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CALIFORNIA, BY AND THROUGH  
12 THE COUNTY COUNSEL OF THE COUNTY  
OF LOS ANGELES  
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14 (Additional Counsel Listed on Signature Page)  
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16 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
17 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT**

18 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF  
19 CALIFORNIA, acting by and through  
20 Los Angeles County Counsel Dawyn R.  
Harrison,

21 Plaintiff,

22 v.

23 ROBLOX CORPORATION; and DOES 1-  
24 50, inclusive,

25 Defendant.  
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Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR PUBLIC NUISANCE,  
VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA FALSE  
ADVERTISING LAW, CALIFORNIA  
UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW; DEMAND  
FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, RESTITUTION,  
ABATEMENT, AND CIVIL PENALTIES**

1 The People of the State of California, acting by and through the Los Angeles County  
2 Counsel Dawyn R. Harrison ("the People") bring this action against Roblox Corporation  
3 ("Roblox" or "Defendant"), and allege as follows:

4 **I. INTRODUCTION**

5 1. Roblox is "an immersive gaming and creation platform that offers people millions  
6 of ways to be together, inviting its community to explore, create, and share endless unique  
7 experiences."<sup>1</sup> It is one of the most popular online gaming platforms in history. In the third quarter  
8 of 2025, approximately 151.5 million daily active users spent a collective 39.6 billion hours on the  
9 Roblox platform. This activity generated \$1.36 billion for Roblox during that quarter, which was  
10 nearly a 50 percent increase in revenue from the same period in 2024.

11 2. Roblox deliberately positions itself as a platform for children. By September 2020,  
12 roughly 31.1 million people, more than half of them under 13, were on Roblox daily,<sup>2</sup> making it  
13 the world's biggest on-line gaming site for kids. The company itself acknowledges that "Roblox  
14 was initially created to serve the younger demographic, and today we are the largest dedicated  
15 gaming platform for users aged 13 and under (U13)."<sup>3</sup> With the majority of its daily active users  
16 under the age of 18, Roblox has cultivated an image of being a safe platform for children. Roblox  
17 repeatedly assures these users, their parents, and the public that its top priority is protecting young  
18 players. But its assurances are false, misleading, and unlawful because they are contradicted by  
19 Roblox's own design choices, safety architecture, and monetization practices, which have  
20 foreseeably and repeatedly exposed minors to harm. Indeed, Roblox has built its brand, expanded  
21 its userbase, and increased its revenue by marketing itself as safe and appropriate for children,  
22 while failing to implement meaningful safeguards that would materially reduce foreseeable harm.

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25 <sup>1</sup> Roblox, *What is Roblox*, <https://corp.roblox.com/what-is-roblox> (last visited January 17, 2026).

26 <sup>2</sup> Roblox Corp., SEC filings as of November 19, 2020,  
<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1315098/000119312520298230/d87104ds1.htm> (last  
visited January 17, 2026).

27 <sup>3</sup> Roblox Corp., Shareholder Letter SEC filings as of February 5, 2026,  
28 [https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1315098/000131509826000009/ex991-  
q42025shareholder.htm](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1315098/000131509826000009/ex991-q42025shareholder.htm) (last visited February 10, 2026).

1           3.       Roblox has created a massive, largely unsupervised online world where adults and  
2 children mingle with little functional oversight. Roblox's own platform architecture and product  
3 design choices, including how it structures account creation and how users can locate and contact  
4 one another, create foreseeable pathways for adults to access and target minors at scale. Beneath  
5 the bright animation and cheerful branding lies an environment in which child predators can  
6 readily locate, contact, and interact with minors through Roblox-enabled features and defaults, and  
7 where age-inappropriate sexual content and sexually themed interactions and experiences can be  
8 assessed and disseminated through Roblox's functionality and tools, leaving minors to navigate  
9 dangers they do not and cannot understand. Roblox invites children into its fantastic world with  
10 the promise of creativity and play, while failing to erect even rudimentary guardrails against the  
11 dangers it knows, and has long known, exist.

12           4.       This action is based on Roblox's own conduct: its design choices, safety failures,  
13 and false and misleading representations. Roblox has built an ecosystem that all but hands  
14 predators a roadmap to accessing young users: the platform's architecture lets adults target minors  
15 with ease, masquerade as fellow children, strike up conversations, and maneuver themselves into a  
16 position of influence over those children, grooming them through repeated interactions.

17           5.       Roblox portrays its platform as a safe and appropriate place for children to play. In  
18 reality, and as Roblox well knows, the design of its platform makes children easy prey for  
19 pedophiles. Roblox has failed to implement reasonable and readily available safety measures,  
20 including age verification, default communications restrictions, meaningful parental controls,  
21 effective reporting mechanisms, and escalation systems, to materially reduce foreseeable harm.  
22 These fixes are obvious, easy, and long overdue. Yet for years, Roblox has refused to invest in  
23 basic safety features and has done the exact opposite: it has allowed children to create accounts  
24 with no age verification or parental involvement, permitted high-risk interactions to occur through  
25 product defaults that enable minors to be located, contacted, and groomed, and then monetized the  
26 very interactions that put those children at risk. Roblox's business model depends on maximizing  
27 child engagement and encouraging transactions through its virtual economy, creating incentives to  
28 prioritize user growth and revenue over meaningful child-safety protections.

1           6.       These failures are intentional, preventable, and unconscionable. The reason for  
2 Roblox's unlawful conduct is simple: Roblox prioritizes profit and user growth over child safety.  
3 As one former Roblox employee explained in describing the company's approach to child safety,  
4 "You have to make a decision, right? You can keep your players safe, but then it would be less of  
5 them on the platform. Or you just let them do what they want to do. And then the numbers all  
6 look good and investors will be happy."<sup>4</sup>

7           7.       For years, Roblox has knowingly maintained platform conditions and design  
8 features that foreseeably allow the systemic sexual exploitation and abuse of children across the  
9 United States, including in the County of Los Angeles ("County"). In the County alone, hundreds  
10 of thousands of children under the age of 18 use Roblox. As a result, the County is on the front  
11 lines of combatting the consequences of Roblox's unlawful conduct. The child exploitation crisis  
12 enabled by Roblox's unsafe platform conditions and failures to implement reasonable protections  
13 affects all aspects of child welfare, community safety, and the ability of children to grow and  
14 develop free from predatory abuse. The County has been forced to expend, divert, and increase its  
15 limited resources to address rising rates of child sexual exploitation, trafficking, abuse, and  
16 mental health trauma foreseeably linked to Roblox's design, marketing, and operational choices.  
17 By taking actions that increase the costs of law enforcement, child protective services, victim  
18 services, mental health counseling, and other public services, Roblox has diverted taxpayer  
19 dollars away from other critical public programs and services.

20           8.       Only within the last year, after its legal troubles began to mount, has Roblox  
21 started to implement policy changes. But those changes are far too little, far too late, and  
22 ineffective. Roblox's deliberate failure to implement effective safety measures to protect child  
23 users from well- documented predatory threats, along with its ongoing failure to warn parents and  
24 children of the foreseeable dangers posed by its platform, has caused the widespread sexual  
25 exploitation of minors and inflicted severe, lasting harm upon the children of California.

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28 <sup>4</sup> *Roblox: Inflated Key Metrics for Wall Street and a Pedophile Hellscape for Kids*, Hindenburg Research (Oct. 8, 2024), <https://hindenburesearch.com/roblox/>.

1 Critically, Roblox's belated changes underscore that additional safeguards were feasible, readily  
2 available, and long overdue.

3 9. The People bring this action to hold Roblox accountable for its unlawful conduct.  
4 The People seek injunctive relief, including relief requiring Roblox to implement meaningful  
5 safeguards that materially reduce foreseeable harm to minors, restitution, disgorgement, civil  
6 penalties, abatement of the public nuisance, and all other remedies authorized under California  
7 law.

## 8 II. PARTIES

### 9 A. Plaintiff

10 10. Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, acting by and through the  
11 Los Angeles County Counsel Dawyn R. Harrison, bring this action pursuant to statutory authority  
12 provided under the Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Business & Professions Code ("Bus. &  
13 Prof. Code") § 17200, et seq.; the False Advertising Law ("FAL"), Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, et  
14 seq.; and other applicable California law authorizing public enforcement, injunctive relief,  
15 restitution, and civil penalties. Consumers in the County and throughout California were harmed,  
16 and continue to be harmed, by Roblox's unlawful and deceptive conduct.

17 11. The People also bring this action to abate a public nuisance in the County pursuant  
18 to California Code of Civil Procedure ("Code of Civ. Proc.") § 731.

19 12. The County is located in Southern California and is the most populous county in  
20 the United States, with a population of approximately 10 million.

### 21 B. Defendants

22 13. Defendant Roblox Corporation is a Nevada corporation with its principal place of  
23 business in San Mateo, California. Roblox owns, operates, controls, produces, designs, maintains,  
24 manages, develops, tests, labels, markets, advertises, promotes, supplies, and distributes the  
25 Roblox app. Roblox is widely available to consumers throughout the United States.

26 14. The true names or capacities, whether individual, corporate, or otherwise, of  
27 Defendants Does 1 through 50, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff who is therefore ignorant of  
28 their true names and sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff believes and alleges

1 that each of the Defendants designated herein by fictitious names is in some manner legally  
2 responsible for the events and happenings herein referred to and caused damages proximately and  
3 foreseeably to Plaintiff as alleged herein.

4 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5 15. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Roblox because its principal place of  
6 business is in California, and because it has contacts with California that are so continuous and  
7 systematic that it is essentially at home in this State.

8 16. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the People's claims for restitution,  
9 civil penalties, injunctive relief, and other equitable relief under the UCL, the FAL, and  
10 California Civil Code ("Cal. Civ. Code") § 3345; and over the People's claim under California  
11 Public Nuisance law (Cal. Civ. Code. §§ 3479, 3480). Roblox has substantially contributed to the  
12 creation of a public nuisance in the County, and the County Counsel has the right and authority to  
13 prosecute this case on behalf of the People.

14 17. The People's claims arise from Roblox's own conduct, including its design  
15 choices, platform and product architecture, and deceptive practices, and seek forward-looking  
16 abatement and injunctive relief.

17 18. Venue is proper in this judicial district, pursuant to Code of Civ. Proc. §§ 395  
18 and 395.5, because Roblox conducts business in this County and the unlawful conduct and public  
19 harm alleged herein occurred in and impacted the County.

20 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

21 **A. Roblox Is a Massive Gaming Platform Designed for and Marketed to Kids**

22 **1. What Roblox is and how it works**

23 19. Launched in 2006, Roblox is an online gaming platform that allows users to play a  
24 myriad of games, which the company refers to as "experiences." Free to download and available  
25 on gaming consoles, computers, tablets, and cellular devices, the platform hosts more than 40  
26 million experiences. In 2025, Roblox users spent a collective 124 billion hours on the platform,<sup>5</sup>

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28 <sup>5</sup> Roblox, Shareholder Letter, *supra* note 3.



1 for player consumers to access. Any consumer can easily upload their content to the platform.

2           22.     The platform's core mechanics center on social interaction. Roblox is designed to  
3 be an interactive experience, allowing and encouraging users to communicate with each other.  
4 Gameplay interactions, user hubs, friend requests, user-to-user connections, direct messaging, and  
5 voice chat are built-in features that promote social interactions between users, including between  
6 adults and minors. Roblox's co-founder and CEO David Baszucki has explained that his vision is  
7 for Roblox to bring about "the next phase of human interaction," which he also has described as "a  
8 new category of human coexperience."<sup>7</sup> Roblox has similarly explained that it "operates a human  
9 co-experience platform . . . where users interact with each other to explore and develop immersive,  
10 user-generated, 3D experiences."<sup>8</sup>

11           23.     Roblox has complete control over key platform functions and product defaults that  
12 govern how players interact. Roblox decides whether to issue content warnings associated with an  
13 experience, whether to require age verification and age restrictions for accessing a particular  
14 experience, what default communications settings apply to different age groups, and whether and  
15 how to deploy and enforce meaningful safeguards, including reporting, escalation, and  
16 enforcement mechanisms when users raise safety concerns.

17           **2.     Creating an account on Roblox**

18           24.     The first step to playing Roblox is to create an account. Doing so is extremely easy:  
19 all an individual has to do is visit [www.roblox.com](http://www.roblox.com) or download the app to "SIGN UP AND  
20 START HAVING FUN!" Users must provide only a birthdate, username, and password to start  
21 playing. A user need only be at least five-years-old to create an account, and Roblox does not  
22 require users to verify their age upon sign-up.

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26           <sup>7</sup> David Baszucki, Co-founder and CEO of Roblox, *The CEO of Roblox on Scaling Community-*  
27 *Sourced Innovation*, Har. Bus. Rev., The Magazine, (Mar-Apr 2022), [https://hbr.org/2022/03/the-](https://hbr.org/2022/03/the-ceo-of-roblox-on-scaling-community-sourced-innovation)  
28 [ceo-of-roblox-on-scaling-community-sourced-innovation](https://hbr.org/2022/03/the-ceo-of-roblox-on-scaling-community-sourced-innovation).

<sup>8</sup> Roblox Corp., Quarterly Report (Form 10-Q) (Mar. 13, 2021).



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*Example default avatar on Roblox.*

27. Until November 2024, Roblox configured its platform's default settings to allow any user to send friend requests and direct messages to any other user, regardless of the ages associated with their accounts. Because of these default communication settings, adult strangers could "friend" and chat with a child of any age via direct (*i.e.*, private) message. Similarly, under Roblox's default communication settings, adult users could send direct messages and chat with a child of any age within a Roblox experience (in-game chat) without being connected as "friends."

28. In November 2024, Roblox changed its default settings for accounts registered with birthdates indicating the user is under 13-years-old. Under the updated defaults, accounts with 13+ birthdates could not send direct messages to accounts with under-13 birthdates unless those accounts were already connected as friends. However, accounts with birthdates indicating 13 years or older could still send friend requests and direct messages to other accounts with 13+ birthdates, so children 13 and over were still vulnerable to receiving friend requests, or direct messages within Roblox experiences from adult strangers. And the platform continued to rely on self-reported birthdates to determine which communication settings applied to each account. By relying on self-reported birthdates and allowing minors to access adult-level communication settings through a single falsified birthdate, Roblox's design and default settings created a foreseeable and preventable pathway for adult-minor contact. Further, nothing prevented adults from entering fake birthdates and posing as children in their attempts to friend or otherwise

1 communicate with minor users.

2           29.     Until recently, Roblox did not require age verification at any point in the account  
3 creation or usage process. In January 2026, following a wave of litigation concerning child safety  
4 on its platform, Roblox rolled out age-verification requirements tied to access to certain social  
5 features. But Roblox still does not require age verification at account creation, continuing to rely  
6 on users' self-reported birthdates rather than independently verifying age at sign up.

7           **3.     Roblox is designed for and marketed to children**

8           30.     Roblox designed and marketed its app specifically for children.

9           31.     Roblox has marketed its app not only as the "#1 gaming site for kids and teens"<sup>9</sup>  
10 but also as an educational experience for young users. Roblox claims that it provides "new  
11 gateways into learning"—from "chemistry to physics to robotics and more, Roblox experiences  
12 bring concepts to life in ways that immerse learners and motivate exploration, play, and deep  
13 thinking."<sup>10</sup> These offerings, according to Roblox, include "high-quality, standards-aligned,  
14 immersive educational experiences designed by curriculum experts."<sup>11</sup> Roblox's marketing thus  
15 emphasizes youth engagement and trustworthiness, including messaging directed to parents and  
16 educators.

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26 <sup>9</sup> Roblox, *What Is Roblox*, <http://web.archive.org/web/20170227121323/https://www.roblox.com/>  
(archived Feb. 27, 2017).

27 <sup>10</sup> Roblox, *A New Era of Engaged Learning*, <https://corp.roblox.com/education> (last visited Feb.  
28 11, 2025).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*



## Learners

Roblox is a collaborative and civil place to learn

### Why learn on Roblox?

- Active learning: Engaged learners leads to better knowledge absorption and retention.
- Safe and civil: We continually work with parents and digital safety experts to ensure that learners can confidently engage in experiences and develop collaborative digital citizenship skills.
- Expert-backed: Supplement learning with immersive experiences designed by curriculum experts.

### *Roblox webpage – "A New Era of Engaged Learning"*

32. Roblox has cultivated a massive child userbase. Roblox's popularity among children exploded during the pandemic when the app was flooded with millions of new users as kids were confined to their homes and glued to their devices.

33. By September 2020, roughly 31.1 million people, more than half of them under 13, were on Roblox daily,<sup>12</sup> making it the world's biggest on-line gaming platform for kids. That growth has continued unabated. In Roblox's Annual Report for 2024, the company reported an average of 82.9 million daily active users, with 20 percent under nine years of age, 20 percent from 9-12 years of age, and 16 percent from 13-16 years of age. Roblox has boasted that as many as two-thirds of all children ages 9 to 12 in the United States have accounts.

34. Applying these nationally reported usage rates to Census population data indicates that likely half a million kids in the County alone have Roblox accounts.<sup>13</sup>

35. Today, Roblox is the most downloaded online game globally, and the average user

<sup>12</sup> Roblox Filings, *supra* note 2.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates indicate that the County has approximately 650,000 children between the ages of 9 and 12. Applying Roblox's own statement that as many as two-thirds of U.S. children in this age range have Roblox accounts yields a conservative estimate of approximately 430,000 children ages 9–12 in Los Angeles County who have Roblox accounts, assuming local usage mirrors national trends. This estimate excludes younger children and older minors and therefore understates the total number of minor users in the County.

1 spends 139 minutes a day on the app.<sup>14</sup>

2 36. Beyond the digital sphere, Roblox markets physical goods to children through  
3 brick-and-mortar retailers. According to Roblox's website, physical Roblox gift cards are carried  
4 at retailers such as Walmart, Target, Walgreens, CVS, Best Buy, 7-Eleven, Dollar General, Family  
5 Dollar, GameStop, and Kroger.<sup>15</sup> These gift cards can be redeemed for Robux, Roblox's virtual  
6 currency. Roblox also sells, either directly or via licensing partnerships, physical items such as  
7 Roblox action figures and toys. These physical gift cards and toys sold at brick-and-mortar  
8 locations are meant to drive children onto Roblox's platform. This retail marketing and  
9 monetization strategy underscore that children are a target demographic for the company.

10 4. **Robux: Roblox's money maker**

11 37. Roblox generates revenue largely by selling users an in-game digital currency  
12 called Robux, which they exchange for digital content such as online experiences and customized  
13 outfits and appearances for their avatars. Roblox designed and operates its platform so that  
14 participation, customization, and advancement within the ecosystem are closely tied to Robux  
15 transactions.

16 38. Robux can be purchased in a single transaction or a user may subscribe to receive  
17 Robux on a recurring basis with a Roblox Premium membership. Roblox also offers Robux gift  
18 cards, discussed above, that anyone can purchase and send to any user. Through these  
19 monetization choices, and by making Robux central to the user experience, Roblox encourages  
20 increased spending and extended engagement by minor users.

21 39. Children frequently become obsessed with purchasing or otherwise obtaining  
22 Robux. Roblox's virtual economy is designed to incentivize children's spending on avatar  
23 customization and in-experience purchases by tying status and participation to paid features. In  
24 Roblox's Avatar Store, for example, the company sells rare items at astronomical prices, such as a  
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26 <sup>14</sup> Qustodio, *Research by App Category – Gaming*, <https://www.qustodio.com/en/the-digital-dilemma/gaming/> (last visited Feb. 11, 2025).

27 <sup>15</sup> *Roblox | Gift Cards*, Roblox, <https://www.roblox.com/giftcards-retailers-us> (last visited on  
28 January 17, 2026).

1 type of hair for an avatar. Children seek to purchase these features to keep up with or outdo their  
2 peers on Roblox.

3 40. This dynamic creates foreseeable opportunities for adults to manipulate and exploit  
4 children through Robux-related coercion and enticement. Indeed, children often tell others,  
5 including strangers, that they will do "Anything for Robux."<sup>16</sup>

6 **B. Roblox Deceives Parents into Letting Their Kids Use Roblox with Promises of**  
7 **Safety.**

8 41. Roblox's success and continued growth have hinged on its constant, false  
9 assurances to parents that its app is safe for children. These safety assurances are not isolated  
10 statements, but rather a sustained marketing strategy directed at parents. The company has offered  
11 such assurances throughout its history and in every forum possible—on its website, through public  
12 promises of its highest executives, in news articles, on podcasts, and on and on. By repeatedly  
13 assuring parents that Roblox is safe, Roblox uses safety messaging to expand and retain its child  
14 userbase.

15 42. Over the years, Roblox has repeatedly represented on its website that its app is safe  
16 for children and has touted the safety controls, policies, and enforcement practices it has in place.  
17 As early as 2007, Roblox's website assured parents that Roblox is an "online virtual playground  
18 . . . where kids of all ages can safely interact, create, have fun, and learn."<sup>17</sup> By holding itself out  
19 as a "safe" space for kids of all ages, Roblox encouraged parental trust and normalized children's  
20 unsupervised use of the platform.

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26 <sup>16</sup> Olivia Carville & Cecilia D'Anastasio, *Roblox's Pedophile Problem*, Bloomberg Businessweek  
(July 23, 2024), <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2024-roblox-pedophile-problem/>.

27 <sup>17</sup> Roblox, *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*,  
28 <https://web.archive.org/web/20071105104643/http://www.roblox.com/Parents/FAQs.aspx>  
(archived Nov. 5, 2007).

1           43.     From 2008 to 2016, the website continued to promise parents, "We take every  
2 precaution possible to make sure kids are protected from inappropriate and offensive individuals  
3 as well as from indecent and distasteful content."<sup>18</sup> It also assured parents that Roblox has a  
4 zero-tolerance policy for "swearing and obscenities, messages and content of a sexual or violent  
5 nature, and any sort of aggressive or threatening communication," and "immediately suspended or  
6 permanently expelled" any offenders.<sup>19</sup>

7           44.     The website has consistently sought to paint Roblox as "family friendly" and safe  
8 for children of all ages. In 2017, Roblox began declaring that it "take[s] kids' safety and privacy  
9 very seriously" and "strive[s] to continually develop new and innovative technologies that will  
10 protect the safety of our community while allowing players to imagine, create, and play together in  
11 a family-friendly environment."<sup>20</sup> Roblox similarly has advertised its app as "a safe, moderated  
12 place to meet, play, chat, and collaborate on creative projects."<sup>21</sup>

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23 <sup>18</sup> Roblox, *Keeping Kids Safe*,  
24 [https://web.archive.org/web/20080501101437/http://www.roblox.com/Parents/KeepingKidsSafe.a](https://web.archive.org/web/20080501101437/http://www.roblox.com/Parents/KeepingKidsSafe.aspx)  
25 [spx](https://web.archive.org/web/20160131063648/http://corp.roblox.com/parents) (archived May 1, 2008); *see also* Roblox, *Information for Parents*,  
26 <https://web.archive.org/web/20160131063648/http://corp.roblox.com/parents> (archived Jan. 31,  
27 2016).

26 <sup>19</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>20</sup> Roblox, *Parents' Guide*,  
28 <https://web.archive.org/web/20170716032712/https://corp.roblox.com/parents/> (archived Jul. 16,  
2017).

28 <sup>21</sup> *Id.*

1 As the largest growing social platform for play, Roblox gives players a safe, moderated place to meet, play, chat,  
2 and collaborate on creative projects. If so inclined, they can even go on to learn how to build and code immersive  
3 experiences for others, all at their own pace.



13 *Excerpt from Roblox's 2017 Parents' Guide*

14 45. Roblox's website representations have remained largely unchanged. In 2023, for  
15 example, Roblox assured parents that it "continually develop[s] cutting-edge technologies to  
16 ensure that the Roblox platform remains a safe and fun space for players all over the world."<sup>22</sup>  
17 Roblox claimed that the company was "dedicated to working together with parents and digital  
18 safety experts to promote a family-friendly environment that allows all players to imagine, create,  
19 and play online,"<sup>23</sup> and Roblox used that assurance to market the platform to families deciding  
20 whether to permit minors to join and remain active on Roblox. Roblox emphasized that it is  
21 "committed to ensuring that Roblox is a safe and fun place for everyone."<sup>24</sup> According to Roblox,  
22 it "goes above and beyond to foster an environment where people of any age can create, play,

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25 <sup>22</sup> Roblox, *For Parents*,  
26 <https://web.archive.org/web/20230405060048/https://corporate.roblox.com/parents/> (archived  
27 Apr. 5, 2023).

28 <sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> Roblox, *Roblox FAQ*,  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20230328011957/https://corporate.roblox.com/faq/> (archived Mar.  
28, 2023).

1 learn, and imagine safely. We've kept children's privacy and safety top-of-mind when designing  
2 our platform, especially through the implementation of advanced text filters that block  
3 inappropriate language or other unsafe content."<sup>25</sup>

4 46. Roblox continued to make similar assurances on its website. In 2025, for example,  
5 Roblox claimed, "Safety is in our DNA: when Dave Baszucki and Erik Cassel launched Roblox  
6 in 2006, they spent a few hours each day with the community, helping to ensure that Roblox was a  
7 safe and welcoming environment. Safety was their top priority, and they made constant  
8 improvements in their moderation, both for content and for communication on the platform."<sup>26</sup>

9 47. According to the current website, Roblox "won't allow language that is used to  
10 harass, discriminate, incite violence, threaten others, or used in a sexual context."<sup>27</sup> Roblox touts a  
11 "stringent safety system and policies,"<sup>28</sup> which include its "large, expertly trained team with  
12 thousands of members dedicated to protecting our users and monitoring 24/7 for inappropriate  
13 content"; its "safety review of every uploaded image, audio, and video file, using a combination of  
14 review by a large team of human moderators and machine detection before these assets become  
15 available on our platform"; and its chat filters for inappropriate content, which "are even stricter"  
16 for children under 13 and "include any potentially identifiable personal information, slang etc."<sup>29</sup>

17 48. These false promises and assurances are not confined to Roblox's website. They are  
18 repeated in statements by the company's highest executives, including in direct response to  
19 concerns raised by parents.

20 49. In 2009, for instance, a blogger wrote about blocking Roblox because he doubted  
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22 <sup>25</sup> Roblox, *Roblox & User Data FAQ*, [https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/4406238486676-Roblox-User-Data-FAQ)  
23 [us/articles/4406238486676-Roblox-User-Data-FAQ](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/4406238486676-Roblox-User-Data-FAQ) (last visited Feb. 11, 2025).

24 <sup>26</sup> Roblox, *Safety Comes First on Roblox*, [https://corp.roblox.com/safety-civility-](https://corp.roblox.com/safety-civility-resources?section=news&article=safety-comes-first-on-roblox)  
25 [resources?section=news&article=safety-comes-first-on-roblox](https://corp.roblox.com/safety-civility-resources?section=news&article=safety-comes-first-on-roblox) (last visited Feb. 11, 2025).

26 <sup>27</sup> Roblox, *Safety Features: Chat, Privacy & Filtering*, [https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering#:~:text=Players%20have%20different%20safety%20settings,and%20phrases%2%200tha)  
27 [us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering#:~:text=Players%20have%20different%20safety%20settings,and%20phrases%2%200tha)  
28 [Filtering#:~:text=Players%20have%20different%20safety%20settings,and%20phrases%2%200tha](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering#:~:text=Players%20have%20different%20safety%20settings,and%20phrases%2%200tha)  
29 [n%20younger%20players](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering#:~:text=Players%20have%20different%20safety%20settings,and%20phrases%2%200tha) (last visited Feb. 16, 2026).

27 <sup>28</sup> Roblox, *Safety & Civility at Roblox*, [https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/4407444339348-Safety-Civility-at-Roblox)  
28 [us/articles/4407444339348-Safety-Civility-at-Roblox](https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/4407444339348-Safety-Civility-at-Roblox) (last visited Feb. 16, 2026).

28 <sup>29</sup> *Id.*

1 its safety for his children. CEO David Baszucki responded to the blogger reassuring him that  
2 Roblox flags "obviously offensive content" and removes it, and if "something is marginal, but gets  
3 flagged as inappropriate," Roblox "investigate[s] immediately."<sup>30</sup>

4 50. In a 2013 *Wired* interview, when asked whether a parent should be concerned about  
5 whom his child was chatting with in-game, Baszucki, in a public-facing effort to reassure parents  
6 and minimize safety concerns, declared, "We take every precaution possible to make sure kids are  
7 protected from inappropriate and offensive individuals as well as from indecent and distasteful  
8 content,"<sup>31</sup> taking a sentence verbatim from Roblox's webpage for parents, and presenting it as  
9 reassurance to parents considering whether to allow their children to use the platform.

10 51. Tami Bhaumik, Roblox's current Vice President of Civility & Partnerships, has  
11 doubled down on these promises in statements to parenting magazines, news outlets, and podcasts,  
12 repeatedly representing Roblox as safe for children in order to persuade parents and caregivers to  
13 permit minors to use the platform. She also has contacted international online safety experts in an  
14 effort to sell Roblox's safety story to the public, despite persistent risk to child users.

15 52. As recently as 2024, Bhaumik, falsely representing that child safety is Roblox's  
16 paramount operational commitment, told *Parents Magazine* that "[w]e have a responsibility to  
17 make sure our players can learn, create, and play safely. This continues to be our most important  
18 priority and that will never change."<sup>32</sup>

# Parents

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25 <sup>30</sup> Eric Frenchman, *Revisiting Roblox*, Pardon My French (Oct. 5, 2009),

26 <https://pardonmyfrench.typepad.com/pardonmyfrench/2009/10/revisiting-roblox.html>.

27 <sup>31</sup> Tony Sims, *Interview with David Baszucki, Founder & CEO of Roblox*, *Wired* (Feb. 7, 2013),  
<https://www.wired.com/2013/02/roblox/>.

28 <sup>32</sup> Maressa Brown, *Is Roblox Safe for Kids? Here's What the Experts Have to Say*, *Parents Magazine* (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://www.parents.com/kids/safety/internet/is-roblox-safe-for-kids/>.

1 In response to safety concerns, Roblox notes that the platform was  
2 designed for kids and teens from the beginning, and they're committed to  
3 making safety a priority. "We have a responsibility to make sure our players  
4 can learn, create, and play safely," notes Tami Bhaumik, Vice President of  
5 Civility & Partnerships at Roblox. "This continues to be our most important  
6 priority and that will never change."

7 53. Such statements by Bhaumik date back years. In 2018, Bhaumik told the  
8 *Washington Post* that Roblox "focus[es] on making sure that everything is done in a safe and  
9 appropriate way."<sup>33</sup> That year, she also claimed to another newspaper that Roblox's "safety team  
10 reviews every uploaded image, video, and audio file used within our games to make sure they are  
11 safe and age appropriate."<sup>34</sup> She also boasted that Roblox has "created extensive parental controls  
12 for our games and a detailed Roblox Parent's Guide that provides information to parents to help  
13 create a Roblox experience that's best for their child,"<sup>35</sup> holding Roblox out as a platform with  
14 comprehensive protections for minors.

15 54. Bhaumik, while representing Roblox on a 2019 Digital Civility Panel, claimed that  
16 Roblox maintained effective systems to protect children, emphasizing that "[w]e make sure there's  
17 a safe environment," citing Roblox's "tremendous reporting system" and "incredible moderation  
18 and CS team that reacts very, very quickly."<sup>36</sup> On that same panel, and in contradiction to Roblox's  
19 representation that it had always taken "every precaution possible" to protect children, Bhaumik  
20 conceded that "digital civility did not exist at Roblox a year and a half ago and we established this  
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22 <sup>33</sup> Hayley Tsukayama, *Roblox, an Online Kids Game, Explains How a Hack Allowed a*  
23 *Character's Virtual 'Rape'*, Wash. Post. (Jul. 17, 2018),

24 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2018/07/17/roblox-an-online-kids-game-explains-how-hack-allowed-characters-virtual-rape/>.

25 <sup>34</sup> Chris Pollard, *Police Warn that Children as Young as Five-Years-Old are Seeing Naked Lego-*  
26 *Type Characters Having Sex on Roblox App*, The Sun (Jan. 29, 2018),

27 <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5445444/roblox-app-children-danger-sex-warning/>.

28 <sup>35</sup> *Id.*

<sup>36</sup> YouTube, Digital Civility Panel (Oct. 23, 2019),

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoUs1Js7WG0&list=PLcKphP00N1\\_kCLjvcOWdwbegJkNSL-CuL&index=6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoUs1Js7WG0&list=PLcKphP00N1_kCLjvcOWdwbegJkNSL-CuL&index=6).

1 and made it a movement within our company."<sup>37</sup> She added later, "It's still very early days for us.  
2 This whole digital civility focus for Roblox is still there, we're just still establishing it."<sup>38</sup>

3 55. Bhaumik, in a 2022 video interview, continued to promote Roblox's safety  
4 narrative to parents and the public, asserting that Roblox's "number one priority" is "to create a  
5 safe, civil, and inclusive community" and that "[s]afety and civility has always been baked into  
6 everything that we do."<sup>39</sup> She also bragged about Roblox's purported safety protections, including  
7 "thousands of human moderators on the front lines" and "machine learning that is constantly  
8 taking a look at chat filters."<sup>40</sup> With these and other measures, she exclaimed, "[a]ny sort of bad  
9 actor that comes onto the platform is dealt with swiftly," and "[w]e remove any content that's  
10 reported to us within minutes."<sup>41</sup>

11 56. Matt Kaufman, formerly the Chief Systems Officer for Roblox, was appointed  
12 Chief Safety Officer in 2023, and quickly began spreading Roblox's false child-safety narrative to  
13 the public, including parents in California.

14 57. Kaufman, in a 2024 blog post on Roblox's website, represented Roblox had long  
15 prioritized children's safety and as operating one of the safest online environments for minors.  
16 Kaufman asserted that "Roblox has spent almost two decades working to make the platform one of  
17 the safest online environments for our users, particularly the youngest users. Our guiding vision is  
18 to create the safest and most civil community in the world."<sup>42</sup> According to Kaufman, "For users  
19 under 13, our filters block sharing of personal information and attempts to take conversations off  
20 Roblox, where safety standards and moderation are less stringent."<sup>43</sup> A few months later, he

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22 <sup>37</sup> *Id.*

23 <sup>38</sup> *Id.*

24 <sup>39</sup> Video Interview with Tami Bhaumik, Roblox's VP of Digital Civility & Partnerships (2022),  
<https://www.facebook.com/bedford.sheriff/videos/roblox-how-to-help-kids-use-itsafelyrobloxsvp-of-digital-civility-partnerships/1338989609901259/>.

25 <sup>40</sup> YouTube, Into the Metaverse, Podcast: EP.21: Tami Bhaumik (Roblox) - Building a Safe &  
26 Resilient Metaverse, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT5\\_bBOYS9A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT5_bBOYS9A).

27 <sup>41</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>42</sup> Matt Kaufman, Chief Safety Officer, *Driving Civility and Safety for All Users*, Roblox (July 22,  
28 2024), <https://corp.roblox.com/newsroom/2024/07/driving-civility-and-safety-for-allusers>.

28 <sup>43</sup> *Id.*

1 added, "Safety is and always has been foundational to everything we do at Roblox."<sup>44</sup>

2 58. Kaufman touted, in another blog posting Roblox's "track record of putting the  
3 safety of the youngest and most vulnerable people on our platform first."<sup>45</sup>

4 59. Kaufman also recently told *NPR* that "any time anything happens to a child that  
5 puts them at risk is one too many,"<sup>46</sup> a statement that reinforces Roblox's public portrayal of itself  
6 as relentlessly focused on preventing harm to children.

7 **C. In Reality, Roblox Is a Digital and Real-Life Nightmare for Children.**

8 60. Roblox's public statements and promises are carefully crafted to paint the picture  
9 of a digital playground that is safe and appropriate for children. When parents, the press, or child  
10 advocates raise questions and concerns, the company's highest executives respond with  
11 assurances about safety and representations that Roblox's technology effectively protects  
12 children.

13 61. This campaign of lies masks the truth about Roblox. Far from creating a safe place  
14 for children, Roblox designed, built, and maintains a toxic environment through its platform  
15 design choices, default communication settings, and failure to implement meaningful verification  
16 and enforcement mechanisms that has enabled obscene material to flourish and, worse, created  
17 foreseeable pathways that enable predatory pedophiles to hunt, groom, and sexually exploit  
18 children. What Roblox represents and advertises as a safe, appropriate space for children is, in  
19 fact, a digital and real-life nightmare for kids.

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24 <sup>44</sup> Matt Kaufman, Chief Safety Officer, *Major Updates to Our Safety Systems and Parental*  
25 *Controls*, Roblox (Nov. 18, 2024), <https://corp.roblox.com/newsroom/2024/11/major-updates-to-our-safety-systems-and-parental-controls>.

26 <sup>45</sup> Matt Kaufman, Chief Safety Officer, *Scaling Safety and Civility on Roblox*, Roblox (Apr. 4,  
2024), <https://corp.roblox.com/newsroom/2024/04/scaling-safety-civility-roblox>.

27 <sup>46</sup> Scott Tong & James Perkins Mastromarino, *Roblox Chief Safety Officer on New Safety*  
28 *Features, Past Cases of Child Abuse on the Platform*, *WBUR* (Nov. 18, 2024),  
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2024/11/18/roblox-safety-features>.

1           1.       **Roblox hosts and promotes graphic, sexually explicit content.**

2           62.       Roblox is a vast ecosystem offering an endless array of not just online games but  
3 also immersive virtual worlds where children's customized avatars can engage in activities like  
4 playing house, adopting pets, and mimicking adult behaviors, including sexually explicit ones.

5           63.       These games and virtual worlds are brought to life through developer tools that  
6 Roblox designs, controls, and makes available to third parties. These tools, which include scripting  
7 capabilities, 3D modeling systems, and other software supply the infrastructure Roblox chose to  
8 build to create content for the Roblox platform. Roblox has the power to control the use of these  
9 tools. Instead, over the years, the company has given third parties essentially unfettered access to  
10 use the tools to build what they want, with no meaningful oversight or safeguards. The results are  
11 deplorable.

12          64.       As early as 2010, Roblox's virtual games had already devolved into hosting and  
13 promoting sexually explicit content. Roblox's scripting language, which allows developers to  
14 manipulate avatar activity and interactions any way they want, was deployed to create scenarios  
15 where avatars engaged in simulated sexual activity.<sup>47</sup>

16          65.       This simulated sexual activity pervades Roblox. There have been numerous reports  
17 of children's avatars being raped by other users' avatars. For example, in 2018, a seven-year-old  
18 girl's avatar was violently raped by two male avatars on a playground in a Roblox experience,  
19 which was witnessed by the girl's mother.<sup>48</sup> In describing the aftermath of this traumatic  
20 experience, the girl's mother exclaimed, "I never in my wildest dreams would've ever imagined  
21 that I would have to talk with my seven-year-old about rape."<sup>49</sup>

22          66.       Roblox also hosts a staggering number of experiences centered on simulated sexual  
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24 <sup>47</sup> See, e.g., YouTube, *How to Do Roblox Sex Glitch*,  
25 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz97Q1SQE\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz97Q1SQE_k); see also YouTube, *Roblox Sex?*,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyqCHG6nUYI>.

26 <sup>48</sup> Savannah Levins, *North Carolina Mom Outraged After Roblox Game Depicts Violent Acts, Including Rape*, WFMYNews2 (June 30, 2018),  
27 <https://www.wfmynews2.com/article/news/local/2-wants-to-know/north-carolina-mom-outraged-after-roblox-game-depicts-violent-acts-including-rape/83-569498171>.

28 <sup>49</sup> *Id.*

1 activity. For instance, children can play in "condo games," predatory digital environments,  
2 including houses, where users can remove their avatars' virtual clothing, revealing nudity, and  
3 engage in disturbing simulated sexual activities with other Roblox users.<sup>50</sup> They can also play  
4 games like "Public Bathroom Simulator Vibe," which allows access to users as young as  
5 nine-years-old and enables users to simulate sexual activity in virtual bathrooms,<sup>51</sup> as well as  
6 virtual strip clubs, where child avatars perform sexually explicit acts, like giving lap dances to  
7 patrons.<sup>52</sup>



*Roblox's Public Bathroom Simulator Game is rated ages nine and up and allows users to simulate sexual activity.*<sup>53</sup>

19 67. A recent investigative report also exposed a multitude of other exploitative  
20 experiences on Roblox that recklessly trivialize and gamify serious criminal conduct, including  
21 rape. The report confirmed that Roblox actively hosted over 600 "Diddy" games, with titles like  
22 "Survive Diddy," "Run from Diddy Simulator," and "Diddy Party," which appear to recreate  
23 reported incidents involving the music mogul Sean Combs, publicly known as "Diddy." Diddy  
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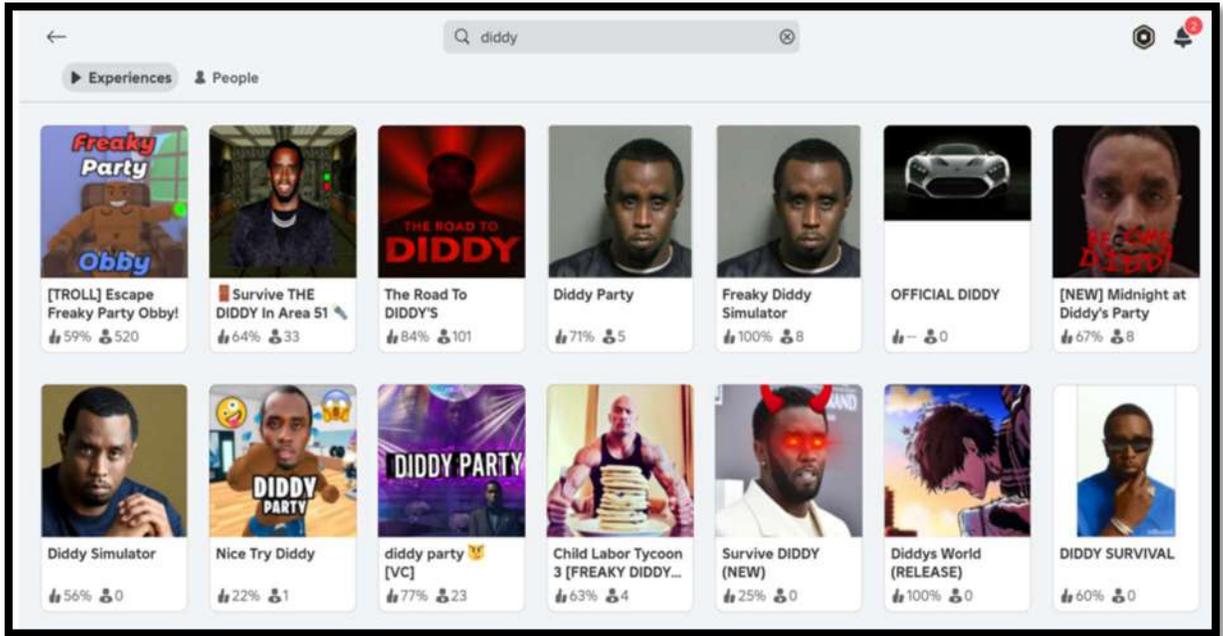
25 <sup>50</sup> EJ Dickson, *Inside the Underground Strip-Club Scene on Kid-Friendly Gaming Site Roblox*,  
26 Rolling Stone (Sep. 12, 2021), <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/roblox-virtual-strip-clubs-condo-games-sex-1197237/>.

27 <sup>51</sup> Hindenburg, *supra* note 4.

28 <sup>52</sup> Dickson, *supra* note 50.

<sup>53</sup> Hindenburg Research, *supra* note 4.

1 was convicted for sex trafficking of minors regarding allegations surrounding reports about  
2 "freak-off" parties, events which, according to multiple lawsuits and media reports, allegedly  
3 involved forced drug use, violent assaults, and the sex trafficking of minors, including victims as  
4 young as 10-years-old.



16 *Examples of Roblox games modeled after Diddy's sex trafficking ventures.*<sup>54</sup>

17 68. This report also revealed that Roblox permitted more than 900 Roblox accounts  
18 displaying variations of convicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein's name, such as  
19 "JeffEpsteinSupporter," whose account Roblox actively permitted to be openly engaged in  
20 children's games. Roblox also allowed games like "Escape to Epstein Island" —a title that directly  
21 references one of the locations where for years Epstein trafficked minors and other non-consenting  
22 individuals so he and others could sexually and physically abuse them.

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28 <sup>54</sup> *Id.*



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11 *Example of Roblox game modeled after Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking ventures.<sup>55</sup>*

12 69. Roblox played a direct role in enabling these rampant, sexually exploitative  
13 experiences. Roblox is fully aware that these experiences pervade its app, and it allows them to  
14 continue to exist unchecked despite the ability to control or eliminate them. Leaked internal  
15 Roblox documents reveal that Roblox monitored this type of content and made decisions such as  
16 "[h]ow big of a 'bulge'" was acceptable, and, with the introduction of layered clothing for avatars  
17 (*i.e.*, allowing avatars to wear multiple layers of clothing), whether players could be nude.<sup>56</sup> By  
18 maintaining platform settings and enforcement decisions that permitted this type of content to  
19 remain available and easily accessible, Roblox directly contributed to the proliferation of games  
20 simulating sexual activity, such as condo games and virtual strip clubs.

21 70. The effects of these games on children can be devastating. Playing video games  
22 with explicit sexual content normalizes exploitative and predatory behavior, blurring the lines of  
23 what is acceptable in real life. This is particularly harmful for children, who are still developing  
24 their understanding of social norms and morality. When such behavior is depicted as humorous,  
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26 <sup>55</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>56</sup> Joseph Cox & Emanuel Malberg, *Leaked Documents Reveal How Roblox Handles Grooming*  
28 *and Mass Shooting Simulators*, Vice (Aug. 1, 2022), <https://www.vice.com/en/article/leaked-documents-how-roblox-moderates-content-mass-shootings-grooming/>.

1 exciting, or rewarded within a game, young players can internalize the idea that harassment or  
2 sexual exploitation is harmless or even acceptable.

3 71. Studies support this connection. One study found that playing games with  
4 sexualized content was linked to increased rates of sexual harassment toward female targets,  
5 suggesting that such exposure desensitizes players to the real-world consequences of these  
6 actions.<sup>57</sup> Another study showed that playing mature-rated games was associated with higher rates  
7 of risky sexual behavior years later, highlighting the long-term impact of exposure to sexualized or  
8 exploitative content.<sup>58</sup>

9 72. The interactive nature of games amplifies this effect. Unlike passive media, video  
10 games require players to actively participate in behaviors, including those that simulate  
11 harassment or exploitation, reinforcing the perception that such actions are normal or desirable.  
12 This environment not only desensitizes children but also makes them more likely to replicate these  
13 actions in real-world interactions.

14 73. The dangerous content on Roblox is not limited to online games. The recent  
15 investigative report discussed above found that a basic search for "adult" in Roblox revealed a  
16 group with 3,334 members "openly trading child pornography and soliciting sexual acts from  
17 minors."<sup>59</sup> And tracking these members unearthed additional Roblox groups engaged in the same  
18 criminal conduct, including one massive group with 103,000 members.<sup>60</sup> Yet Roblox failed to  
19 implement any age restrictions, access barriers, or meaningful safeguards on these criminal  
20 groups, deliberately leaving them accessible to all users through Roblox's own search and group  
21 features.<sup>61</sup>

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25 <sup>57</sup> Jonathan Burnay, Brad J. Bushman & Frank Larøi, *Effects of Sexualized Video Games on*  
*Online Sexual Harassment*, 45 *Aggressive Behavior* 2, 214 (March/April 2019).

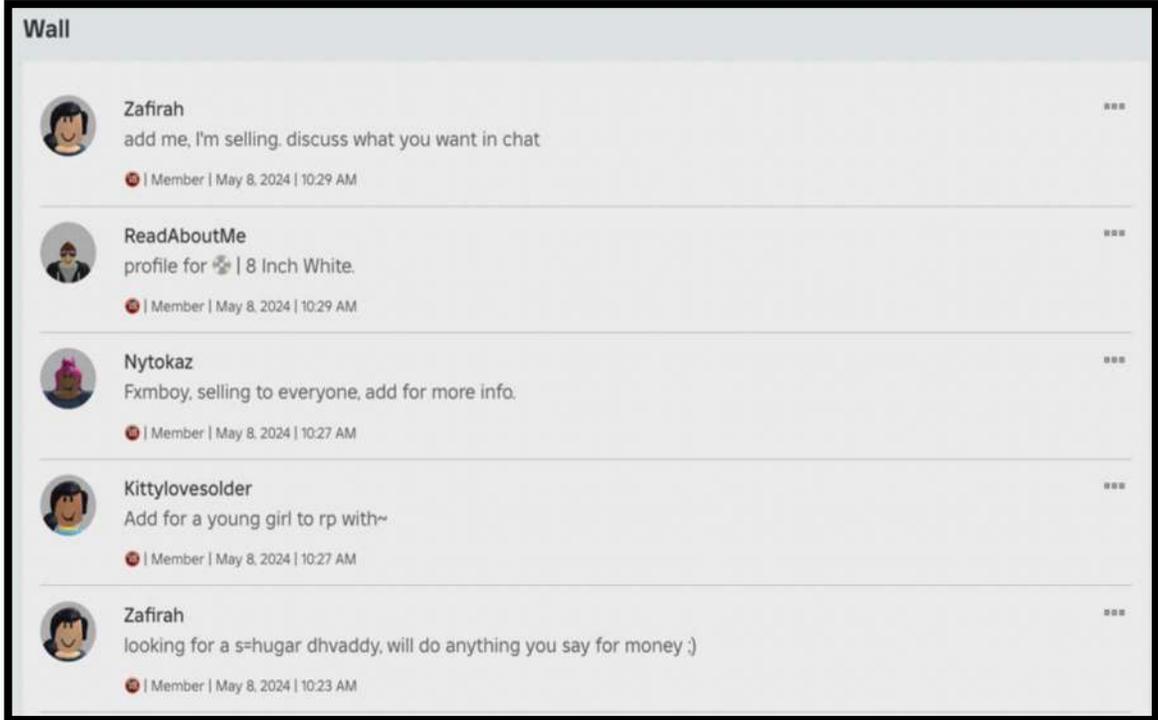
26 <sup>58</sup> Jay G. Hull et al., *A Longitudinal Study of Risk-Glorifying Video Games and Behavior*  
*Deviance*, *J. Pers. Soc. Psychol.* 2014 August; 107(2): 300–325. doi:10.1037/a0036058.

27 <sup>59</sup> Hindenburg Research, *supra* note 4.

28 <sup>60</sup> *Id.*

<sup>61</sup> *Id.*

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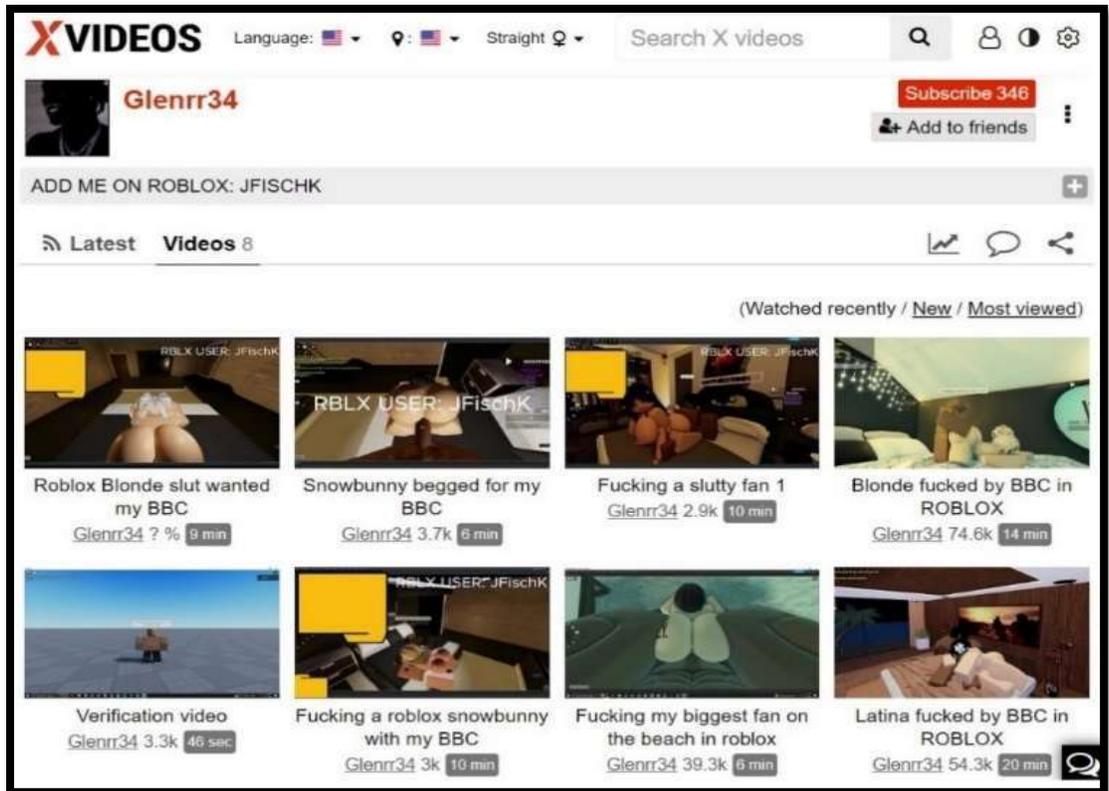
*Public chat wall for a group named "Adult Studios," where users openly solicited child pornography.<sup>62</sup>*

74. Roblox has also enabled individuals to create an entire category of pornographic content. Using Roblox's tools and software, users make virtual sex videos between avatars on Roblox, leveraging Roblox's platform functions, avatar systems, and animation capabilities. These videos are clearly marked with the .rbxl file extension, Roblox's proprietary file format, establishing that this content was created within the Roblox application. Moreover, on XVideos, a pornography website, Roblox users seek out other users to simulate sexual acts within seemingly innocuous Roblox games, like Brookhaven, which is one of Roblox's most popular experiences and is available to all users, regardless of age, demonstrating how Roblox's child-accessible experiences can be used as an entry point for sexualized roleplay and grooming.

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<sup>62</sup> *Id.*

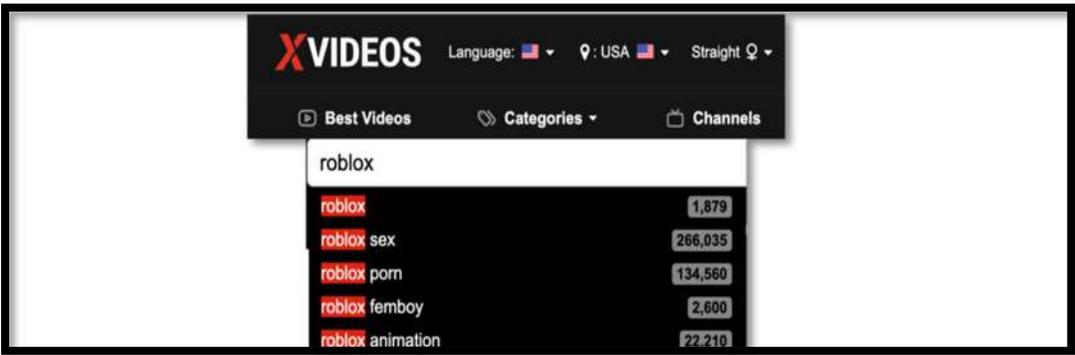
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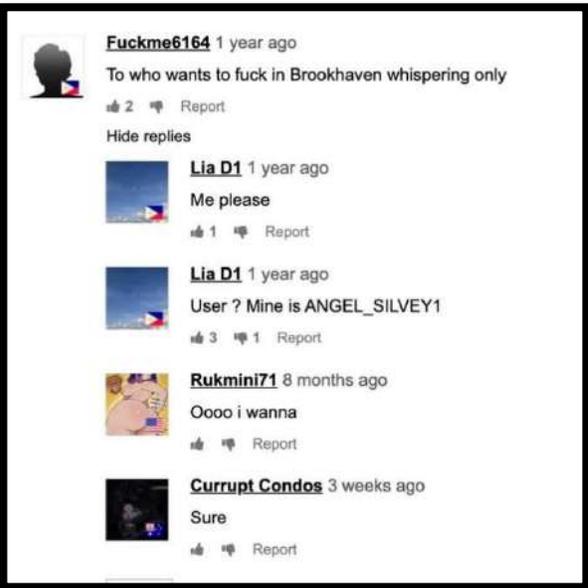
*This Roblox user advertised their Roblox account on porn website, XVideos, where they had uploaded videos of their avatar having sex with other Roblox users.<sup>63</sup>*

<sup>63</sup> *Id.*

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Searching "Roblox" on XVideos, a porn website, yields more than 250,000 results.<sup>64</sup>



The comment section on a Roblox porn video on XVideos – Brookhaven is one of Roblox's most popular games and is available to users of all ages.<sup>65</sup>

75. The online environment that Roblox designed, maintains, hosts, and enables through its platform architecture, default settings, and enforcement choices, contradicts its representations of providing a safe product, demonstrating Roblox's blatant disregard for the safety of its youngest users and revealing the company's prioritization of user engagement over its fundamental duty to protect young users.

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<sup>64</sup> *Id.*  
<sup>65</sup> *Id.*

1           2.       **Roblox provides a hunting ground for child-sex predators.**

2           76.       For years, Roblox has served as the foreseeable and highly accessible online  
3 platform of choice for predators seeking to find, groom, abuse, and exploit children. Roblox  
4 provides predators with easy access to tens of millions of children and allows these predators to  
5 freely move between child-dominated experiences and communication features to identify and  
6 target vulnerable young users. By doing so, Roblox has demonstrated reckless indifference to its  
7 fundamental obligation not to create and foster an environment that places children at significant  
8 risk of sexual exploitation.

9           77.       These systematic patterns of exploitation on Roblox follow a predictable and  
10 preventable sequence that the company has known about and facilitated for years: a predator  
11 misrepresents their age to other users on the app, cosplaying as a fellow child, methodically  
12 befriends the vulnerable young victim, and then strategically manipulates the child to move the  
13 conversation off Roblox to other popular apps, such as Discord or Snapchat.

14           78.       As the *Bloomberg Businessweek* article titled *Roblox's Pedophile Problem* put it,  
15 "These predators weren't just lurking outside the world's largest virtual playground. They were  
16 hanging from the jungle gym, using Roblox to lure kids into sending photographs or developing  
17 relationships with them that moved to other online platforms and, eventually, offline."<sup>66</sup>

18           79.       Roblox, in effect, serves as an initial access point to children for predators. Media  
19 reports have repeatedly highlighted that Roblox "is being used as a first point of contact for  
20 predators."<sup>67</sup> The children, due to their underdeveloped brains, are more trusting and naïve, and  
21 often fail to recognize the danger of providing their usernames on other sites.

22           80.       Once they lure children from Roblox to other apps, like Discord or Snapchat,  
23 predators escalate their exploitation by soliciting explicit material, like nude photos or videos of  
24 children doing sexually inappropriate acts, all of which constitute child pornography. And while  
25 the ultimate solicitation of explicit photos or other criminal acts may occur on other apps, Roblox

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27 <sup>66</sup> Carville & D'Anastasio, *supra* note 16.

28 <sup>67</sup> National Center on Sexual Exploitation, *The Dirty Dozen List '24: Roblox*,  
<https://endsexualexploitation.org/roblox/> (last updated Dec. 4, 2024).

1 serves as the critical facilitator that enables these predators to first identify, target, and then gain  
2 the trust of young victims through its platform's design and inadequate safety measures.

3 81. Roblox's app and profit-driven virtual currency system enable predators to exploit  
4 children, often by trading or extorting Robux in exchange for explicit photos. Predators  
5 commonly offer children Robux in exchange for explicit photos or, alternatively, demand Robux  
6 to avoid publicly releasing them, directly tying Roblox's profits to the sexual exploitation of  
7 children. Roblox's manipulative reward systems and social dynamics, intentionally designed to  
8 exploit children's developmental vulnerabilities, create psychological pressures that predators  
9 weaponize for extortion.

10 82. Roblox knows exactly how its platform is being weaponized to exploit children,  
11 but it has refused to implement any guardrails to ensure Robux transactions are part of legitimate  
12 in-game transactions. Instead, Roblox profits directly from the Robux transactions predators use  
13 to coerce and extort minors. That decision lays bare Roblox's reckless indifference and its  
14 willingness to put profits ahead of the basic safety of children on its platform.

15 83. Despite full awareness of how its app facilitates such exploitation, Roblox  
16 continues to profit from these tactics by collecting transaction fees on Robux exchanges. Its  
17 reckless indifference to the consequences of its deliberately engineered platform mechanics  
18 highlights its prioritization of profits over the safety and well-being of its young users.

19 84. Roblox enables another pattern of predatory grooming in which predators employ  
20 immediate blackmail tactics and make no attempt to ingratiate themselves with the children, but  
21 instead threaten them from the outset. The predator will often threaten to post nude photos of  
22 others online, but claim that the child victim is the person depicted unless the child complies with  
23 the predator's demands. Through its deliberately insufficient monitoring systems, Roblox allows  
24 predators to threaten children with false claims about possessing and potentially releasing explicit  
25 photos, coercing young victims into complying with criminal demands.

26 85. Regardless of how the initial grooming relationship begins, which is often as  
27 simple as someone asking the child to be their boyfriend or girlfriend, the predators also often  
28 attempt to make in-person contact with the child. The dangerous progression from Roblox's

1 online app to real-world violence reveals the devastating consequences of the company's product.  
2 Roblox's app enables predators to escalate from virtual contact to arranging physical meetings,  
3 leading to harassment, kidnapping, trafficking, violence, and sexual assault of minors, all  
4 instances of which these children suffered as a direct and foreseeable result of Roblox's actions.

5 86. Through numerous well-documented and publicized cases, Roblox has long been  
6 aware of the systemic exploitation that its app enables and facilitates. For years, countless  
7 children have been sexually exploited and abused by predators they met on Roblox, yet Roblox  
8 has failed to implement safeguards commensurate with the known risks to children.

9 87. For example, in 2017, the design of Roblox's app enabled a predator to target an  
10 eight-year-old child and solicit explicit photos, prompting one mother to observe that Roblox had  
11 created "the perfect place for pedophiles."<sup>68</sup>

12 88. In 2018, Roblox's app enabled a predator posing as a child to coerce a  
13 nine-year-old girl into performing and filming sexually abusive acts on her four-year-old brother  
14 through violent threats, including of death, against her family.<sup>69</sup> That year, 24 men in New Jersey  
15 were also charged with soliciting sex from minors as part of a sting operation, where the  
16 New Jersey State Police Lieutenant specifically called out Roblox as a place where "individuals  
17 are posing as someone else" in order "to gain someone's trust."<sup>70</sup>

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24 <sup>68</sup> Pei-Sze Cheng, Evan Stulberger & Dave Manney, *I-Team: Popular Online Gaming Site for*  
25 *Kids is Breeding Ground for Child Sex Predators, Mother Says*, NBC New York (Apr. 6, 2017),  
<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/video-game-warning-roblox-child-sex-predator-online-site-investigation-what-to-know/87438/>.

26 <sup>69</sup> Briana Barker, *Internet Safety and Your Children: How Kids are at Risk*, Record-Courier (Mar.  
27 27, 2018), <https://www.record-courier.com/story/news/2018/03/27/internet-safety-your-children-how/12899346007/>.

28 <sup>70</sup> *Cop, Firefighter Among 25 Charged in Child Luring Sting*, FOX 13 TAMPA BAY (Sep. 25, 2018),  
<https://www.fox13news.com/news/cop-firefighter-among-24-charged-in-child-luring-sting>.

1           89.     In 2019, a Florida predator systematically used Roblox to target children  
2 ages 10-12, moving them to Discord to coerce the children into sending him naked pictures of  
3 themselves.<sup>71</sup> That year, a man in Wales encouraged 150 children to engage in sexual activity by  
4 contacting them through Roblox, where he pretended to be a child and used fake names.<sup>72</sup>

5           90.     During the pandemic, reports of child sex abuse facilitated by Roblox accelerated.  
6 In 2020, for example, Roblox enabled a 47-year-old predator to pose as a teenager, target  
7 a 16-year-old girl, move the conversation to Facebook, solicit explicit photos and videos, all of  
8 which constituted child pornography,<sup>73</sup> and ultimately traffic her across state lines, raping her  
9 multiple times.<sup>74</sup> In Michigan, a man was arrested for persuading an eight-year-old girl to send  
10 him videos of herself, in various stages of undress, in exchange for Robux.<sup>75</sup> The perpetrator had  
11 been arrested for similar offenses three years earlier and was a registered sex offender in Kansas.

12           91.     This perpetrator was not the only convicted sex offender who was able to freely  
13 create accounts on Roblox: in 2021, a convicted sex offender used Roblox to sexually solicit  
14 a 12-year-old child.<sup>76</sup> And in 2022, a 33-year-old man groomed a 13-year-old girl on Roblox,  
15 transported her from her home in Kansas to his home in Georgia, and raped her multiple times.<sup>77</sup>

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 <sup>71</sup> Max Chesnes, *Deputies Say Vero Beach Man Used Popular Video Game Platforms to Target*  
18 *Children*, TC Palm (Aug. 20, 2019), <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/crime/indian-river-county/2019/08/20/detectives-advise-online-safety-after-vero-beach-man-used-video-game-platforms-target-minors/2059599001/>.

19 <sup>72</sup> Liz Day, *Paedophile Groomed 150 Children to Engage in Sexual Activity Using Online Game*  
20 *Roblox*, Wales Online (May 10, 2019), <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/paedophile-groomed-150-children-engage-16258877>.

21 <sup>73</sup> U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Magnolia Man Gets Life For Exploiting Young Female He Met and*  
22 *Communicated With Via Roblox and Facebook* (Oct. 15, 2020), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/magnolia-man-gets-life-exploiting-young-female-he-met-and-communicated-roblox-and>.

23 <sup>74</sup> *United States v. McGavitt*, 28 F.4th 571, 578 (5th Cir. 2022).

24 <sup>75</sup> *Man Arrested for Inappropriate Relationship with 8-Year-Old Bloomfield Twp. Girl Through*  
25 *Roblox*, WXYZ Detroit (Sep. 24, 2020), <https://www.wxyz.com/news/man-arrested-for-inappropriate-relationship-with-8-year-old-bloomfield-twp-girl-through-roblox>.

26 <sup>76</sup> Jeff Bonty, *Man Charged With Soliciting Juvenile Through Roblox*, Daily Journal (Jul. 23,  
2021), <https://www.shawlocal.com/daily-journal/>.

27 <sup>77</sup> Fox 5Atlanta Digital Team, *Clayton County Man Charged with Sex Trafficking, Rape of 13-*  
28 *year-old Girl He Met on Gaming App Roblox*, Fox5 (Mar. 2, 2022), <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/clayton-county-man-charged-with-sex-trafficking-rape-of-kansas-girl>.

1           92.     2023 brought more of the same. For example, a 30-year-old man was arrested for  
2 soliciting illicit photos from young victims and authorities reported that he had three separate  
3 Roblox accounts.<sup>78</sup> A 27-year-old man was arrested for kidnapping an 11-year-old girl whom he  
4 met on Roblox.<sup>79</sup> A 23-year-old New Jersey man, who was a prominent Roblox developer with a  
5 known history of exploiting children via Roblox, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for grooming  
6 a 15-year-old girl, transporting her to his house, and sexually abusing her.<sup>80</sup>

7           93.     Similar incidents continued throughout 2024. For example, a 21-year-old Chilean  
8 man was arrested for traveling to the U.S. to meet an underage girl he met on Roblox, where he  
9 had "spent several months manipulating and grooming" her.<sup>81</sup> A 21-year-old in California pled  
10 guilty for directing a 10-year-old girl, whom he met on Roblox, to disrobe and touch herself.<sup>82</sup>  
11 A 64-year-old man admitted to posing as a 13-year-old boy on Roblox, where he met  
12 a 12-year-old girl and convinced her to send sexually explicit photos of herself and a young  
13 relative.<sup>83</sup> A 29-year-old Michigan man befriended and groomed an 11-year-old girl on Roblox by

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18 <sup>78</sup> City of Fontana Police Department, *Internet Predator Arrested*, Facebook (Dec. 20, 2023),  
19 <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=338311109095057>.

20 <sup>79</sup> *Man Charged in Kidnapping of 11-year-old He Met Through Roblox from Her NJ Home:*  
21 *Police*, ABC7 (Oct. 21, 2023), <https://abc7ny.com/roblox-kidnapping-new-jersey-online-grooming/13927383/>.

22 <sup>80</sup> U.S. Dep't of Justice, *New Jersey Man Sentenced to 15 Years in Federal Prison After Grooming*  
23 *Minor Online and Transporting Her Across State Lines Via Uber for Sex* (Aug. 30, 2023),  
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/pr/new-jersey-man-sentenced-15-years-federal-prison-after-grooming-minor-online-and>.

24 <sup>81</sup> Grace Toohey, *Chilean Man Groomed 13-Year-Old Girl He Met on Roblox Before Flying to*  
25 *U.S. to Meet Her*, *Police Say*, L.A. Times (Aug. 22, 2024),  
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-08-22/chilean-arrest-roblox-child-exploitation>.

26 <sup>82</sup> Ashley Harting, *Online Predator Who Targeted 10-Year-Old on Roblox Pleads Guilty in Butte*  
27 *County*, KRCR (Sep. 25, 2024), <https://krcrtv.com/news/local/online-predator-who-targeted-10-year-old-on-roblox-pleads-guilty-in-butte-county>.

28 <sup>83</sup> Travis Schlepp, *Man, 64, Admits to 'Catfishing' Girl on Roblox, Convincing Her to Send*  
*Explicit Images*, KTLA 5 (Jul. 26, 2024), <https://ktla.com/news/california/man-64-admits-to-catfishing-girl-on-roblox-convincing-her-to-send-explicit-images/>.

1 posing as a teenager and then coerced the girl into sending multiple explicit photos of herself.<sup>84</sup>  
2 And a 24-year-old man raped a 10-year-old girl he had met on Roblox.<sup>85</sup>

3 94. Despite supposed "parental controls" that Roblox implemented in 2024 and 2025,  
4 predators continue to enjoy easy access to children on the app, causing devastating harm. For  
5 example, in April 2025, a California man was arrested and charged with kidnapping and engaging  
6 in unlawful sexual conduct with a 10-year-old girl whom he met and communicated with on  
7 Roblox.<sup>86</sup> The next month, a 17-year-old Florida teenager was arrested after authorities learned he  
8 had been communicating on Roblox with numerous children, some as young as eight years old,  
9 over the course of a year, and convinced them to send him sexually explicit images of  
10 themselves.<sup>87</sup> And just a few days later, a New York man who used Roblox to connect  
11 with 11 and 13-year-old girls was arrested and federally charged with enticement and possession  
12 of child pornography.<sup>88</sup>

13 95. While most predators on Roblox lure children into their grasp by pretending to also  
14 be children, many predators do not even hide their intentions, roaming Roblox with usernames  
15 like "@Igruum\_minors," "@RavpeTinyK1dsJE," and "@EarlBrianBradley" a reference to one of  
16 the most prolific pedophiles ever, who raped and molested hundreds of children.

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19 <sup>84</sup> Michael Martin, *Roblox Predator: School Staffer Accused of Grooming West Michigan Child*  
20 *for Illicit Photos*, Fox17 West Michigan (Jan. 16, 2025),  
21 <https://www.fox17online.com/news/local-news/roblox-predator-school-staffer-accused-of-grooming-west-michigan-child-for-illicit-photos>.

22 <sup>85</sup> Martin Robinson, *Roblox Predator Who Raped 10-year-old Girl is Locked Up: Paedophile Who*  
23 *'Targeted Child He Met on Gaming Platform Is Jailed for Six Years*, Daily Mail (Jan. 17, 2025),  
24 <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14278563/Roblox-predator-raped-10-year-old-girl.html>.

24 <sup>86</sup> *Elk Grove Man Accused of Kidnapping Kern County Girl He Communicated with on Roblox*,  
25 CBS News (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/elk-grove-man-accused-kidnapping-kern-county-girl-roblox/>.

26 <sup>87</sup> Briana Trujillo, *Ocala 17-Year-Old Convinced Kids to Send Him Sex Abuse Material on*  
27 *Roblox*, NBC (May 2, 2025), <https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/ocala-17-year-old-convinced-kids-to-send-him-sex-abuse-material-on-roblox-sheriff/3605691/>.

28 <sup>88</sup> U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Fairport Man Who Used Roblox to Attempt to Communicate with Minors*  
*for Sex Arrested* (May 6, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/fairport-man-who-used-roblox-attempt-communicate-minors-sex-arrested>.

1 People Results for earlbrianbradley



8 *Results from an account search for "earlbrianbradley."*<sup>89</sup>

9 96. Roblox's systematic endangerment of children has been publicly condemned by  
10 leading advocacy organizations. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation ("NCSE") has  
11 consistently named Roblox to its "Dirty Dozen" list, an annual campaign exposing companies  
12 that facilitate, enable, or profit from sexual exploitation. The NCSE blasts Roblox for "treat[ing]  
13 child protection like a game."<sup>90</sup> According to the NCSE, "[u]ntil basic child protection standards  
14 are met, Roblox remains too high risk for kids."<sup>91</sup>

15 97. Parent reviews of Roblox on sites like *Common Sense Media* also document  
16 disturbing incidents of naked avatars, sexting, simulated sexual assault, and adult predators.<sup>92</sup>

17 98. The harm from this child abuse and exploitation extends beyond the initial  
18 victims. Through the design of its app and inadequate safeguards, Roblox has created an abusive  
19 ecosystem where former victims—children who were once exploited on Roblox—become  
20 teenage perpetrators who then prey upon younger users, making today's victims tomorrow's  
21 perpetrators. Indeed, researchers have repeatedly confirmed this victim-victimizer pipeline: when  
22 children are exposed to and victimized by sexual content, they are more likely to become  
23  
24

25 <sup>89</sup> Hindenburg Research, *supra* note 4.

26 <sup>90</sup> National Center on Sexual Exploitation, *supra* note 67.

27 <sup>91</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>92</sup> Common Sense Media, *Parent Reviews of Roblox*,  
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/website-reviews/roblox/user-reviews/adult> (last visited Feb. 11, 2025).

1 desensitized teenagers and adults who then exploit younger users in the same ways.<sup>93</sup> In effect,  
2 Roblox contributes to this "raising of" predators who perpetuate the cycle of exploitation.

3 99. The magnitude of the harm caused by Roblox is devastating. As discussed below,  
4 Roblox's reports of suspected child sexual exploitation to the National Center for Missing and  
5 Exploited Children ("NCME") have surged from 675 reports in 2019 to 24,522 reports in 2024.  
6 These numbers are likely significantly lower than the real number of incidents because, as  
7 NCMEC itself emphasizes, many incidents go unreported by online platforms such as Roblox.<sup>94</sup>

8 100. Yet rather than warn parents, schools and the public, Roblox minimizes these  
9 dangers through repeated false and misleading public statements and strategic messaging  
10 designed to preserve growth and trust among families. Roblox's Chief Safety Officer,  
11 Matt Kaufman, attempting to deflect attention from serious safety failures, told NPR, "I think  
12 we're losing sight of the tens of millions of people where Roblox is an incredibly enriching part  
13 of their life."<sup>95</sup> And while Kaufman publicly claims that "any time anything happens to a child  
14 that puts them at risk is one too many,"<sup>96</sup> Roblox simultaneously admitted to investors that it was  
15 "unable to prevent all such [inappropriate] interactions from taking place."<sup>97</sup> This calculated  
16 contradiction between public messaging and private admissions—telling parents that even one  
17 incident is unacceptable while simultaneously acknowledging to investors that abuse is  
18 inevitable—exposes Roblox's strategy of prioritizing public relations through hollow and  
19 misleading public statements over its fundamental duty to protect children.

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22 <sup>93</sup> James RP Ogloff, Margaret C. Cutajar, Emily Mann & Paul Mullen, *Child Sexual Abuse and*  
23 *Subsequent Offending and Victimization: A 45 Year Follow-Up Study*, Trends & Issues in Crime  
24 & Criminal Justice No. 440 (Jun. 2012), <https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/tandi440.pdf>; M. Glasser et al., *Cycle of Child Sex Abuse: Links Between Being a Victim and*  
25 *Becoming a Perpetrator*, British J. Psychiatry (2001).

26 <sup>94</sup> National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, NCMEC Releases New Data: 2024 in  
27 Numbers (May 8, 2025), <https://ncmec.org/blog/2025/ncmec-releases-new-data-2024-in-numbers>.

28 <sup>95</sup> Scott Tong & James Perkins Mastromarino, *Roblox Chief Safety Officer on New Safety*  
*Features, Past Cases of Child Abuse on the Platform*, WBUR (Nov. 18, 2024),  
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2024/11/18/roblox-safety-features>.

<sup>96</sup> *Id.*

<sup>97</sup> Roblox Corp., S-1 (Securities Registration Statement) 24 (Nov. 19, 2020).

1 **D. Roblox Knowingly Causes and Facilitates the Sexual Exploitation of Children.**

2 101. The reason that Roblox is overrun with harmful content and predators is simple:  
3 Roblox prioritizes user growth, revenue, and eventual profits over child safety. For years, Roblox  
4 has knowingly prioritized these numbers over the safety of children through the actions it has  
5 taken and decisions it has made to increase and monetize users regardless of the consequences.

6 1. **Roblox prioritizes growth over child safety.**

7 102. From its inception, Roblox has focused on growth above all else, which has meant  
8 deliberately designing a platform that targets, attracts, retains, exploits, and capitalizes on the  
9 underdeveloped child market, positioning itself as a place where kids can learn and play games in  
10 a safe environment. Recognizing that children have more free time, underdeveloped cognitive  
11 functioning, and diminished impulse control, Roblox has built engagement and monetization  
12 mechanisms that exploit their developmental vulnerabilities to lure them to its app.

13 103. Roblox's business model allowed the company to attract significant venture capital  
14 funding from big-name investors like Kleiner Perkins and Andreessen Horowitz, putting  
15 enormous pressure on the company to prioritize growing and monetizing its users. To do so,  
16 Roblox made deliberate decisions that placed children at risk. For example, while other digital  
17 platforms (including other video game platforms) verified users' ages and restricted  
18 communications between children and adults, Roblox did not require age verification and did not  
19 restrict communications between children and adults. Similarly, while other digital platforms  
20 require children's accounts to be connected to the account of a parent or guardian during set-up,  
21 with various parental controls turned on by default, it is easy for children (including very young  
22 children) to download and install Roblox without involving an adult. While other platforms  
23 implemented reliable, accurate age ratings for games and videos that correctly informed parents  
24 about the type of content their children would see, Roblox's deeply flawed "content label" system  
25 gave parents a false sense of security, incorrectly labeling graphic sexual and violent games as  
26 safe for kids. And while other platforms restricted access if a child fell below a certain age,  
27 Roblox welcomed and encouraged children of any age, despite its knowledge of significant harms  
28 that children routinely experience there.

1           104. In 2021, riding the explosive growth in users generated by the pandemic and the  
2 pandemic-driven enthusiasm for technology stocks, Roblox went public at a valuation  
3 of \$41 billion, which brought new pressures. To satisfy the scrutiny and demands of public  
4 market investors, Roblox, like many unprofitable companies, prioritized rapid growth in revenue  
5 and user engagement metrics—like new user acquisition, daily active users, and average hours  
6 spent on the app—on the theory that profitability would follow once the business achieved  
7 sufficient scale and operating costs decreased as a percentage of revenue.<sup>98</sup>

8           105. In pursuit of increasing its number of users and profit, Roblox deprioritized safety  
9 measures even further so that it could report strong numbers to Wall Street. For instance, Roblox  
10 executives rejected employee proposals for parental approval requirements that would protect  
11 children on the platform,<sup>99</sup> choosing instead to preserve frictionless onboarding and engagement.  
12 Employees also reported feeling explicit pressure to avoid any changes that could reduce platform  
13 engagement, even when those changes would protect children from predators.<sup>100</sup>

14           106. As one former Roblox employee explained, "You're supposed to make sure that  
15 your users are safe but then the downside is that, if you're limiting users' engagement, it's hurting  
16 our metrics. It's hurting the active users, the time spent on the platform, and in a lot of cases, the  
17 leadership doesn't want that."<sup>101</sup> That same employee added, "You have to make a decision, right?  
18 You can keep your players safe, but then it would be less of them on the platform. Or you just let  
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22 <sup>98</sup> After listing on the New York Stock Exchange, Roblox CEO David Baszucki told CNBC,  
23 "Roblox has been growing for 15 years . . . . That's a long-term growth path, and we believe that  
24 continues forward, even after Covid." Ari Levy & Jessica Bursztynsky, *Roblox Jumps to \$38*  
25 *Billion Mark Cap as Public Investors Get Their First Crack at the Popular Kids Game App*,  
26 CNBC (Mar. 10, 2021), <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/03/10/roblox-rblx-starts-trading-at-64point50-after-direct-listing.html>. CFO Michael Guthrie added, "As [Covid] restrictions ease, we  
27 expect the rates of growth in 2021 will be well below the rates in 2020, however, we believe we  
28 will see absolute growth in most of our core metrics for the full year." *Id.*

<sup>99</sup> Hindenburg Research, *supra* note 4.

<sup>100</sup> *Id.*

<sup>101</sup> *Id.*

1 them do what they want to do. And then the numbers all look good and investors will be  
2 happy."<sup>102</sup>

3 107. By limiting safety measures, Roblox not only increased its number of users but  
4 also reduced the company's safety expenses as a percentage of its revenue, a key metric for Wall  
5 Street, which views trust and safety costs as detrimental to Roblox's stock performance. Barclays,  
6 for example, identified its "downside case" for Roblox's stock as "additional safety investments  
7 due to its younger demographic . . . becom[ing] a drag on [earnings] margins."<sup>103</sup> Barclays also  
8 wrote that it viewed increased safety costs as a "negative" in Roblox's quarterly earnings,<sup>104</sup>  
9 explicitly framing child protection expenditures as a threat to profitability.

10 108. During earnings calls for investors, Roblox frequently addresses questions from  
11 analysts about how trust and safety expenditures will evolve over time. Roblox's answers reveal  
12 that the company is hyper-focused on reducing its trust and safety expenses as a percentage of its  
13 revenue, showing that the company is not investing as much proportionally in trust and safety as  
14 the company continues to grow and attract millions of additional users.

15 109. For example, on Roblox's 2023 fourth quarter earnings call, an analyst praised the  
16 "really high level of efficiency" seen in the numbers for infrastructure and trust and safety  
17 expenditures and then asked how those figures would evolve over time.<sup>105</sup> In response, Mike  
18 Guthrie, Roblox's then-CFO, emphasized the company's goal of reducing expenses, stating, "cost  
19 to serve is the metric that we use and it's the metric that the [infrastructure] team owns . . . *they're*  
20 *working hard to drive that down* . . . . [L]ike you said, it's about 11% now, ultimately with higher  
21 efficiency . . . we see that as a high-single-digit number over the next few years."<sup>106</sup> He added,  
22 "[W]e still think there's more to do there."<sup>107</sup>

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24 <sup>102</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>103</sup> Ross Sandler, Trevor Young & Alex Hughes, *Back on Track Following the IH Hiccup*,  
Barclays (Aug. 1, 2024)

26 <sup>104</sup> Ross Sandler, Trevor Young & Alex Hughes, *Everything Accelerating, Safety & Security a Top*  
*Priority*, Barclays (Nov. 1, 2024)

27 <sup>105</sup> Q4 2023 Earnings Call (Feb. 7, 2024).

28 <sup>106</sup> *Id.* (emphasis added).

<sup>107</sup> *Id.*

1 110. At other times, Guthrie reassured investors, stating, "look for trust and safety  
2 [costs] to scale below linear as we grow"<sup>108</sup> and that Roblox was "quite happy with" trust and  
3 safety costs growing "at a lower rate than our bookings growth."<sup>109</sup>

4 111. Similarly, in the second quarter of 2024, CEO Baszucki highlighted that,  
5 "[i]mportantly, our infrastructure and trust and safety expenditures were 8% lower  
6 year-on-year."<sup>110</sup>

7 112. Once public, Roblox also decided to try to attract more adult users to its app,  
8 which it had historically touted as the "#1 gaming site for kids and teens."<sup>111</sup> With the market for  
9 underage users near saturation, Roblox shifted its growth strategy to attracting older users.

10 113. In its public offering filings, Roblox identified "age demographic expansion" as a  
11 key strategy, explaining that it planned to develop experiences and content that appealed to older  
12 users.<sup>112</sup> For Roblox, "aging up" had benefits beyond user growth—it was also more profitable.  
13 Older users offered a distinct financial advantage. While children spend more hours on Roblox,  
14 they do not "monetize" as well because they are more constrained in their ability to spend. In  
15 contrast, older users, who "have more direct control over their spend" and "monetize better," are  
16 far more lucrative, an outcome that Roblox said it predicted when it started to target older  
17 users.<sup>113</sup>

18 114. Roblox's executives repeatedly emphasized their strategy of "aging up" the app to  
19 attract older users. At the company's inaugural conference with an investment bank in  
20 September 2021, Roblox's then-CFO, Mike Guthrie, noted that Roblox had achieved "very good  
21 penetration of nine to twelve year-olds," and was focused on adding users over the age of 13.<sup>114</sup>

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23 <sup>108</sup> Q4 2022 Earnings Call (Feb. 15, 2023)

24 <sup>109</sup> Q3 2022 Earnings Call (Nov. 8, 2023).

25 <sup>110</sup> Q2 2024 Earnings Call (Aug. 1, 2024).

26 <sup>111</sup> Roblox, *What Is Roblox*,

27 <http://web.archive.org/web/20170227121323/https://www.roblox.com/> (archived Feb. 27, 2017).

28 <sup>112</sup> Roblox Corp., S-1 (Securities Registration Statement) 7 (Nov. 19, 2020).

<sup>113</sup> Q2 2022 Earnings Call (Aug. 10, 2022).

<sup>114</sup> Roblox at Goldman Sachs Communicopia Conference (Sep. 9, 2021),

<https://ir.roblox.com/events-and-presentations/events/event-details/2021/Goldman-Sachs-Communicopia/default.aspx>.

1 One plan was to "improve the search algorithms such that older users were finding older content,"  
2 or content tailored to their age-related demographic.<sup>115</sup>

3 115. At its annual Developer Conference, CEO David Baszucki encouraged developers  
4 to create experiences for older audiences, explaining that Roblox was rolling out features  
5 designed to appeal to older users, including use of real names, screen capture and sharing  
6 capabilities, video calls, and relaxed chat moderation.<sup>116</sup> These decisions, while framed as growth  
7 strategies, reflected Roblox's willingness to compromise safety, creating new vulnerabilities and  
8 more dangerous circumstances for children in its pursuit of a more profitable, older userbase.

9 116. Roblox executives consistently highlighted progress with the company's "aging  
10 up" strategy on every quarterly earnings call after this until the second quarter of 2023, when  
11 CEO Baszucki declared that Roblox had achieved its goal: "We're no longer talking about aging  
12 up. We are a platform for all ages."<sup>117</sup> He also revealed that developers had started to "build  
13 specific 17-plus experiences."<sup>118</sup> This progress was praised by Wall Street investment banks,  
14 which noted that aged-up experiences were a promising indicator of "potential sustainable growth  
15 tailwinds for Roblox," reinforcing the company's pivot toward maximizing profitability.<sup>119</sup>

16 117. Despite Roblox's deliberate targeting of older users, it failed to implement any  
17 meaningful restrictions on contact between adult and child users or limit the mature content and  
18 experiences it solicited from developers to attract older audiences. When asked by an equity  
19 research analyst about aged-13-and-up experiences for older users, CEO Baszucki admitted, "I  
20 want to highlight right now that *we don't have any only 13 and up experiences*. We have 28% of  
21 the top thousand experiences having a majority of 13-plus [users] but *those are still experiences*  
22 *that are open to all ages*."<sup>120</sup> Similarly, despite urging developers to build more mature

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25 <sup>115</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>116</sup> Roblox Developers Conference 2023 Keynote (Sep. 8, 2023),  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwLThCghzA4>.

27 <sup>117</sup> Q2 2023 Earnings Call (Aug. 9, 2023).

28 <sup>118</sup> Q2 2023 Earnings Call (Aug. 9, 2023).

<sup>119</sup> Benjamin Black et al., *Bookings Back on Track*, Deutsche Bank (Nov. 4, 2024).

<sup>120</sup> Q3 2021 Earnings Call (Nov. 9, 2021) (emphasis added).

1 experiences, Roblox continued to allow users to set up accounts without any type of age  
2 verification.<sup>121</sup> Even investors recognized the connection between older users and the increased  
3 risks for children, questioning how Roblox planned to prevent inappropriate content from  
4 reaching younger users.<sup>122</sup>

5 118. Not only did Roblox seek to increase adult users while knowing the risks that  
6 strategy posed to children, but it also sought to encourage relationships between users. At  
7 Roblox's 2023 Developers Conference, CEO Baszucki revealed Roblox's strategy to facilitate  
8 "real-life relationships" between users, *i.e.*, dating. While he deliberately avoided the word  
9 "dating," he then announced plans to build a product to support it: "I'm not going to use the  
10 D word but subsequent[] real-life relationships is going to happen, okay? And we're going to  
11 build a platform to support that,"<sup>123</sup> further demonstrating Roblox's push toward adult-oriented  
12 interaction within an ecosystem heavily populated by minors.

13 119. By the next year, in 2024, Baszucki explicitly acknowledged this strategy. He first  
14 acknowledged that online dating is "edgy" but then mocked his own safety team's concerns about  
15 the dangers—"the policy and safety team told me [dating and real-life relationships] isn't within  
16 our current policy right now"—to which the audience shared in laughter.<sup>124</sup>

17 120. In short, for years, Roblox has deliberately sacrificed child protection, a  
18 longstanding issue for the company, in pursuit of growth and profit. This systematic  
19 subordination of child safety to business objectives reflects Roblox's continued choice to  
20 maximize its business goals while knowingly exposing children to preventable dangers on its app  
21 through decisions about account creation, communication access, content labeling, and  
22 enforcement.

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25 <sup>121</sup> Q4 2022 Earnings Call (Feb. 15, 2023).

26 <sup>122</sup> Q3 2021 Earnings Call, *supra* note 120.

27 <sup>123</sup> Roblox Developers Conference 2023 Keynote (Sep. 8, 2023),  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwLThCghzA4>.

28 <sup>124</sup> Roblox Developers Conference 2024 Keynote (Sep. 6, 2024);  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwbcWc2CwnM>.

1           2.       *Roblox facilitates child sexual exploitation through the design of its app,*  
2                           *inadequate safety features, and refusal to invest in basic safety protections.*

3           221.     Roblox's pursuit of growth and profit over child safety is reflected in numerous  
4 actions it took and decisions it made related to the design and safety of its app. Had Roblox acted  
5 differently, the harm suffered by countless children would not have occurred.

6           222.     Roblox designed its app so that anyone can easily access, locate, and communicate  
7 with minor users, creating a virtual world where predators can freely target and groom children.  
8 Until November 2024, adult strangers could "friend" and chat with children of any age via direct  
9 messages. They could also chat with them within the in-game direct messages found within  
10 experiences even if they were not friends, all through default product settings chosen and  
11 maintained by Roblox. While Roblox has offered some adjustable parental controls for users  
12 under the age of 13, the in-game chat feature within experiences was available to everyone. These  
13 children could also bypass parental controls simply by creating an alternate account falsely  
14 identifying as a 13+-year-old user. By designing its app this way, Roblox stripped parents of basic  
15 protective options to prevent adult strangers from communicating with their children.

16           223.     This practice contrasts sharply with other gaming products like Nintendo, which  
17 use preprogrammed dialogue options to tightly control user interactions.<sup>125</sup> By adopting a similar  
18 approach, Roblox could have significantly reduced, if not eliminated, the grooming and child  
19 abuse facilitated by its app's open chat design because predators would not have been able to  
20 solicit any personal information or send any coercive or sexually suggestive messages.

21           224.     Roblox further endangered children by introducing voice calls in November 2023.  
22 Called "Roblox Connect," this virtual call feature allows users to have a conversation through  
23 their avatars in real time. Concerns were immediately raised about this feature. For example, one  
24 user emphasized, "This is a bad idea Roblox, and especially on your platform because this is  
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28 <sup>125</sup> Carville & D'Anastasio, *supra* note 16.

1 where most predators are coming from, and it makes it way easier for predators to prey on  
2 children."<sup>126</sup>

3 125. As Roblox contemplated and rolled out Roblox Connect, it knew that this feature  
4 would drastically increase the risk to children on its app by expanding real-time communications  
5 with strangers on a platform heavily populated by minors. That is because another company had  
6 implemented a similar feature with disastrous consequences. Omegle was a chat website that  
7 operated from 2009 to 2023. Omegle allowed users, including children, to engage in anonymous  
8 chats with strangers. In March 2010, Omegle introduced a video-chat feature. Despite efforts to  
9 monitor for mature and sexual content, the website became infamous for exposing minors to  
10 explicit material, predators, and exploitation. Omegle's failure to protect users led to numerous  
11 incidents, including criminal cases involving child pornography. In November 2023, the same  
12 month Roblox launched Roblox Connect, Omegle announced that it would cease operations. In  
13 shutting down, its founder highlighted the site's misuse: "[T]here can be no honest accounting of  
14 Omegle without acknowledging that some people misused it, including to commit unspeakably  
15 heinous crimes."<sup>127</sup> And he thanked one survivor for "opening my eyes to the human cost of  
16 Omegle."<sup>128</sup> Nevertheless, Roblox introduced voice calls the same month that Omegle shut down.

17 126. Roblox also refused to implement simple measures that would have protected  
18 children using its app. For example, despite having the ability to require basic identity  
19 verification, Roblox instead chose to allow users to create accounts without providing their name  
20 or email address, a policy that enables predators to easily create multiple anonymous accounts.  
21 Roblox also could have implemented basic screening measures before allowing users on the app,  
22 which would have ensured that known predators are not permitted on the app.

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26 <sup>126</sup> Josh Taylor, *Roblox Under Fire After Adding Controversial Voice Call Feature*, Dexerto (Nov.  
27 15, 2023), [https://www.dexerto.com/roblox/roblox-under-fire-after-adding-controversial-voice-  
28 call-feature-2384564/](https://www.dexerto.com/roblox/roblox-under-fire-after-adding-controversial-voice-call-feature-2384564/).

<sup>127</sup> Omegle, <https://www.omegle.com/> (last visited Feb. 11, 2025).

<sup>128</sup> *Id.*

1           127. In the process for creating an account, Roblox could have required children to  
2 provide their names and email addresses and obtain parental approval, a fundamental protection  
3 against predators, but chose not to do so. This decision allowed the company to bypass certain  
4 protections that are mandated by federal law and designed to protect children. The Children's  
5 Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA") prohibits companies like Roblox from collecting,  
6 using, or disclosing the personal information of children under 13 without verifiable parental  
7 consent. COPPA was enacted because Congress recognized the heightened vulnerability of  
8 children on the internet. As the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") noted, children under 13 lack  
9 the capacity to "understand fully the potential serious safety and privacy implications" of sharing  
10 their personal information.<sup>129</sup> More recent international regulations are stricter. For example, the  
11 European Union's General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") requires verifiable parental  
12 consent for children under 16.<sup>130</sup>

13           128. The FTC has outlined clear and acceptable methods for obtaining verifiable  
14 parental consent. These include: (a) providing a form for parents to sign and return; (b) requiring  
15 the use of a credit card or online payment that notifies parents of each transaction; (c) connecting  
16 parents to trained personnel via video conference; (d) offering a staffed toll-free number for  
17 parental verification; (e) asking knowledge-based questions to confirm identity; or (f) verifying a  
18 parent's photo-ID by comparing it to a second photo using facial recognition technology.<sup>131</sup>

19           129. Yet instead of implementing safeguards to comply with COPPA, Roblox chose to  
20 bypass these protections altogether. Roblox intentionally avoids requesting a name or email  
21 address during sign-up to sidestep the requirement of verifiable parental consent. In fact, former  
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24 <sup>129</sup> Federal Trade Commission, *Privacy Online: A Report to Congress* (1998),  
25 <https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/privacy-online-report-congress/priv-23a.pdf>.

26 <sup>130</sup> Art. 8 GDPR; *see also* Consent to Use Data on Children, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights  
27 (<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/mapping-minimum-age-requirements-concerning-rights-child-eu/consent-use-data-children>). Note that member states can lower the cutoff to 13, 14  
28 or 15 if they choose.

<sup>131</sup> Federal Trade Commission, *Complying with COPPA: Frequently Asked Questions*, July 2020,  
<https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/resources/complying-coppa-frequently-asked-questions>.

1 employees revealed that Roblox considered requiring verifiable consent, but ultimately resisted  
2 its implementation out of fear that such requirements might drive users away.<sup>132</sup> Consequently,  
3 creating a Roblox account is alarmingly easy, requiring less than sixty seconds and no meaningful  
4 oversight, a frictionless onboarding choice that prioritizes growth over the safety of its youngest  
5 users.<sup>133</sup>

6 130. Another easy-to-implement feature that would have improved safety is adding  
7 pop-up safety notices within chats and games to warn users about their behavior or the dangerous  
8 behavior of others. But Roblox executives also rejected this change.<sup>134</sup>

9 131. Additionally, although Roblox knew that predators routinely operate dozens of  
10 Roblox accounts at the same time, the company chose not to implement basic blocking of digital  
11 identifiers—both the unique network addresses that track internet connections (Internet Protocol  
12 or IP addresses) and the permanent hardware identification numbers assigned to devices (Media  
13 Access Control or MAC addresses) that could prevent predators from creating multiple  
14 accounts.<sup>135</sup>

15 132. Similarly, Roblox chose not to require adult users to verify phone numbers, which  
16 would create significant barriers to predators creating multiple accounts, despite knowing that  
17 this enables bad actors to easily create numerous anonymous accounts to target children.

18 133. Roblox also opted not to require users to verify their age by uploading a picture of  
19 either their or their parents' identification, a practice that many other applications employ. Doing  
20 so would have restricted the content available to young users and prevented predators from easily  
21 misrepresenting their age, which is often their approach in targeting and grooming children. As one  
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25 <sup>132</sup> Hindenburg Research, *supra* note 4.

26 <sup>133</sup> Scott Tong & James Perkins Mastromarino, *Roblox Attempts to Bar Child Predators as Short*  
27 *Sellers Target the Popular Game Platform*, WBUR (Oct. 21, 2024),  
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2024/10/21/roblox-child-predators-safety>.

28 <sup>134</sup> Carville & D'Anastasio, *supra* note 16.

<sup>135</sup> *Id.*

1 father told the press after seeing other users solicit his avatar for sex, "There is nothing to stop  
2 adults going on there and pretending they're kids."<sup>136</sup>

3 134. Roblox could easily have restricted communications between adult accounts and  
4 children's accounts, something that many other platforms have done. It could also have restricted  
5 adult accounts from sending Robux to children's accounts, a feature that sexual predators  
6 frequently use to lure children.

7 135. Roblox likewise could have created a separate, gated platform for younger  
8 children that excludes adults. If supported by age verification using facial recognition (a service  
9 that is widely commercially available), the company could create a space for young children to  
10 enjoy Roblox games with very few, if any, adults present. Many digital service companies have  
11 adopted separate platforms for children of young ages, including, for example, Amazon and  
12 Netflix.

13 136. Roblox could have placed a higher age rating on its application in the iOS App  
14 Store and other app stores, to signal to parents that the app presented risks for children. Roblox  
15 also could have provided clear warnings to parents about the presence of sexual predators on the  
16 platform so that parents could make an informed decision about allowing their child on the  
17 platform and/or educate their child on how to stay safe on the platform. Roblox could also have  
18 provided clear warnings to children about the presence of sexual predators on the platform, and  
19 instructed children on how to stay safe on the platform.

20 137. Despite these glaring failures, Roblox aggressively markets and promotes itself as  
21 an "industry leader" when it comes to child safety.<sup>137</sup> Central to this self-serving narrative is its  
22 "accomplishment" of investing in artificial intelligence ("AI") and machine learning systems  
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26 <sup>136</sup> Carl Stroud, *Horrified Dad Found Sick Messages from Paedo Predator in His Eight-Year Old*  
27 *Son's Roblox iPad Game*, The Sun (Feb. 15, 2017),  
28 <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2872376/horrified-dad-found-sick-messages-from-paedo-predator-in-his-eight-year-old-sons-roblox-ipad-game/>.

<sup>137</sup> Q1 2021 Earnings Call (May 11, 2021).

1 supposedly designed to scan and monitor all communications on the app and prevent the sharing  
2 of inappropriate content and personally identifiable information.<sup>138</sup>

3 138. Yet this technology has proven grossly inadequate and insufficient to protect  
4 children. For example, Roblox's filters have inexplicable omissions. While Roblox blocks certain  
5 words, like "Snap" and "Snapchat," to supposedly prevent off-app communications, it allows  
6 workarounds such as the use of the ghost emoji (👻), which is widely recognized as a symbol for  
7 Snapchat, or alternative spellings, like "Snappy" or "apchat." Similarly, while the word "Discord"  
8 is blocked, users can bypass this filter by using the disc emoji (🍷) or typing variations, like  
9 "iscord" or "cord."<sup>139</sup> That Roblox selectively blocks the words "Snap," "Snapchat," and  
10 "Discord" reveals that Roblox is fully aware of the dangers of off-app inappropriate  
11 communications yet chooses not to close these loopholes. And while Roblox prevents users from  
12 sharing phone numbers in numerical format, it does nothing to stop users from spelling out the  
13 numbers.<sup>140</sup>

14 139. Similarly, while Roblox attempts to block the word "condo"—a term that is widely  
15 used to identify sexualized experiences—countless external groups on platforms like Reddit and  
16 Discord are dedicated to helping users locate new explicit content on Roblox. *Fast Company*, a  
17 business publication and website, easily identified 150 Discord groups dedicated to exploiting  
18 Roblox's lack of robust enforcement.<sup>141</sup> These groups function as alert systems: as soon as  
19 Roblox removes one game, its ineffective safeguards allow the same game to be re-uploaded  
20 almost immediately from a new account, or by repeat offenders using alternate accounts, and the  
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23 <sup>138</sup> Roblox, *Safety Features: Chat, Privacy & Filtering*,  
24 <https://web.archive.org/web/20240714130904/https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203313120-Safety-Features-Chat-Privacy-Filtering> (archived Jul. 14, 2024).

25 <sup>139</sup> Edwin Dorsey, *Problems at Roblox (RBLX) #5*, The Bear Cave (Oct. 17, 2024),  
26 <https://thebearcave.substack.com/p/problems-at-roblox-rblx-5>.

<sup>140</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>141</sup> Burt Helm, Sex, Lies and Video Games: *Inside Roblox's War on Porn*, *Fast Company* (Aug.  
28 19, 2020), <https://www.fastcompany.com/90539906/sex-lies-and-video-games-inside-roblox-war-on-porn>.

1 external groups immediately transmit the new game links to their members, perpetuating the  
2 cycle of explicit and harmful content.

3 140. Beyond Roblox's ineffective technology, the company also employs a woefully  
4 inadequate number of human moderators to analyze and manage content on its platform. With  
5 only about 3,000 moderators, Roblox pales in comparison to platforms like TikTok, which,  
6 despite having only three times the number of users, employs more than ten times the number of  
7 moderators at 40,000.<sup>142</sup> Roblox attempts to justify this disparity by claiming "[y]ou really can't  
8 judge the quality of these moderation systems by the number of people."<sup>143</sup> But the reality tells a  
9 different story. Roblox's moderators, many of them are overseas contractors, report being  
10 overwhelmed by an unmanageable volume of child safety reports, making it impossible to  
11 address all concerns effectively and leaving countless safety issues unresolved.<sup>144</sup>

12 141. The safety data that Roblox touts is flawed and only underscores the growing  
13 dangers created by the company's app. For example, Roblox proudly points to its low percentage  
14 of reports to the NCMEC, the leading U.S. nonprofit organization tasked with preventing child  
15 exploitation and assisting in the recovery of missing children. Roblox claims that it accounts for  
16 less than .04 percent of reports made to NCMEC.<sup>145</sup> But this data is entirely self-reported and  
17 therefore depends on Roblox's ineffective content moderation and safety team. This self-reported  
18 data to NCMEC, flawed and limited as it is, also reveals a disturbing trend: Roblox's reports  
19 about suspected child sexual exploitation have surged over the years, from 675 reports in 2019 to  
20 24,522 reports in 2024.<sup>146</sup>

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22 <sup>142</sup> Carville & D'Anastasio, *supra* note 16.

23 <sup>143</sup> Scott Tong & James Perkins Mastromarino, *Roblox Chief Safety Officer on New Safety*  
24 *Features, Past Cases of Child Abuse on the Platform*, WBUR (Nov. 18, 2024),  
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2024/11/18/roblox-safety-features>.

25 <sup>144</sup> Carville & D'Anastasio, *supra* note 16.

26 <sup>145</sup> Scott Tong & James Perkins Mastromarino, *Roblox Attempts to Bar Child Predators as Short*  
*Sellers Target the Popular Game Platform*, WBUR (Oct. 21, 2024),  
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2024/10/21/roblox-child-predators-safety>.

27 <sup>146</sup> National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, *2019 CyberTipline Reports by Electronic*  
28 *Services Providers (ESP)*, <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/2019->

1 142. Roblox also boasts that just "0.0063% of [its] total content was flagged for  
2 violating" policies. But Roblox itself controls the systems responsible for identifying and flagging  
3 violative content.<sup>147</sup> These lower percentages are thus a reflection not of safety but of Roblox's  
4 ability to minimize the appearance of problems through its own inadequate reporting and  
5 enforcement mechanisms. By hiding behind self-serving metrics and refusing to take meaningful  
6 action, Roblox has fostered an environment where children are subjected to irreparable harm  
7 while the company continues to reap financial rewards.

8 143. The very existence of Roblox's trust and safety "data" on inappropriate  
9 communications to train its AI systems contradicts its claim that "one is too many" when it comes  
10 to the sexual exploitation of children. This data exists only because countless instances of abuse,  
11 exploitation, and predatory interactions have already occurred. Roblox's reliance on this data to  
12 train its AI systems exposes the reality that its so-called safety measures are not designed to  
13 prevent these atrocities but to react to them after the damage has been done. Instead of creating a  
14 secure environment where such harm never occurs and ensuring that such interactions never  
15 happen in the first place, Roblox uses the suffering and trauma of children as the foundation for  
16 its trust and safety systems. This cycle underscores the company's prioritization of optics over  
17 genuine protection, leaving its youngest users at the mercy of its neglect.

18 144. Roblox's own developers even admit that Roblox is unsafe for children.<sup>148</sup> Online  
19 forum discussion posts are replete with Roblox developers writing that they would not allow their  
20 own children to use the platform, citing pervasive issues with Roblox's child safety policies.  
21 Many of these posts highlight the platform's systemic failures, providing further signs to Roblox

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23 reports-by-esp.pdf; National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2024 CyberTipline Reports  
24 by Electronic Services Providers (ESP),  
[https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/cybertiplinedata2024/2024-reports-  
25 by-esp.pdf](https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/cybertiplinedata2024/2024-reports-by-esp.pdf).

26 <sup>147</sup> Vikki Blake, *Roblox Reported Over 13,000 Incidents to the National Center for Missing and  
27 Exploited Children in 2023*, GamesIndustry.biz (Jul. 23, 2024),  
[https://www.gamesindustry.biz/roblox-reported-over-13000-incidents-to-the-national-center-for-  
28 missing-and-exploited-children-in-2023](https://www.gamesindustry.biz/roblox-reported-over-13000-incidents-to-the-national-center-for-missing-and-exploited-children-in-2023).

<sup>148</sup> Edwin Dorsey, *Problems at Roblox (RBLX) #5*, The Bear Cave (Oct. 17, 2024),  
<https://thebearcave.substack.com/p/problems-at-roblox-rblx-5>.

1 of the dangers of its platform, and suggest straightforward changes Roblox could implement to  
2 create a safer environment but has consistently ignored—for example:

3 a. "Unfortunately, it is worse now due to Roblox's moderation being so abysmal and  
4 Roblox being a far more widespread platform. Creeps flock aplenty when before  
5 the creep: kid ratio was much much lower . . . . Roblox has no interest in actually  
6 fixing the issues so long as the bad press doesn't end up viral."<sup>149</sup>

7 b. "No. Roblox is not safe for children. The amount of NSFW [Not Safe for Work] I  
8 see on this platform on a daily basis is unbelievable. I'm surprised COPPA hasn't  
9 taken any action."<sup>150</sup>

10 c. "I believe they need to automatically rate these games for older audiences, if not,  
11 you know, removing them entirely. I could keep going on about this issue, but it's  
12 just beating a dead horse at this point."<sup>151</sup>

13 d. "Roblox got banned for bad moderation; Turkey banned it to 'protect children,' and  
14 they are not wrong. The amount of visits from 10 of these games is, in summary,  
15 100 million+. I don't want to know how many of these children have seen nudity  
16 or even developed a p\*rn addiction. But that is a big problem with Roblox doing  
17 almost nothing to prevent it."<sup>152</sup>

18 145. These statements, coming from individuals familiar with Roblox's operations,  
19 paint a picture of an environment rife with neglect, where harmful content flourishes, predators  
20 thrive, and Roblox repeatedly fails to act, even in the face of widespread and urgent warnings that  
21 its platform design and enforcement practices are unsafe for children.

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<sup>149</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>150</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>151</sup> *Id.*

<sup>152</sup> *Id.*

1           3.       **Roblox's recent safety changes are woefully inadequate and fail to address years**  
2           **of neglect and harm caused by its app.**

3           146.    After years of mounting pressure, Roblox recently announced changes to its child  
4 safety features, which were initially prompted not by the years of police reports and widespread  
5 media coverage but by a scathing report published by a well-known short seller accusing Roblox  
6 of being a "pedophile hellscape for kids."<sup>153</sup> Released on October 8, 2024, the report sparked  
7 public outrage, detailing many of the issues described above that Roblox had long ignored.

8           147.    A little over a month later, Roblox announced a series of changes, including  
9 permanently removing the ability to message others outside of games on its app for  
10 under 13-year-old users;<sup>154</sup> giving parents a separate dashboard where they can monitor a child's  
11 Roblox account, view the child's friend list, set spending control, and manage screen time;<sup>155</sup>  
12 preventing games from using chalkboard writings where people could get around the censoring of  
13 communications;<sup>156</sup> and implementing restrictions to stop under 13-year-old users from accessing  
14 new Roblox games that are awaiting maturity ratings,<sup>157</sup> all changes within Roblox's control to  
15 implement at any time.

16           148.    These belated changes do not alter the core platform design Roblox chose and  
17 maintained for years—one that permits adult access to child-populated experiences, enables  
18 real-time communications, and relies on self-reported ages rather than meaningful verification. In  
19 fact, these changes could all have been implemented years ago. None of them involves any new  
20 or groundbreaking technology. Roblox moved forward only when mounting public scrutiny and  
21 investor concern threatened its stock price and public image.

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23 <sup>153</sup> Hindenburg Research, *supra* note 4.

24 <sup>154</sup> *Roblox Tightens Messaging Rules for Under-13 Users Amid Abuse Concerns*, Reuters (Nov.  
25 18, 2024), [https://www.reuters.com/technology/roblox-tightens-messaging-rules-under-13-users-](https://www.reuters.com/technology/roblox-tightens-messaging-rules-under-13-users-amid-abuse-concerns-2024-11-18/)  
26 [amid-abuse-concerns-2024-11-18/](https://www.reuters.com/technology/roblox-tightens-messaging-rules-under-13-users-amid-abuse-concerns-2024-11-18/).

27 <sup>155</sup> Robert Booth, *Roblox to Give Parents More Control Over Children's Activity After Warnings*  
28 *Over Grooming*, The Guardian, (Nov. 18, 2024),  
[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/nov/18/roblox-to-hand-parents-more-control-over-](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/nov/18/roblox-to-hand-parents-more-control-over-their-childrens-activity)  
[their-childrens-activity](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/nov/18/roblox-to-hand-parents-more-control-over-their-childrens-activity).

<sup>156</sup> *Id.*

<sup>157</sup> *Id.*

1           149. And these changes were little more than window dressing; too little, too late, and  
2 woefully inadequate. Most fundamentally, Roblox continued to allow adults to contact and  
3 message children. Roblox only banned user-to-user messaging for users under the age of 13  
4 *outside of games*. Predators were still able to message children through in-game chat features  
5 controlled by Roblox's design choices and default settings; indeed, Roblox left child predators a  
6 blueprint for finding children on the application intact by continuing to permit predators to locate  
7 children and access child-populated experiences by playing games they know that children will  
8 frequent.



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19           *Screenshot of Roblox's "LGBTQ+ Vibes" experience (accessible to all ages),*  
20           *showing in-game chat with violent hate speech threatening to hang and burn*  
21           *transgender individuals, and sexually explicit comments.*<sup>158</sup>

22           150. Roblox also failed to address core issues like the app's lack of age verification and  
23 verified parental consent to make an account. The restrictions described above work only if  
24 children correctly state their age during sign-up. Any child can easily bypass them, including  
25 parental controls and limits on messaging, by lying about their birthday. Roblox likewise did not  
26 commit to hiring more moderators or increasing its trust and safety budget, nor did it implement

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28           <sup>158</sup> Hindenburg Research, *supra* note 4.

1 any sort of identity check to prevent registered sex offenders from making accounts or to prevent  
2 repeat bad actors from rapidly creating new accounts after enforcement actions.

3 151. In fact, a research firm in the U.K. demonstrated just how easy it still was for  
4 predators to find children and move the conversation to another application, such as Snapchat or  
5 Discord, despite Roblox's ban on direct messaging with users under the age of 13.<sup>159</sup> Because  
6 Roblox still allowed adult users to message children *in games*, predators could use public chat  
7 functions in games to groom child users and ask for their usernames on other platforms. And, for  
8 chat within games, Roblox's default settings for children under the age of 13 was to allow  
9 "everyone" to chat with these children, seamlessly facilitating predators' access to children.<sup>160</sup>  
10 The key findings from this report included that "[a]dults and children can chat with no obvious  
11 supervision" and that "[t]he safety controls that exist are limited in their effectiveness and there  
12 are still significant risks for children on the platform."<sup>161</sup>



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21 *In April 2025, a research agency demonstrated how easy it was for a 42-year-old account to find*  
22 *a five-year-old user on Roblox and get the child to move the conversation to Snapchat.*<sup>162</sup>

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25 <sup>159</sup> Revealing Reality, *A Digital Playground: The Real Guide to Roblox* (Apr. 13, 2025),  
26 <https://think.revealingreality.co.uk/roblox-real-guide>.

<sup>160</sup> Parental Controls Overview, Roblox, <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview> (last accessed May 10, 2025).

<sup>161</sup> Revealing Reality, *supra* note 159.

<sup>162</sup> *Id.*

1           152. Just as Roblox rolled out these changes, it simultaneously introduced a new  
2 "Party" feature in an effort to offset any potential loss in user engagement.<sup>163</sup> The Party feature  
3 allows users to form small, persistent groups and communicate through real-time voice chat while  
4 moving together across games and experiences. Unlike public in-game text chat, Parties create  
5 semi-private voice channels that reduce natural interruptions, limit visibility by parents or  
6 moderators, and facilitate prolonged, unsupervised interactions between users. Roblox knew that  
7 users often turned to other apps like Discord to communicate while playing video games and  
8 because Roblox knew that its safety changes would reduce key user engagement metrics, it  
9 sought to capture that traffic (and revenue) by keeping communications—and monetizable  
10 engagement—inside Roblox's ecosystem, and replace any loss of engagement by implementing  
11 the Party feature. While the Party feature is currently available only for users aged 13 and older,  
12 such limitations are hollow without robust age verification. And the fact that Roblox has stated  
13 that it is exploring making such a feature available to younger users demonstrates that, far from  
14 prioritizing safety, Roblox's real focus is protecting its bottom-line.<sup>164</sup>

15           153. Roblox also engaged in a deceptive public relations campaign using ostensibly  
16 independent online safety organizations to influence the narrative around these changes. For  
17 instance, Roblox leveraged its ties to groups like the Family Online Safety Institute ("FOSI"). An  
18 online parenting magazine favorably quoted Stephen Balkam, FOSI's CEO, as endorsing  
19 Roblox's new features as a win for child safety.<sup>165</sup> What the article omitted, however, is that  
20 Roblox's own Vice President of Civility and Partnerships, Tami Bhaumik, serves as FOSI's board  
21 chair, an obvious conflict of interest.<sup>166</sup> This calculated relationship exposes how Roblox creates  
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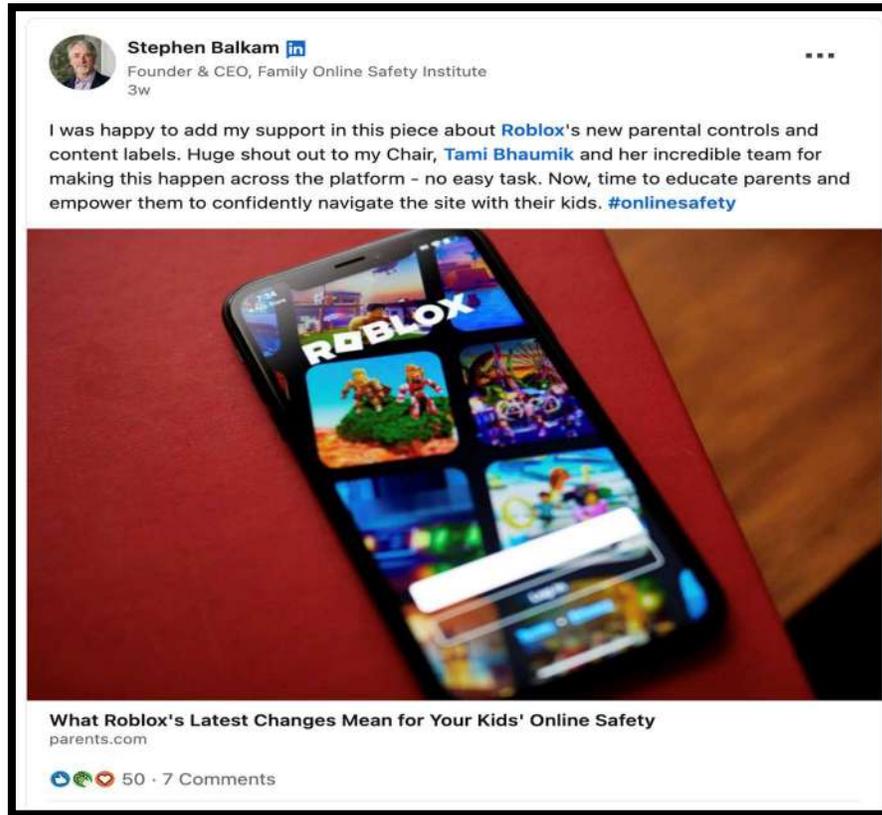
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>163</sup> Rebecca Ruiz, *Roblox's New Party Feature Makes Discord Obsolete*, Mashable (Dec. 2, 2024),  
<https://mashable.com/article/roblox-party-discord>.

26 <sup>164</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>165</sup> Anna Halkidis, *What Roblox's Latest Changes Mean for Your Kids' Online Safety*, Parents  
(Nov. 18, 2024), <https://www.parents.com/roblox-new-parental-controls-8747405>.

28 <sup>166</sup> *FOSI Welcomes Roblox Vice President as New Board Chair*, FOSI (Oct. 12, 2022),  
<https://www.fosi.org/about-press/fosi-welcomes-roblox-vice-president-as-new-board-chair>.

1 the appearance of independent endorsement and manipulates public perception by using  
2 seemingly independent safety organizations as mouthpieces to shape the narrative in its favor.



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16 *Stephen Balkam's LinkedIn post revealing his connection to Roblox in a post*  
17 *praising Roblox's changes.*<sup>167</sup>

18 154. In April 2025, Roblox repeated this same deceptive playbook of bragging about  
19 new safety features that, in reality, are glaringly deficient. This update included three new  
20 features: first, allowing parents to block children from playing specific games; second, granting  
21 parents the power to block people on their child's friends list; and third, giving parents visibility  
22 into the games that their child spends the most time in.<sup>168</sup>

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25 <sup>167</sup> LinkedIn, Stephen Balkam's Post, [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/stephenbalkam\\_what-roblox-latest-changes-mean-for-your-activity-7264409332950220801-WCDF](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/stephenbalkam_what-roblox-latest-changes-mean-for-your-activity-7264409332950220801-WCDF) (last visited Jan. 6, 2025).

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27 <sup>168</sup> Matt Kaufman, *New Tools for Parents to Personalize Their Child's Experience on Roblox*,  
28 ROBLOX (Apr. 2, 2025), <https://corp.roblox.com/newsroom/2025/04/new-parental-controls-on-roblox>.

1           155. None of these parental controls addressed the underlying deficiency with Roblox  
2 that facilitates grooming and predation on children—adult access to and communication with  
3 children. Without allowing parents to see who their child is messaging and what the messages  
4 say, parents lack the information necessary to determine which accounts to block on their child's  
5 friend list. A list of the top twenty games that a child plays provides no insight into which games  
6 expose children to adult users or whether predators are using in-game chat to solicit off-platform  
7 contact. Moreover, blocking specific games is ineffective when, as discussed above, inappropriate  
8 games are re-posted as soon as they are taken down. In fact, the U.K. research firm discussed  
9 above tested these measures and concluded that "notable problems persist," including "it's still  
10 remarkably easy to create an account with a false age. Adults can continue to create accounts  
11 pretending to be children."<sup>169</sup>

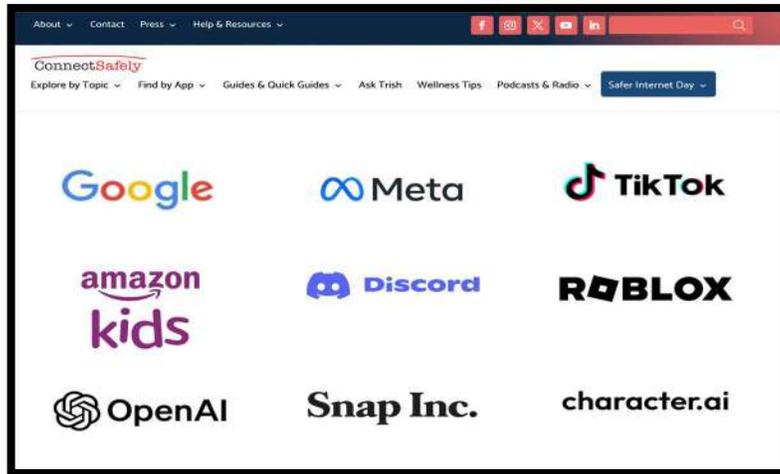
12           156. And, yet again, all of these controls could have been introduced *years ago*, as none  
13 are facilitated by previously unavailable technology.

14           157. Roblox's deceptive playbook would not be complete without a misleading public  
15 relations campaign, where industry-funded safety "experts" praise Roblox's safety update. For  
16 example, Roblox's press release announcing these updates quotes Larry Magid, the CEO of  
17 ConnectSafely, as saying, "Roblox has consistently provided parents with tools that enable their  
18 children to enjoy the platform, while helping protect them against online risks. These new  
19 friend-and experience-blocking tools provide parents with even more ways to help ensure their  
20 children are using it safely. Safety, fun, and adventure are not mutually exclusive."<sup>170</sup> What the  
21 press release did not say is that ConnectSafely—a non-profit ostensibly focused on educating  
22 people about internet safety—is funded by tech companies and lists Roblox as one of its  
23 "supporters,"<sup>171</sup> undermining the independence of this endorsement.

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26 <sup>169</sup> Revealing Reality, *Four Months on: Is Roblox Any Safer* (May 9, 2025),  
<https://think.revealingreality.co.uk/roblox-updated>.

27 <sup>170</sup> Matt Kaufman, *New Tools for Parents to Personalize Their Child's Experience on Roblox*.

28 <sup>171</sup> ConnectSafely, *Supporters*, <https://connectsafely.org/about-us/supporters/> (last accessed May 10, 2025).



ConnectSafely's list of supporters on its website.

158. A few weeks later, Magid was quoted again in praise of Roblox, this time in a *Newsweek* article championing Roblox as a "trusted playground" for kids: "I would put them very high up on the list of companies that seem to care. They actually have a vice president of civility. It's unheard of to have somebody at that level of the company that focuses on civility. They really work very hard to make it a friendly, comfortable, civil environment for young people."<sup>172</sup> Again, this article made no mention of Magid's organization's financial ties to Roblox.

159. FOSI CEO Stephen Balkam was also quoted in the *Newsweek* piece, claiming that Roblox was "top-of-class" for its safety features and even repeating Roblox's own party line that safety is "part of [Roblox's] DNA."<sup>173</sup> Again, this article omitted FOSI's financial ties to Roblox or that Roblox's own Vice President of Civility and Partnerships, Tami Bhaumik, serves as FOSI's board chair.<sup>174</sup> This carefully engineered arrangement exposes how Roblox weaponizes nominally independent groups as spokespeople to push a narrative of Roblox as a "safe" application for kids.

<sup>172</sup> Katherine Fung, *How Roblox Became a Trusted Playground for Millions of Kids*, *Newsweek* (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.newsweek.com/how-roblox-became-trusted-playground-millions-kids-2057601>.

<sup>173</sup> *Id.*

<sup>174</sup> *FOSI Welcomes Roblox Vice President as New Board Chair*, FOSI (Oct. 12, 2022), available at <https://www.fosi.org/aboutpress/fosi-welcomes-roblox-vice-president-as-new-board-chair/> (last visited January 17, 2026).

1           160. In November 2025, following mounting lawsuits and regulatory pressure, Roblox  
2 announced it would implement mandatory AI-powered facial age verification to prevent adults  
3 from communicating with children. However, just days after the global rollout in January 2026,  
4 the system proved to be fundamentally flawed. News publication, WIRED, reviewed hundreds of  
5 user reports documenting that the AI system routinely misidentifies ages in both directions: adults  
6 are classified as teenagers, gaining access to spaces meant for children, while minors are  
7 classified as adults, exposing them to adult users and content.<sup>175</sup> One 23-year-old user who was  
8 misidentified as 16-17 years old wrote, "I don't want to be chatting with fucking children."<sup>176</sup>  
9 Another user reported being 18 but classified as 13-15 years old. Parents reported that  
10 their 10-year-old children were placed in the over-18 category.<sup>177</sup>

11           161. The facial recognition system is also trivially easy to defeat. Users posted videos  
12 demonstrating how children could trick the system using simple methods: one young boy drew  
13 wrinkles and stubble on his face with a black marker and was verified as 21+ years old.<sup>178</sup>  
14 Another user held up a photo of deceased Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain and gained adult  
15 verification.<sup>179</sup> Users shared avatars and other images that successfully fooled the system.<sup>180</sup>  
16 More troubling still, WIRED found multiple eBay listings advertising pre-verified Roblox  
17 accounts for minors as young as nine years old being sold for as little as four dollars (\$4.00),  
18 effectively allowing adults to purchase access to children on the platform.<sup>181</sup>

19           162. Roblox's own acknowledgments, posted on its developer forum, demonstrate the  
20 system's failure: "We are aware of instances where parents age check on behalf of their children  
21 leading to kids being aged to 21+."<sup>182</sup> The company's Chief Safety Officer Matt Kaufman

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 <sup>175</sup> David Gilbert, *Roblox's AI-Powered Age Verification Is a Complete Mess*, Wired (Jan. 13,  
24 2026), <https://www.wired.com/story/roblox-ai-powered-age-verification-is-a-complete-mess/>.

25 <sup>176</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>177</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>178</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>179</sup> *Id.*

<sup>180</sup> *Id.*

<sup>181</sup> *Id.*

<sup>182</sup> *Roblox's Developer Forum*, <https://devforum.roblox.com/t/age-check-to-chat-update-fast-follow-roadmap/4238626> (last accessed February 9, 2026).

1 admitted to WIRED that the system was not perfect, stating that "You can't flip a switch while  
2 building something that hasn't existed before" and that "expecting the system to be flawless  
3 overnight is ignoring the scale of this undertaking."<sup>183</sup> In other words, Roblox knowingly  
4 deployed a flawed safety system on 150 million users, including millions of California children,  
5 fully aware it would not work as promised.

6 163. These age-verification measures are token gestures, adopted only after years of  
7 harm and public scrutiny and fall far short of what child safety requires. Roblox still does not  
8 require any age verification at account creation, relying instead on self-reported birthdates that  
9 can be easily falsified, enabling predators to continue to misrepresent their age and access  
10 child-designated features and interactions.

11 **E. Roblox's Unlawful Conduct Has Harmed California Children.**

12 164. The dangers inherent in Roblox's design, combined with its false safety  
13 assurances, have caused real, devastating harm to children in the County and throughout  
14 California. Multiple California families have bravely come forward and filed lawsuits describing  
15 the systematic pattern of sexual exploitation of their kids through Roblox's platform. These  
16 lawsuits represent only the visible tip of a much larger crisis affecting California's children.

17 165. In November 2025, a lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court on  
18 behalf of a 12-year-old girl from the County. The child was befriended by a user known as  
19 "Precious," who claimed to be a 15-year-old girl who had been abused at home and had no  
20 friends.<sup>184</sup> In reality, "Precious" was an adult predator using a false identity to gain the child's  
21 trust.<sup>185</sup> The predator groomed the child on Roblox, then moved their interactions to Discord,  
22 where the child was manipulated into sending sexually explicit photos and videos of herself.<sup>186</sup>

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25 <sup>183</sup> Gilbert, *supra* note 175.

26 <sup>184</sup> Complaint, *Doe v. Roblox Corp.*, No. 25NNCV08326 (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles, Cty.).

27 <sup>185</sup> *SoCal families sue Roblox, claiming their children were exposed to predators on gaming platform*, NBC Los Angeles, (Dec. 10, 2025) available at, <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/roblox-discort-lawsuit-los-angeles-riverside/3813834/> (last accessed Jan. 17, 2026).

28 <sup>186</sup> *Id.*

1 The mother stated, "I still have these photos that are floating around of her, these videos of her  
2 young body. That's not fair to her. She didn't know what she was doing."<sup>187</sup>

3 166. The predator then attempted to isolate the child from her family and lure her into a  
4 real-world meeting, telling the child she had an apartment in Fullerton and pressuring her to visit  
5 alone. When the child, accompanied by a friend's parents, met the Roblox user at a beach, the  
6 person "appeared older" than claimed and attempted to introduce the 12-year-old to a group of  
7 older men.<sup>188</sup>

8 167. The exploitation devastated the child. She failed seventh grade as her behavior  
9 changed dramatically during the grooming process.<sup>189</sup> She suffered and continues to suffer from  
10 psychological trauma, depression, and severe emotional distress. Her mother explained, "You  
11 shouldn't have to rebuild your life at 13 years old."<sup>190</sup>

12 168. The pattern of exploitation continued in nearby Kern County, only this time the  
13 child was kidnapped. In April 2025, a 10-year-old child was taken by Matthew Macatuno Naval,  
14 a 27-year-old man who had been communicating with the child first through Roblox and then  
15 Discord.<sup>191</sup> Naval posed as a peer to contact the girl through Roblox, then moved the conversation  
16 to Discord, where the child was groomed and manipulated into sharing her home address.<sup>192</sup>

17 169. On April 13, 2025, Naval drove to the child's home in Taft, Kern County, and  
18 abducted her. The child was last seen by her family at home Saturday night.<sup>193</sup> When the family  
19 discovered she was missing the following morning, they immediately contacted police.  
20 Detectives discovered the communications between the child and Naval and determined he was in  
21 the Elk Grove area, just south of Sacramento and more than 250 miles from the child's home.<sup>194</sup>

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23 <sup>187</sup>*Id.*

24 <sup>188</sup>*Id.*

25 <sup>189</sup>*Id.*

26 <sup>190</sup>*Id.*

27 <sup>191</sup> Complaint, *Doe v. Roblox Corp.*, No. 25-CIV-05901 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo, Cty.).

28 <sup>192</sup>*Id.*

<sup>193</sup>*Id.*

<sup>194</sup> *California man accused of kidnapping 10-year-old he met on Roblox*, NBC News April 17,  
2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/kidnapping-roblox-rcna201795> (last viewed Jan.  
17, 2026).

1           170.    A frantic, multi-agency search ensued. Elk Grove police were notified and found  
2 Naval at a strip mall near his home with the kidnapped child in his vehicle, hundreds of miles  
3 from her home.<sup>195</sup> The Kern County Sheriff's Office credited the rapid spread of missing person  
4 flyers through Sacramento news media and local Kern County media partners with contributing  
5 to the successful location of the victim.<sup>196</sup> Naval was charged with multiple counts of kidnapping  
6 and unlawful sexual conduct with a minor.<sup>197</sup> The family sued Roblox and Discord in  
7 August 2025.

8           171.    The most tragic consequence of Roblox's failures occurred in San Diego County.  
9 In September 2025, Rebecca Dallas filed a lawsuit in San Francisco on behalf of her son, Ethan  
10 Dallas, who was a "bright, imaginative boy who loved gaming, streaming and interacting with  
11 friends online."<sup>198</sup> He started playing on Roblox around the age of 9 with his parents' approval  
12 and with parental controls in place.<sup>199</sup> Ms. Dallas believed Roblox was safe for her son to use  
13 given how the platform marketed itself and the parental controls she and her husband had set.<sup>200</sup>

14           172.    When Ethan was 12 years old, he was targeted by a sexual predator who posed as  
15 a child on Roblox and befriended him. What started as innocent conversation "gradually escalated  
16 to sexual topics and explicit exchanges."<sup>201</sup> The predator then transitioned their interactions to  
17 Discord, following the exact pattern of exploitation that Roblox has enabled for years.<sup>202</sup>

18           173.    On Discord, the predator increasingly demanded that Ethan send explicit  
19 photographs and videos of himself. The predator threatened Ethan that he would post or share  
20 these explicit images of Ethan if Ethan did not comply with his demands of additional child  
21 sexual abuse material.<sup>203</sup> Ethan continued to send images out of fear.

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<sup>195</sup> *Id.*

<sup>196</sup> *Id.*

<sup>197</sup> *Id.*

<sup>198</sup> Complaint, *Dallas v. Roblox Corp.*, No. 25-629056 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Francisco Cty.)

<sup>199</sup> *Id.*

<sup>200</sup> *Id.*

<sup>201</sup> *Id.*

<sup>202</sup> *Id.*

<sup>203</sup> *Id.*

1 174. Tragically, Ethan was permanently harmed and haunted by these experiences. He  
2 died by suicide at the age of 15.<sup>204</sup>

3 175. After Ethan's death, his family learned from law enforcement that the man who  
4 exploited him had been arrested in Florida for doing the same to other children through Roblox  
5 and Discord.<sup>205</sup>

6 176. Despite involving different children, different predators, and different counties  
7 across California, these cases share an identical pattern of exploitation that Roblox has knowingly  
8 enabled for years: (1) a predator creates an account on Roblox without any age or identity  
9 verification; (2) the predator poses as a peer to befriend a child user; (3) the predator grooms the  
10 child on Roblox; (4) the predator moves the conversation to another platform like Discord;  
11 and (5) the predator escalates to soliciting explicit images or arranging real-world meetings. This  
12 sequence is entirely preventable through basic safety measures that Roblox has refused to  
13 implement.

14 177. With more than half a million children under the age of 18 in the County using  
15 Roblox,<sup>206</sup> each of these children is vulnerable to the same systematic failures that led to Ethan  
16 Dallas's death, that enabled the sexual exploitation of a 12-year-old girl from the County, and that  
17 facilitated the kidnapping of a 10-year-old from Taft. These cases are not outliers. They are  
18 merely examples of the harm that Roblox's platform inflicts on California children every day.

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26 <sup>204</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>205</sup> *Roblox Sued for Wrongful Death After Teenager's Suicide*, The New York Times,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/12/technology/roblox-lawsuit-child-safety.html> (last accessed  
28 January 17, 2026).

<sup>206</sup> See *supra* note 13.

1 **V. CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **Public Nuisance**

4 **Violation of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 3479 and 3480**

5 178. The People incorporate each and every factual allegation set forth above.

6 179. Cal. Civ. Code § 3479 provides that "[a]nything that is injurious to health . . . or is  
7 indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere  
8 with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property . . . is a nuisance."

9 180. Cal. Civ. Code § 3480 defines a "public nuisance" as "one which affects at the  
10 same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons,  
11 although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal."

12 181. Pursuant to § 731 of the Cal. Civ. Code, this action is brought by the People to  
13 abate the public nuisance created by Defendant in the County.

14 182. A public nuisance cause of action is established where a defendant knowingly  
15 creates, assists in creating, or maintains a condition that unreasonably interferes with a public  
16 right, including through the habitual facilitation of unlawful and harmful conduct, and where the  
17 defendant knows or should know of the nuisance and fails to take reasonable steps to abate it.

18 183. Defendant knowingly caused, assisted in causing, and/or contributed to a public  
19 nuisance that harms and threatens children in the County by (1) promoting and vastly increasing  
20 minors' use of its platform through aggressive marketing and design features intended to  
21 maximize engagement, while (2) deceptively promoting safety features and moderation systems  
22 that Defendant represented would protect children from predatory conduct, and (3) while  
23 knowing that these purported safety measures were inadequate to address the scale of exploitation  
24 occurring on the platform, and (4) while knowing that its platform design, operational choices,  
25 and inadequate safeguards would lead and perpetuate the sexual exploitation and abuse of minors.

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1 184. Defendant knowingly, intentionally, and/or recklessly created, caused, or assisted  
2 in the creation of a nuisance by promoting false solutions to the child safety crisis generated by  
3 Defendant's design, operation, promotion, and marketing of its platform to minors at all times, up  
4 to and including today.

5 *Defendant's Creation And Maintenance Of A Public Nuisance*

6 185. As alleged above, Defendant owns, operates, and controls an interactive online  
7 gaming and social platform that has become a habitual destination for child predators engaging in  
8 grooming, sexual exploitation, and related criminal conduct involving minors through  
9 Defendant's platform design choices, default communication settings, and inadequate safeguards.

10 186. The conduct facilitated and enabled by Defendant's platform includes violations of  
11 California criminal laws prohibiting, among other things, the sexual exploitation of children, the  
12 production and distribution of child sexual abuse material, the coercion or enticement of minors  
13 for sexual purposes, and conduct contributing to the delinquency and sexual victimization of  
14 minors. *See, e.g.*, California Penal Code ("Cal. Penal Code") §§ 311.2, 311.3, 266j, 272, 647.6.

15 187. Numerous reports, investigations, complaints, and internal and external warnings  
16 have documented that child predators routinely exploit Defendant's platform features, including  
17 anonymity, private messaging, in-game chat, and virtual currency systems, to identify, groom,  
18 and sexually exploit children, often escalating abuse off-platform through a foreseeable,  
19 repeatable, and preventable sequence of exploitation.

20 188. Despite longstanding knowledge of these conditions, Defendant has failed to  
21 implement reasonable, available, and effective safeguards to prevent or abate the ongoing sexual  
22 exploitation of minors occurring through its platform, and instead has continued to operate the  
23 platform in a manner that facilitates and exacerbates these harms, including by maintaining  
24 product defaults and account creation pathways that allow adult strangers access to minors  
25 without meaningful age or identity verification.

26 189. The nuisance conditions described herein are not the unavoidable result of  
27 third-party conduct. They are the predictable result of Defendant's platform architecture, product  
28 defaults, and operational decisions, including its failure to require meaningful age verification, its

1 allowance of adult-to-child communications within games, and its monetization systems that  
2 increase engagement while leaving minors exposed to foreseeable harm.

3 190. By knowingly permitting its platform to be used as an instrumentality for  
4 widespread and ongoing child sexual exploitation, and by failing to take reasonable steps to  
5 prevent or abate such conduct, Defendant has created, assisted in creating, and maintained a  
6 public nuisance that is injurious to the health of, offensive to, and interferes with the comfortable  
7 enjoyment of life and property of entire communities and a considerable number of persons in the  
8 County in violation of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 3479 and 3480 as a direct result of Defendant's design  
9 of its platform, operational decisions, and profit-driven platform decisions.

10 *Unreasonable Interference With Public Rights*

11 191. Defendant's conduct unreasonably interferes with public rights, including the right  
12 of California children to be free from sexual exploitation, the right of families to public spaces  
13 and digital environments that are not dangerous or predatory, and the community's interest in  
14 protecting the health, safety, and welfare of minors.

15 192. The public nuisance is substantial and unreasonable. Defendant's actions continue  
16 to cause and to be a significant factor in the harm of children in the County and that harm  
17 outweighs any offsetting benefit.

18 193. The People have been subject to a public nuisance as a result of Defendant's  
19 conduct described herein, which unreasonably interferes with the health, safety, peace, comfort,  
20 or convenience of the People. This conduct includes, among other things, Defendant's design,  
21 development, production, operation, promotion, distribution, and marketing of its platform to  
22 attract minors and facilitate predatory conduct, thereby creating a child exploitation crisis.

23 194. The significant interference with public rights is described in detail throughout this  
24 Complaint and includes but is not limited to:

- 25 a. The creation and maintenance of an environment that facilitates widespread  
26 sexual exploitation and assault of children;
- 27 b. Providing easy access to minors by child predators through inadequate safety  
28 controls and verification systems;

- 1 c. A staggering increase in child sexual abuse and exploitation involving platform
- 2 users;
- 3 d. Lasting psychological, emotional, and developmental trauma to children from
- 4 exploitation and abuse facilitated through the platform;
- 5 e. Families losing security and peace of mind that digital spaces used by their
- 6 children are reasonably safe; and
- 7 f. Increased costs and expenses relating to healthcare services, mental health
- 8 treatment, law enforcement investigations, the criminal justice system, child
- 9 protective services, and victim support services.

10 195. Defendant knew, or should have known, that the design, development, operation,  
11 promotion, distribution, and marketing of its platform to attract minors without implementing  
12 adequate protections against predatory conduct would create a public nuisance and would  
13 foreseeably result in widespread harm.

14 196. The People have been left to address the child exploitation crisis caused by  
15 Defendant's conduct by, among other things:

- 16 a. Expending, diverting, and increasing human and financial resources (including tax
- 17 dollars) to provide additional mental health and trauma services to child victims;
- 18 b. Hiring additional counselors and personnel for child victim services;
- 19 c. Expending and diverting time and resources to identify child victims, investigate,
- 20 and prosecute crimes involving child sexual exploitation caused by Defendant's
- 21 platform;
- 22 d. Expending and diverting resources to collaborate with other jurisdictions and
- 23 agencies in multi-jurisdictional investigations of platform-facilitated abuse; and
- 24 e. Expending, diverting, and increasing resources to provide long-term support
- 25 services for children who have been exploited through the platform.

26 197. Thus, Defendant's design, development, production, operation, promotion,  
27 distribution, and marketing of its platform to minors without adequate protections has  
28 unreasonably interfered with public health, safety, and welfare in the County.

1 *Special Injury To The People*

2 198. The People have suffered special injury as a result of Defendant's unreasonable  
3 interference with the health, safety, peace, comfort, and convenience of the general community.

4 199. Indeed, the County is on the front lines of combatting the negative consequences  
5 of Defendant's deliberate choice to operate a platform that facilitates child exploitation. The child  
6 exploitation crisis enabled by Defendant's platform affects all aspects of child welfare,  
7 community safety, and the ability of children to grow and develop free from predatory abuse.

8 200. Because of Defendant's actions, which have led to substantial harm to minors in  
9 the County, children experience lasting psychological trauma, families are devastated by the  
10 exploitation of their children, and communities must expend extraordinary resources to address  
11 the consequences of platform-facilitated abuse.

12 201. The People have been required to unexpectedly expend, divert, and increase their  
13 limited resources in an effort to address the rising rates of child sexual exploitation, trafficking,  
14 abuse, and subsequent mental health trauma facilitated by Defendant's platform.

15 202. Additionally, by taking unreasonable actions that increase the costs of law  
16 enforcement, child protective services, victim services, and other public services provided by the  
17 People, Defendant has interfered with a right common to the general public by diverting tax  
18 dollars into projects required to abate the nuisance caused by Defendant's conduct, rather than  
19 having that tax money spent on other public programs and services.

20 *Knowledge And Substantial Factor*

21 203. Defendant knew, or should have known, that its conduct would create or assist in  
22 the creation of the public nuisance.

23 204. As discussed above, Defendant operates an interactive gaming platform that has  
24 become a habitual destination for child predators engaging in grooming and child sexual  
25 exploitation and assault.

26 205. Numerous reports and investigations have documented how predators use  
27 Roblox's anonymity, chat features, and in-game currency to identify, groom, and exploit children.

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1 reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading" concerning real or personal  
2 property or services. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500.

3 214. Defendant has engaged in and continues to engage in acts or practices that  
4 constitute violations of the False Advertising Law, Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 et seq.

5 *Willful Misrepresentations And Omissions*

6 215. In numerous instances Defendant willfully engaged in unfair, false, misleading,  
7 and/or deceptive acts or practices in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, and  
8 other representations regarding its products and services, including but not limited to statements  
9 made on its own website, in its own marketing materials, to reporters, to podcasters, to online  
10 publications, and to television cameras, including but not limited to the means described herein.

11 216. Defendant made these deceptive representations and omissions, directly or  
12 indirectly, expressly or by implication, with the intent that consumers rely on the deceptive  
13 representations and omissions when deciding whether to permit or facilitate minors' use of  
14 Roblox and whether to purchase Robux, subscriptions, and related services.

15 217. As set forth above, Defendant willfully failed to disclose material facts concerning  
16 the true nature of the risks of harm posed to children on Roblox, including the extent to which  
17 Roblox's own platform design, default communication settings, and lack of meaningful age  
18 verification expose minors to foreseeable predatory contact.

19 218. As set forth above, Defendant willfully misrepresented to the public that Roblox  
20 was safe for children and prioritized the safety of children on the platform, when in fact  
21 Defendant knew that those representations were false and/or misleading in light of Roblox's own  
22 data, reports, internal warnings, and repeated public allegations of child exploitation enabled  
23 through the platform.

24 219. All the while, Defendant willfully and affirmatively made misrepresentations to  
25 the people of California. And, in so doing, Defendant concealed vital knowledge and information  
26 from parents, children, and consumers within California, resulting in significant harm.

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- 1 g. Falsely, misleadingly, and deceptively representing that safety is Roblox's number  
2 one priority, while actively undermining safety in the pursuit of profit;
- 3 h. Falsely, misleadingly, and deceptively representing that "Everything" on Roblox "is  
4 reviewed by ... real life humans";
- 5 i. Falsely, misleadingly, and deceptively representing that Roblox reviews every  
6 uploaded image, audio, and video file with a large team of human moderators and  
7 machine detection before they are made available to users;
- 8 j. Falsely, misleadingly, and deceptively claiming that bad actors are "dealt with  
9 swiftly" on Roblox and that Defendant "remove[s] any content that's reported to us  
10 within minutes"; and
- 11 k. Falsely, misleadingly, and deceptively representing, expressly or by implication,  
12 that Roblox's communications architecture, default settings, and moderation  
13 systems were sufficient to protect minors from adult predatory contact, when  
14 Defendant knew that adult-to-child contact and grooming remained foreseeable and  
15 recurring through the platform.

16 *Material Omissions*

17 222. Roblox has also, in the course of trade and commerce, engaged in false,  
18 misleading, and deceptive acts and practices through its failure to disclose the material limitations  
19 and dangers of its platform to children, *e.g.*, the high volume of sexual content, inappropriate  
20 material, and high risk of sexual predators, including registered sex offenders, on its platform,  
21 which was known to Roblox as it continued to transact with California consumers and actively  
22 marketed the platform as safe for minors.

23 223. As a result, without proper warning or notice to parents, California consumers  
24 were induced into transactions they would not have entered had the information been disclosed,  
25 including permitting minor children to create Roblox accounts, interact with other users through  
26 Roblox's communication features, and purchase Robux and related services.

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1 *Materiality And Consumer Harm*

2 224. Defendant's unfair acts and practices led consumers to falsely believe that Roblox  
3 is safe for children and that Defendant's stated safety controls were effective and reliable.

4 225. Defendant knew it was leaving this impression and knew it was false. Defendant  
5 developed and marketed a product that was and is dangerous and in a manner that exposed  
6 children to foreseeable harm for child users, because of the risk of predators, with the intention of  
7 increasing subscribership and in-game purchases.

8 226. Defendant's continuing and systematic business practices were meant to  
9 manipulate parents and minor children into believing Roblox was safe, including through material  
10 misrepresentations that are likely to mislead reasonable consumers, thus constituting deceptive  
11 acts or practices.

12 227. Defendant has known that its representations and omissions are false, deceptive,  
13 and misleading as it has transacted and continued to transact with California consumers.  
14 Defendant knew or should have known that these representations and omissions were likely to  
15 mislead consumers acting reasonably in the circumstances, to the consumers' detriment.  
16 California children have fallen victim to predators as a result.

17 228. All actions described herein create potential for bodily and financial harm to  
18 consumers and further financial harm to the People through the cost of treatment, victim services,  
19 and other public safety concerns related to child predators, including increased demands on law  
20 enforcement, child welfare resources, and community-based victim support services.

21 *Relief Requested*

22 229. The People are therefore entitled to an injunctive order requiring Defendant to  
23 cease the false and misleading advertising practices alleged herein pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code  
24 § 17535.

25 230. The People further seek an appropriate civil penalty under Bus. & Prof. Code  
26 § 17536 of up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for each violation of Bus. & Prof.  
27 Code § 17500.

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1 countervailing benefits to consumers or competition. Defendant's conduct only injures healthy  
2 competition and harms consumers, particularly the most vulnerable consumers: children.

3 250. California consumers and the People could not have reasonably avoided this  
4 injury. As alleged above, Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions were deceiving to  
5 reasonable consumers. Parents and children reasonably relied on Defendant's false assurances that  
6 the platform was safe, that comprehensive moderation was in place, and that child safety was  
7 Defendant's priority. Consumers had no way of knowing the true extent of predatory activity and  
8 sexual exploitation occurring on the platform because Defendant concealed this information.

9 251. Defendant's conduct, as alleged above, was immoral, unethical, oppressive,  
10 unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers, particularly to minor children who are  
11 among the most vulnerable members of society.

12 252. It is the established public policy of the State of California to protect children from  
13 sexual exploitation, abuse, and harm. Cal. Penal Code §§ 311.2, 311.3, 266j, 272, and 647.6,  
14 among other statutes, reflect California's strong public policy of protecting minors from sexual  
15 exploitation and predatory conduct. Cal. Civ. Code §§ 3479 and 3480 establish California's public  
16 policy against nuisances that are injurious to health and interfere with the comfortable enjoyment  
17 of life. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 establishes California's public policy against false and  
18 misleading advertising.

19 253. Defendant violated these established public policies by knowingly operating a  
20 platform that facilitates the sexual exploitation of children while falsely representing to California  
21 consumers that the platform is safe for children. The unfairness of this practice is tethered to  
22 legislatively declared policies protecting children from exploitation and protecting consumers  
23 from deceptive business practices.

24 254. In the course of trade and commerce, Defendant has engaged and continues to  
25 engage in acts and practices that offend established public policy and are deeply immoral. These  
26 acts and practices include:

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- a. Designing, offering, and maintaining a gaming platform without requiring age verification, where children can pretend to be adults and adults can pretend to be children;
- b. Designing, offering, and maintaining a gaming platform that is easily accessible to children without parental consent while actively cutting trust-and-safety costs and recruiting more adults to the platform;
- c. Designing, offering, and maintaining a gaming platform where anyone can easily communicate with young children and then execute the known predatory tactic of transitioning those communications to other chat-focused apps; and
- d. Establishing, maintaining, and profiting from a virtual currency, Robux, that predators use to procure child sexual abuse material; and
- e. Recruiting increasingly more child users by falsely representing to them and their parents that the platform is safe.

255. Roblox knew or should have known that these acts and practices are unfair under the Unfair Competition Law.

*Injury and Causation*

256. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing acts and practices, Defendant has received, or will receive, income, profits, and other benefits, which it would not have received if it had not engaged in the violations of the Unfair Competition Law described in this Complaint.

257. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing acts and practices, Defendant has obtained an unfair competitive advantage over similar businesses that have not engaged in such practices.

258. California consumers and the People were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct. Children would not have been allowed to use Defendant's platform, and families would not have used Defendant's services, had Defendant not engaged in the unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair conduct alleged herein.

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**VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the People pray for the following relief:

1. Declare that Defendant has created a public nuisance in violation of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 3479 and 3480;
2. Declare that Defendant has violated the FAL and UCL;
3. Enjoin Defendant from performing any further acts in violation of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 3479 and 3480;
4. Enjoin Defendant from the use or employment of unfair and deceptive business practices alleged herein under the authority of Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17203 and 17535 as alleged herein;
5. Order Defendant to abate the public nuisance that it created in violation of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 3479 and 3480;
6. Order Defendant to pay restitution of the money acquired by means of its unfair and deceptive business practices alleged herein, pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203;
7. Order Defendant to make restitution to all victims of its unfair and deceptive business practices pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, either directly or through appropriate *cy pres* funds;
8. Order Defendant to make restitution to all victims of its unfair and deceptive business practices alleged herein, pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code § 17535, either directly or through appropriate *cy pres* funds;
9. Order Defendant to pay a civil penalty of up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for each violation of the UCL and FAL, pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17206 and 17536;

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- 10. Order Defendant to pay Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs of this case; and
- 11. Provide such further relief as the Court deems proper.

Date: February 19, 2026

Respectfully submitted,  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL**

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