

Social Media (Access to Accounts) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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Require providers of social media accounts to grant parents access to the social media accounts of their child in cases where the child has died; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Requirement for providers to provide access to social media accounts

- (1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, require and permit social media companies to grant access to accounts hosted by them without the explicit permission of the account holder where the conditions in subsection (2) are met. 5
- (2) The conditions are—
 - (a) the account holder has died,
 - (b) the account holder was under the age of 18 years old on the day on which they died, and
 - (c) the request for access is made by a parent of the account holder. 10
- (3) Regulations under this section may include provision—
 - (a) creating criminal offences punishable with a fine in respect of failures to comply with the regulations,
 - (b) about such offences, and
 - (c) for, about or connected with the imposition of civil sanctions. 15
- (4) Regulations under this section are to be made by statutory instrument.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this Act may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

2 Definitions

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For the purposes of this Act—

“account holder” means the person who opened the social media account and is the primary account user;

“parent” has the meaning given by section 576 of the Education Act 1996;
“social media account” means a personal account with an electronic medium or service through which users may create, share, or view user-generated content, including, without limitation, videos, photographs, blogs, podcasts, messages, emails, or website profiles or locations.

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3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Social Media (Access to Accounts) Act 2025.

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Presented by Max Wilkinson

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be
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