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Kansas sues Snapchat over safety

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach announced that the state is suing Snapchat, the popular messaging and social media platform, for allegedly hosting mature content accessible to minors.

The 40-page lawsuit alleges that the app, which is listed on app stores as appropriate for ages 12 and up, contains profanity, sexual content, references to drugs and alcohol and mature themes. The lawsuit is filed in the District Court of Washington County.

“Snapchat has been marketed as a

safe place for teens. We allege it is not. The company knowingly designed an app with manipulative features that prey on the mental health of our children. They have prioritized profit over safety, and our lawsuit holds them accountable for the devastating harm caused to Kansas families,” Kobach said in a press release.

Kansas alleges Snapchat hosts inappropriate content, and designed its app to be addictive.

AG: Content includes crude language, sexual content and more

Snapchat allows users to send photo

or video messages that disappear after being viewed. Its discover page also recommends content to users.

The Apple App Store requires apps to submit an age-rating questionnaire to gauge which age group its suitable for. Snapchat said it has infrequent or mild inclusion of crude humor, mature themes, sexual content and drug references on its platform, resulting in a rating that is safe for teens.

Kansas alleges that those topics are common on the app, and cites instances of crude language, sexual content, mature themes and drug references,

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Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach said he is suing the messaging and social media platform Snapchat, alleging it deceptively claims to be appropriate for teenagers.

KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Advocates described an annual report reviewing Kansas and its foster care contractors as a “mixed bag.” 2022 FILE PHOTO/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Foster kids suffer ‘extreme’ instability

Noah Taborda
KANSAS NEWS SERVICE

Kansas kids in foster care still face severe placement instability despite some marginal improvements to the state system.

An audit by the Center for the Study of Social Policy reviewed the state’s performance in helping children in the state’s custody over the last year. Advocates described the annual report from the independent evaluator reviewing

the state and its foster care contractors as a “mixed bag.”

The Kansas Department for Children and Families has now met eight of 14 obligations laid

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State GOP leaders give redistricting update

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas Republican leaders spoke publicly about plans to redistrict Kansas on Sept. 24, after Democrats called for public hearings ahead of any potential redistricting of Kansas’s Congressional Districts.

Kansas Senate President Ty Masterson, R-Andover, who’s currently running for governor, said the details aren’t worked out yet but that he will be pursuing redistricting.

“We’re obviously talking about it,” Masterson said. “We’re in good faith discussing it, and I think it’s just working out the details.”

Masterson said he’s aiming to have something done on it by early November, but wouldn’t say whether they have enough signatures collected from state lawmakers to call a special session. Special sessions can be convened at the request of the governor, or via a petition signed by two-thirds Kansas’s senators and representatives.

“I’m not the speaker of the House,” Masterson said. “I think they have it, too. I guess I don’t know where they’re at. I agree with the governor, it’s a higher risk to do nothing. She’s on record calling on blue states to do it, and I agree with her the risk to do nothing is high.”

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly urged

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