the pending
19 actions shall also be e-filed in the individual case(s) to which the document pertains.
20 Registration instructions for pro se parties who wish to e-file can be found on the Court’s
21 website at www.cand.uscourts.gov/ECF/proseregistration.

22 d. Response Extension and Stay. Defendants are granted an extension of time for
23 responding by motion or answer to the complaint(s) until a date to be set by this Court.
24 Pending the initial case management conference and further orders of this Court, all
25 outstanding discovery proceedings are stayed, and no further discovery shall be initiated.
26 Moreover, all pending motions must be re-noticed for resolution once the Court sets a schedule
27 for any such motions. Any orders, including protective orders, previously entered by any

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