

Jenner & Block Secures Preliminary Injunction Blocking Utah's Age-Verification Mandate for VPN Users

News

October 7, 2026

Jenner & Block secured a preliminary injunction on behalf of Aylo Freesites Ltd, the owner and operator of Pornhub, YouPorn, and RedTube, blocking Utah from enforcing an amendment to its age-verification law. On September 24, a federal judge held the amendment likely violates the dormant Commerce Clause.

The amendment extended Utah's age-verification requirement to users physically located in the state even when they mask their location with a VPN, proxy server, or similar tool. Because no technology can reliably identify where every such user is located, the court found that the law would effectively force platforms to age-verify every visitor worldwide.

The ruling marks an important limit on state authority to regulate internet companies' conduct beyond the state's borders.

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