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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  
MDL No. 3047

**CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER NO. 3**

This Documents Relates to:  
  
ALL CASES

**TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

The Court held an initial case management conference on November 9, 2022, where the parties were directed to meet and confer as to various issues, including discovery, the filing of a master complaint, direct filing, and other miscellaneous matters. Following the initial case management conference, the Court approved plaintiffs’ leadership structure. A second case management conference was held in person on December 14, 2022, to discuss this case’s progression in light of the parties’ positions. After a comprehensive hearing, the Court issues the following **ORDERS**:

**I. MASTER COMPLAINT(S) AND MOTION FILING**

The parties met and conferred and reached a compromise schedule with respect to the pleading in this case. As the Court has repeatedly indicated, there needs to be no ambiguity as to which documents make up the operative complaint(s) in this case. Plaintiffs are the masters of their complaints and are still developing their strategy, including the precise format of a short form complaint. As discussed on the record, the parties shall continue to meet and confer on ongoing

1 communications concerning the substance and structure of a short form complaint. Despite the  
2 foregoing, the Court adopts the parties' recommendation that motion practice to dismiss plaintiffs'  
3 claims will commence after the master complaint(s) are filed, the short form complaint is finalized,  
4 and an implementation order is issued. The following is **HEREBY ORDERED**:

5 1. **February 14, 2023**: Plaintiffs are to file their master complaint(s).

6 Plaintiffs shall then identify five or six of their *strongest* claims for the first phase of  
7 motions to dismiss. These claims shall be clearly identified in a notice on the docket in the  
8 master file with the title "Phase I Claims." Plaintiffs shall also provide defendants with a  
9 proposed short form complaint and implementation order after the parties' continued meet  
10 and confer efforts.

11 2. **February 28, 2023**: Parties shall file a joint proposed short form complaint

12 and implementation order, with any disputed issues clearly designated. The parties shall  
13 also file letter briefs not to exceed four (4) pages single spaced, 12-point font, with a single  
14 space between paragraphs noting the parties' respective positions on any disputed issues.  
15 Footnotes must never be smaller than 12-point font in any filing with this Court. In the  
16 spirit of efficiency, the parties should anticipate an implementation order being entered by  
17 approximately March 14, 2023.

18 3. **April 4, 2023**: Plaintiffs with complaints filed by the date the

19 implementation order is issued shall file the short form complaint. As the Court advised on  
20 the record, counsel must be mindful of their Rule 11 obligations. The Court is inclined to  
21 require certification of every complaint by a lawyer that is admitted to practice in California  
22 or a comparable procedure such that improper conduct can be addressed accordingly.

23 4. **April 17, 2023**: Defendants shall file their first motion to dismiss on the

24 master complaint(s). The Court does not believe that a motion focused on Section 230 and  
25 First Amendment defenses is efficient prior to the pending issues before the Supreme Court.  
26 A decision may very well be issued before the Court resolves any pending motion to  
27 dismiss is ripe, heard, or resolved. It is the Court's view that extraneous and premature  
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1 briefing is not within the spirit of efficiency. However, as the Court explained, defendants  
2 are not being precluded from filing a second motion to dismiss specifically addressing those  
3 legal issues. As discussed on the record, defendants are on notice that a motion may be  
4 mooted, subject to inefficient supplemental briefing, or administratively held in abeyance  
5 once filed. Defendants can proceed with that path if they wish to do so at their expense.

6 With respect to whether motions to dismiss will need to be filed on the short form  
7 complaints, such motions should not be necessary in the first phase of motions. Issues with  
8 the individual cases will be resolved once any overarching issues with the master  
9 complaint(s) are resolved.

10 5. **June 1, 2023:** Plaintiffs shall file their opposition(s) to the motion to  
11 dismiss.

12 6. **June 30, 2023:** Defendants shall file their reply brief(s).

13 **II. COMMON BENEFIT ORDER**

14 Plaintiffs filed a proposed common benefit order at Docket Number 94. No objections  
15 were filed on the docket. However, as discussed on the record, the parties are continuing to meet  
16 and confer as to the substantive provisions and agree that certain revisions are appropriate.  
17 Accordingly, the request for an order at this juncture is denied without prejudice as premature.

18 Once the order has been revised, a copy shall be filed on the docket and a redline sent to  
19 [ygrpo@cand.uscourts.gov](mailto:ygrpo@cand.uscourts.gov). To the extent there are any objections or disputes in the proposed  
20 order, they shall be addressed by letter brief not to exceed three (3) pages, single spaced. The  
21 parties' respective positions shall be supported by relevant legal authority. If there are no disputes  
22 and the terms are acceptable to the Court, the common benefit order will be approved on the  
23 docket. The Court will schedule a further conference on the topic if necessary.

24 **III. DIRECT FILING ORDER**

25 After meeting and conferring, the parties have agreed to a direct filing order. That  
26 proposed order does not use gender inclusive pronouns. As the Court clarified on the record, using  
27 gender inclusive language is preferable and is encouraged. Counsel may also consult this Court's  
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1 Standing Order in Civil Cases for use of preferred pronouns in filings to the extent they wish to  
2 identify their own pronouns. The parties shall submit a revised order by no later than Monday,  
3 December 19, 2022.

4 **IV. APPOINTMENTS OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM**

5 Plaintiffs have filed an unopposed motion for appointments of guardians ad litem at Docket  
6 Number 103. The motion is granted and the form order will follow. The hearing set for January  
7 17, 2023 is hereby vacated.

8 **V. DISCOVERY REQUESTS**

9 Several discovery issues were raised in the parties' joint case management conference  
10 statement. Consistent with prior orders, discovery is generally stayed in this case pending  
11 resolution of the first motion to dismiss. However, as the Court has indicated, very limited  
12 discovery is being permitted to the extent it would support the most fulsome master complaint(s)  
13 and where such documents have already been produced/obtained in connection with prior litigation  
14 and/or investigations.

15 **Haugen Documents:** As discussed, Mr. Previn Warren of Motley Rice is in possession of  
16 approximately 1300 documents from the state court case entitled *Ashman v. Instagram et al.*  
17 pending in San Mateo Superior Court (No. 22-cv-03178). At this juncture, the Court does not find  
18 it appropriate to order all documents to be produced. Mr. Warren is directed to review the  
19 documents in his possession and identify those that will be relevant for use in the master  
20 complaint(s). This will have to be a task that he completes on his own through his firm. Once he  
21 identifies a list of potentially relevant documents, he shall submit a list to the pertinent defendants,  
22 which are presumably Meta and Instagram. Within one week of receiving the request from Mr.  
23 Warren, the defendants shall provide any objections and meet and confer with Mr. Warren in good  
24 faith. To the extent there are any outstanding disputes, they shall be presented to Magistrate Judge  
25 Hixson for resolution consistent with his preferred procedures. To the extent there is agreement on  
26 documents to produce, the parties shall confer as to the terms of a protective order.

1           **Coroner's Inquest:** A compromise was reached in part as to these documents after the  
2 joint case management conference was filed. The Court understands that Meta is amenable to  
3 producing certain documents. As discussed, the parties will continue to evaluate whether  
4 documents may be obtained from the coroner or family of Molly Russell without the need for court  
5 intervention. In light of the discussion on the record, the Court does not order any production.  
6 Parties may renew any issues once their meet and confer efforts reach an impasse. To the extent  
7 there is an impasse, Liaison Counsel shall send a joint email to [ygrchambers@cand.uscourts.gov](mailto:ygrchambers@cand.uscourts.gov) to  
8 request a conference to discuss next steps.

9           **Investigations:** Plaintiffs are also seeking documents that may have been produced in  
10 connection with various investigations brought by state attorneys' generals. Based upon the  
11 representations of counsel, it appears that some of these requests may relate to the allegations  
12 raised in this litigation. Since the Court does not have sufficient information to rule on the  
13 propriety of this request at this time, defendants were ordered to file the relevant information with  
14 the Court by Monday, December 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. To the extent those requests have not been  
15 made public, defendants may file them under seal. The Court will evaluate the additional  
16 information and then provide further guidance.

17           **Section 230 Objections:** Defendants have indicated that no discovery should occur in light  
18 of Section 230 immunity. The Court has noted the objection and is not persuaded given the  
19 extremely limited productions the Court is contemplating. Given the Supreme Court's decision to  
20 review the scope of Section 230 immunity, it is not clear that Section 230 would act to bar any and  
21 all discovery. In any event, the Court has broad authority under Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of  
22 Civil Procedure to secure a just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of this action. The Court is  
23 carefully evaluating the individual requests and has not compelled a production of all requested  
24 documents. Permitting the strongest complaint out the gate in this multidistrict litigation will  
25 undeniably promote efficiency and factor against inefficient motion practice.

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1           **VI. PUBLIC ACCESS**

2           The parties were previously directed to consider consenting to the Court’s Cameras in the  
3 Courtroom pilot program. Generally, there is no objection to proceedings being recorded in this  
4 case and made available online. As such, the Court will record future proceedings mindful of any  
5 objections that will warrant sealing.

6           **VII. MISCELLANEOUS**

7           **General Filing Practices:** To date, plaintiffs’ have largely been filing their proposed  
8 orders on the docket as “Notices.” The titles of these entries are difficult to distinguish and will  
9 become more difficult as the docket progress, especially since notice is a common word. In order  
10 to add clarity, documents requiring Court action should be filed as stipulations or motions to call  
11 the Court’s attention to the document. Administratively, this will create an icon in ECF that will  
12 direct the Court to an action item.

13           **Ex Parte Communications:** The Court addressed ex parte communications on the record.  
14 While the Court is generally amenable to certain informal communications via email, Liaison  
15 Counsel for both sides shall be included on communications.

16           **Sealing Master Complaint(s):** To the extent documents are produced that will be used in  
17 master complaint(s) or allegations based thereon, the Court understands that sealing may be  
18 appropriate. This Court takes the public’s right to access very seriously, and requests should be  
19 *narrowly tailored*.

20           **Sealing Procedures:** In large cases, sealing motions can be quite burdensome, overwhelm  
21 the docket, and result in additional expense for the parties. This Court typically sets forth  
22 procedures that will govern sealing in individual cases. An example of procedures that have been  
23 endorsed are attached to this order for reference. The parties are directed to confer as to a process  
24 that will govern in this case and propose a recommendation for the Court’s consideration.

25           **Preservation, ESI, and Protective Orders:** The Court understands that the parties  
26 continue to confer as to these orders. Proposals shall be submitted to Magistrate Judge Hixson for  
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1 approval once agreed upon. To the extent any disputes arise, they shall be submitted to him  
2 consistent with his procedures and orders.

3 **Third Case Management Conference:** The third case management conference is set for  
4 Friday, March 3, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. This conference will be in-person in Courtroom 1 absent  
5 further instruction from the Court. If an interim conference will be of assistance to the parties,  
6 Liaison Counsel shall jointly email the Court proposing dates and times.

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8 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

9 Dated: December 15, 2022

  
YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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*Attorneys for Defendant Apple Inc.*

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14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
15 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
16 OAKLAND DIVISION  
17

18 In re Apple iPhone Antitrust Litigation

Case No. 4:11-cv-06714-YGR

19  
20 **STIPULATION AND ~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER**  
21 **MODIFYING SEALING PROCEDURES**

22 The Honorable Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers  
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1 WHEREAS, Plaintiffs and Apple Inc. (each a “Party,” and collectively the “Parties”) wish to  
2 conserve the resources of the Court and to avoid filing multiple sealing motions and declarations,  
3 especially in light of the current judicial emergency in the Northern District of California, *see, e.g.*,  
4 Order Denying [81] Motion, *SaurikIT, LLC v. Apple Inc.*, Case No. 4:20-cv-08733-YGR (June 24,  
5 2022) (Dkt. 84) (referencing judicial emergency and directing that “filing of . . . unnecessary motions  
6 should be avoided”);

7 WHEREAS the Parties anticipate that filings in this action, including the forthcoming class  
8 certification briefing, will continue to involve confidential information which may belong to the Parties  
9 as well as non-parties (noting that briefing on Plaintiffs’ first motion for class certification involved  
10 confidential information relating to fourteen third parties);

11 WHEREAS substantial time can be required to carefully and properly redact each Party and  
12 non-party’s confidential information (and thereby avoid inadvertent public filings of confidential  
13 information and emergency requests to lock docket entries);

14 WHEREAS the Local Rules call for a separate motion to consider sealing for each third party  
15 to be supported by a subsequent motion or declaration from the third party, *see* Civil L.R. 79-5(f);

16 WHEREAS parties in other matters pending in this District have, with Court approval,  
17 stipulated to modifications of the seal procedures set forth in the local rules to minimize the burdens of  
18 multiple sealing requests, *see, e.g.*, Stipulated Order Modifying Sealing Procedures Relating to  
19 Plaintiffs’ Motion for Sanctions, *In re Google Play Store Antitrust Litigation*, Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-  
20 JD (May 27, 2022) (Dkt. 264) (adopting procedure for omnibus sealing motion to follow completion  
21 of briefing on underlying motion); and

22 WHEREAS the Court has previously requested an omnibus filing to collect sealing requests,  
23 *see* Nov. 16, 2021 Tr. 81:9-14; Dkts. 617, 631;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED SUBJECT TO THE  
25 COURT’S APPROVAL:

- 26
- If a Party files a document for which it intends to request sealing, the Party may file the  
27 document in redacted or slip-sheet form and contemporaneously file an unredacted copy of  
28 the same document on the ECF docket, provisionally under seal, along with a 1-page interim

1 sealing motion which may indicate that the reasons for sealing will be discussed in a  
2 forthcoming omnibus sealing motion;

- 3 • The Parties and any affected third parties shall jointly file an omnibus sealing motion within  
4 14 days after the conclusion of briefing of the underlying motion or filing (including any  
5 associated filings such as *Daubert* motions or motions to strike);
- 6 • The Party filing the underlying document sought to be sealed shall bear the responsibility  
7 of: (1) notifying each affected third party regarding any of its confidential information that  
8 has been filed under seal and (2) soliciting each affected third party's request(s) for sealing  
9 or waiver(s) of confidentiality for inclusion in the omnibus sealing motion; and
- 10 • The Party filing the underlying document sought to be sealed shall file the public-facing  
11 version of the document, with any redactions pursuant to the Court's sealing order, within  
12 21 days following the Court's order on the omnibus sealing motion.

13  
14 **IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED.**

15  
16 Dated: September 16, 2022

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

17  
18 By: /s/ Caeli A. Higney  
Caeli A. Higney

19 *Attorney for Defendant Apple Inc.*

20  
21 Dated: September 16, 2022

WOLF HALDENSTEIN ADLER  
FREEMAN & HERZ LLP

22  
23 By: /s/ Rachele R. Byrd  
Mark C. Rifkin  
Betsy C. Manifold  
Rachele R. Byrd

24  
25 *Attorneys for Consumer Plaintiffs*

**ECF SIGNATURE ATTESTATION**

In accordance with Civil Local Rule 5-1, the filer of this document hereby attests that the concurrence of the filing of this document has been obtained from the other signatory hereto.

Dated: September 16, 2022

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

By: /s/ Caeli A. Higney  
Caeli A. Higney

*Attorney for Defendant Apple Inc.*

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**PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: September 26, , 2022

  
HON. YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS  
United States District Court Judge

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