

Draft Act on age limit for social media use

§ 1. Purpose

The Act is intended to protect children from the potential harmful effects of social media use.

§ 2. Definitions

Social media means information society services

- a. that allow users to create a profile and connect with other users, and
- b. that store and disseminate content uploaded by users to the public without editorial control over the content;

Services are not considered social media pursuant to the first paragraph if they primarily offer:

- a. computer games
- b. regular journalistic production and publication of news, current affairs, public debate or other content of general interest
- c. the buying and selling of goods or services
- d. the dissemination of housing or job advertisements
- e. the provision of reviews, technical guidance or advice on goods or services
- f. communication in closed groups about education and leisure activities, etc., or
- g. communication in closed groups between members or volunteers of political and civil society organizations
- h. digital messaging services

[Harmful social media means a service that, through its design, features or content, may be harmful to children's emotional, cognitive or health development or safety. Particular consideration shall be given to whether the service has characteristics that may have an addictive or manipulative effect, or otherwise exploit children's vulnerability. Emphasis may be placed on whether the service has implemented effective protective measures.]

The Ministry may, by regulations, grant exemptions from the first and second paragraphs for certain services or categories of services [, as well as lay down supplementary provisions concerning what constitutes harmful social media pursuant to the third paragraph].

§ 3. Geographical scope

The Act applies to social media services directed at the Norwegian market, or provided by entities established in Norway.

The King may issue regulations on the application of the Act to Svalbard, Jan Mayen and the dependencies, and may lay down special provisions necessary in light of local conditions.

§ 4. Age limit requirement

Children should not have access to [harmful] social media until the year in which they turn 16.

§ 5. Supervision and enforcement

The supervisory authority may [draw up guidelines on what constitutes harmful social media and may] by individual decision, determine whether an information society service is considered a [harmful] social media pursuant to section 2.

§ 6. Entry into force

The Act enters into force at the time determined by the King. The King may bring individual provisions into force at different times.