

## **Zuckerberg lied about concern for child safety, Meta whistleblower testifies at landmark trial**

### **Arturo Béjar, former Meta safety engineer, tells jury tech company was aware of products' potential harm to children**

Arturo Bejar, a former Facebook safety engineer and Instagram consultant, arrives, as Meta faces a landmark trial in federal court over claims from 29 states that the company illegally collected and used children's data in violation of federal law, allegedly designed its social media platforms to keep young users hooked and misled consumers about their safety, in Oakland, California, U.S., August 19, 2026. Photograph: Manuel Orbegozo/Reuters

**Meta**

## **Zuckerberg lied about concern for child safety, Meta whistleblower testifies at landmark trial**

### **Arturo Béjar, former Meta safety engineer, tells jury tech company was aware of products' potential harm to children**

**Dara Kerr**

**Meta** has taken a “don’t ask, don’t tell” strategy when it comes to the safety of children on its social media platforms, according to a **whistleblower** who testified during a **landmark trial** against the company on Tuesday. He is slated to continue his testimony on Wednesday.

**Arturo Béjar**, a former Meta safety engineer, told the jury that the company was aware of the harm its products caused children, which included its recommendations pushing content from sexual predators and violent and graphic images. He said he repeatedly raised the issue to various Facebook and Instagram executives but that they did little to resolve it.

In his testimony, Béjar said his job often included him briefing Meta’s CEO, **Mark Zuckerberg**, on product issues. He estimated that he spoke to

the CEO at least 100 times. One email Béjar sent to Zuckerberg in 2021 showed the engineer warning of constant reports of harmful content on Facebook. Béjar said he emailed Zuckerberg after the CEO publicly said the company doesn't prioritize profit over safety.

"I felt that he created a false and misleading impression of Facebook's commitment to young people," Béjar testified.

US states accuse Meta of covering up research on teen social media addiction in pivotal trial

**Read more**

Béjar was the first witness called to the stand in the federal trial that started with opening statements on Tuesday. **The case** was brought against Meta by 29 US state attorneys general, who allege the social media company deliberately designed addictive products that lured in young people and led to them being harmed. The legal officials also claim Meta regularly collects data on children under the age of 13 without parental permission in violation of federal and state laws.

"I heard from many of you at jury selection that the health and wellbeing of kids is a shared responsibility," said Megan O'Neill, a deputy attorney general for **California**, in her opening statements. "Meta didn't do its share." Other witnesses to be called include Zuckerberg and Instagram's CEO, Adam Mosseri, along with other executives and experts on children's mental health and addiction. The trial, which is taking place in Oakland, **California**, is expected to last at least six weeks.

Meta denies all allegations in the case. Paul Schmidt, an attorney for **Meta**, said in his opening statements that there is "no dispute" people can

struggle with social media, but that Meta has “come up with tools to try and address that”. He added the company doesn’t allow children under the age of 13 to register for accounts on its social networks and that it has disabled more than 1m accounts of those young users.

Google-Alphabet is the most criminally corrupt, socially destructive, immoral, lying, sex trafficking, politician-bribing, collusion-operating, misogynist, citizen privacy abusing, child abusing, spying, cronyism-based, stock market rigging, filthy, illicit, evil entity on Earth. They only still exist because of bribes to regulators and government spy contracts with many nations and political parties. Put them out of business!