

## NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECORDS

**THIS NOTICE** is being provided to you pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b) and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(9)(ii), a federal law that protects the privacy of student records, as well as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (“IDEA”), 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq. If you are the parent or guardian of a child, student eighteen (18) years of age or older, or former student eighteen (18) years or older who attended a school within Harford County Public Schools at any time between the 2014 – 2015 school year and the 2023 – 2024 school year, this notice may apply to you. Please read it carefully.

A group of Plaintiffs in the lawsuit entitled *In Re. Social Media Adolescent Addiction / Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation*, Civil Action 4:22-MD-3047, consists of school districts (the “Plaintiffs” or “School Districts”) who are suing social media companies (“the Defendants”) for harms related to the youth mental health crisis spurred by the Defendants. The School District Plaintiffs include Board of Education of Harford County (“Plaintiff”). The Defendants have requested that the Plaintiffs disclose certain student records that may be relevant to the School Districts’ claims. All parties and the Court have agreed that the requested records should be disclosed to the Defendants, subject to FERPA’s requirements that this notice be provided in advance and that parents, guardians and eligible students be given the opportunity to object to disclosure. The Court entered an Order on October 11, 2024 (ECF 1209) directing that the requested records be disclosed after the time period for objections (listed below) has elapsed.

### **INFORMATION THAT WILL BE DISCLOSED:**

**Defendants have requested numerous documents, as well as student data collected and stored by Plaintiff. Many requested documents and data stored contain student personally identifiable information (SII) of the children who attended Plaintiff’s schools between the 2014 – 2015 and 2023 – 2024 school years. Although Plaintiff has contested the production of such information, the Court, at this juncture, has ordered Plaintiff to produce to Defendants’ legal counsel and a limited number of pre-disclosed experts, documents, and data responsive to Defendant requests that contain student SII.**

**At this point, students’ records will be produced for viewing only by attorneys (for “Attorneys’ Eyes Only”). If at some later point in the litigation, either plaintiffs or defendants decide to use your student’s record(s) more publicly—in an expert report, a court filing, or in open court—you will be provided advance notice of that plan and an opportunity to object and seek to prevent more public disclosure of your student’s record(s).**

### **THE COURT’S ORDERS:**

The Court has entered a “Protective Order” (ECF 1209) in this matter that prevents the parties (and their representatives) from sharing confidential documents and information, such as student records, with anyone outside of the lawsuit for any purpose. At no time will the names of any minors, birth dates, or social security numbers be released to the public. In addition, the information from these disclosed documents may not be filed with the Court, meaning that the document will not be disclosed to the public. The Protective Order also requires that all

confidential documents exchanged during the lawsuit be returned or destroyed after the lawsuit has concluded.

**PARTIES:**

- Plaintiffs: BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
- Defendants: META PLATFORMS, INC.; FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC; FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC; META PAYMENTS INC.; SICULUS, INC.; INSTAGRAM, LLC; SNAP INC.; TIKTOK INC.; BYTEDANCE INC.; TIKTOK PTE. LTD.; BYTEDANCE LTD.; GOOGLE LLC; and YOUTUBE, LLC

**NATURE OF THE ACTION:**

In this federal lawsuit, the Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants have designed, developed, produced, operated, promoted, distributed, and marketed addictive and dangerous platforms that target minors and encourage addictive behavior in adolescents, which has led to an unprecedented mental health crisis in youth causing substantial and financially burdensome interference with the operation of the School Districts.

**WHY STUDENT RECORDS  
HAVE BEEN REQUESTED AND HOW THEY WILL BE USED:**

The Defendants have requested certain student records as part of the “discovery” phase of the lawsuit, in which the parties exchange documents and information that tend to either prove or disprove the Plaintiff’s claims. The parties’ lawyers and a limited number of experts employed by the parties may review the disclosed records in order to determine whether the social media companies have caused a mental health crisis that has damaged the School Districts. The parties may present some of the records to the Judge.

**OBJECTIONS TO DISCLOSURE:**

**If you believe that your or your child’s records should not be disclosed, you must fill out the attached form “Objection to Disclosure of Student Records” and mail it by no later than November 11, 2024 to:**

**Baird Mandalas Brockstedt & Federico LLC**  
**ATTN: Matthew Legg**  
**2850 Quarry Lake Drive, Suite 220**  
**Baltimore, MD 21209**

**You may also submit your objection, containing the same information as requested in the attached form, via electronic mail to [mlegg@bmbfclaw.com](mailto:mlegg@bmbfclaw.com), by no later than November 11, 2024. If your objection is not postmarked by November 11, 2024, the records listed above will be disclosed pursuant to the Court’s Order. As noted above, all records**

disclosed during the lawsuit will be kept confidential and will be returned to the School District or destroyed after the lawsuit has concluded.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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

Case No. 4:22-MD-03047-YGR-PHK  
MDL No. 3047

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This Document Relates to:

ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTIONS

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**OBJECTION TO DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECORDS**

I, the undersigned, being a parent / guardian, or an adult student or former student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, object to the disclosure by Board of Education of Harford County of protected personal information contained in records of my / my child's student records in the lawsuit entitled, *In Re. Social Media Adolescent Addiction / Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation*, USDC – Northern District of California, Case No. 4:22-MD-03047-YGR-PHK:

Name of Parent / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (Optional)

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian or  
Adult Student / Former Student

This form (or the information contained in this form) must be sent via regular mail to:

Baird Mandalas Brockstedt & Federico LLC

ATTN: Matthew Legg

2850 Quarry Lake Drive, Suite 220

Baltimore, MD 21209

Or by email to [mlegg@bmbfclaw.com](mailto:mlegg@bmbfclaw.com) by no later than November 11, 2024.