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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## Protecting Children from AI and Deepfakes

This week, I joined a bipartisan coalition of 44 state Attorneys General warning major artificial intelligence companies to address the alarming reports of AI chatbots engaging in sexually inappropriate conversations with kids. The letter was sent to Anthropic, Apple, Chai AI, Character Technologies, Google, Luka Inc., Meta, Microsoft, Nomi AI, Open AI, Perplexity AI, Replika, and xAI.

We urged AI developers to act with integrity and caution, especially when young users may engage with their products. We demanded that company policies for AI products incorporate guardrails against sexualizing children. AI companies must "see children through the eyes of a parent, not the eyes of a predator."

I also joined a bipartisan coalition of 47 state Attorneys General in calling on major search engines and payment platforms to take stronger action against the spread of computer-generated nonconsensual intimate imagery (NCII), commonly known as "deepfakes."

In a letter to Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo!, we outlined the failures of these companies to limit the creation of deepfakes and called for stronger safeguards - such as warnings and redirecting users away from harmful content - to better protect the public. In a separate letter to six payment platforms, we urged these companies to take bolder action to protect the public by identifying and removing payment authorization for deepfake NCII content.

Big Tech has been experimenting on our children's developing minds, putting profits over their physical and emotional wellbeing. Rather than put the brakes on that unethical behavior, with the advent of AI they have stepped on the gas in ways that should trouble us all. I am proud to join my colleagues from across the country to proactively demand an end to this emerging threat.

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## Making Mississippi's Communities Safer

We announced four recent sentencings in cases investigated and/or prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office:

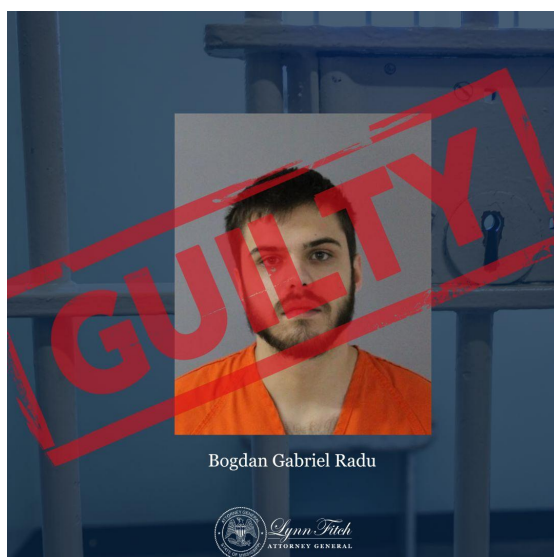
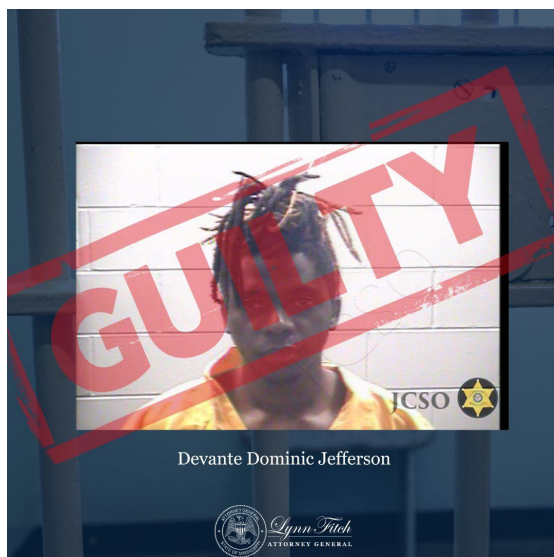
Devante Dominic Jefferson of Gulfport, Mississippi was sentenced to serve seven years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) for four counts of Promoting Prostitution and one count of Possession of a Controlled Substance. This case was investigated and prosecuted by my office, with the assistance of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

Adrian Jamaal Hill of Yazoo City, Mississippi, will serve 12 years in the custody

of MDOC and five years supervised probation upon release for one count of Statutory Rape. This case was investigated and prosecuted by my office. Hill will be required to serve his sentence day-for-day without the possibility of parole and will have to register as a sex offender upon his release.

Romanian national Bogdan Gabriel Radu was sentenced to 15 months in the custody of MDOC and ordered to pay full restitution for one count of Illegal Possession, Production, or Trafficking in Device-Making Equipment for placement of skimmer devices on credit card readers. This case was investigated by my office and prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi. Radu is the third and final defendant to be sentenced in this card skimming case. It is estimated that disruption of this crime group prevented more than \$37.6 million in potential fraud losses.

And finally, Austin Christopher Stephenson of Brookhaven, Mississippi, was sentenced to 40 years, with five years to serve day-for-day without the possibility of parole and five years supervised probation in the custody of MDOC for Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material. This case was investigated and prosecuted by my office with assistance from the Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department, where the case originated, and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.



I was proud to launch Operation Robocall Roundup, a multistate effort by the Anti-Robocall Litigation Task Force, which includes my office and those of 50 other state Attorneys General, to crack down on robocalls across the country. I sent warning letters to 37 voice providers demanding that they act now to stop illegal robocalls being routed through their networks.

These calls and texts are more than a nuisance; they are often the gateway to scams. In June alone, people received more than 4.5 billion robocalls nationwide and we're taking the decisive steps to hold the companies behind them accountable. I will continue to stand up for Mississippi consumers and protect them from these unsolicited and potentially harmful calls.



## 2025 Opioid Settlement Fund Applications Now Open

Applications for the 2025 Mississippi Opioid Settlement Fund are now available for applicants to begin the process. My office was the first state in the country to file suit against opioid manufacturers for their part in the epidemic. Since then, we have successfully negotiated settlement agreements with over a dozen manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retail pharmacies, and marketers of opioids. Settlement payments are deposited into the Opioid Settlement Fund created by the Legislature in 2024.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. CT on September 19, 2025. Information about the Advisory Council, as well as the Request for Grant Applications, Application Form, and other materials related to the application process can be found [here](#). All applications and required attachments should be emailed to [OpioidCouncil@ago.ms.gov](mailto:OpioidCouncil@ago.ms.gov).

May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Fitch".

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