1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		S DISTRICT COURT RICT OF CALIFORNIA
15		
16	ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.,	Case No.
17	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINTED
18	VS.	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND
19	GOOGLE LLC, a Delaware corporation, and YOUTUBE, LLC, a	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
20	Defaware corporation,	JURY TRIAL DEMAND
21	Defendants.	
22	///	
23	///	
24	///	
25	///	
26	///	
27	///	
28	COMPLAINT	1 CASE NO

Plaintiff Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., alleges as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. This complaint concerns the freedom of speech and the extraordinary steps the United States government has taken under the leadership of Joe Biden to silence people it does not want Americans to hear.
- 2. Mr. Kennedy is not the only victim of this censorship campaign, which is unprecedented in American history. But he is a high-profile victim, especially since he is now challenging President Biden for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.
- 3. Mr. Kennedy often speaks at length about topics people would like to ignore, including the negative health effects of toxic chemicals and potential safety concerns about the COVID-19 shots (as well as other vaccines that have been developed since Congress gave the pharmaceutical industry immunity from product liability claims).
- 4. YouTube often removes videos of Mr. Kennedy's comments from its public platform. It usually relies on its "medical misinformation" policies to justify the action. It has relied on the policies several times to censor interviews and speeches given by Mr. Kennedy during the 2024 presidential campaign, including a speech he gave at Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, the state that hosts America's first primary. On information and belief, it did so based on statements from the Biden Administration about what information to censor. It will continue to do so throughout the presidential campaign, especially as the primary elections get closer.
- 5. These actions are unlawful. The U.S. Supreme Court has said that "the right to think is the beginning of freedom" and that "speech must be protected from the government because speech is the beginning of thought." Those principles apply both when the government directly regulates speech and when, as here, it works behind the scenes to censor its critics through otherwise private actors. Plaintiffs bring

COMPLAINT CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

this action to protect those principles and to preserve their ability to communicate with Americans on matters of public concern.

## PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. Mr. Kennedy resides in New York.
- 7. Defendant Google LLC is a limited liability company formed under Delaware law that has its corporate headquarters in Mountain View, California.
- 8. Defendant YouTube, LLC, is a limited liability company formed under Delaware law that has its corporate headquarters in San Bruno, California.
- 9. YouTube, LLC, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Google LLC, which Google acquired in 2006. On information and belief, Google LLC has complete ownership and control over YouTube's operations. At minimum, Google LLC acts in concert with YouTube, LLC, in running YouTube's business, particularly as it relates to the unlawful actions alleged in this Complaint. Thus, Google LLC and YouTube, LLC, are proper defendants in this case and are referred to interchangeably as "Google" and "YouTube."
- The Court has jurisdiction over this case under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 28 10. U.S.C. § 1331, given the federal questions it raises. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- YouTube was started in 2005 by former PayPal executives who thought 11. people would enjoy having a place to share their own videos. It was an instant success, so successful, in fact, that Google abandoned its own nascent video service and instead purchased YouTube for \$1.65 billion less than a year after it launched. Since then, YouTube has become one of the most visited websites in the world and YouTube is one of the world's most valuable media companies, with annual revenue that dwarfs the money earned by television networks.
  - This success has made YouTube a popular place to generate and view 12.

COMPLAINT CASE NO.

new content, particularly content related to public affairs. For example, in March 2016, YouTube announced that, between April 2015 and March 2016, viewers had consumed roughly 110 million hours of election-related content on YouTube, much of which was viewed on mobile devices. Kate Stanford, the director of YouTube's advertiser marketing at the time, made much of that, saying: "Voter decisions used to be made in living rooms, in front of televisions. Today, they're increasingly made in micro-moments, on mobile devices."

- 13. Political candidates seized on this development, spending millions of dollars in advertising and original content on YouTube during the 2016 presidential election. That continued in 2020 and it will only increase during the 2024 campaign, especially as more political commentators (Meghyn Kelly and Tucker Carlson, for example) leave network and cable television to broadcast directly to Americans through the Internet and social media platforms.
- 14. Thus, YouTube has become an important platform for political discourse in America, a digital town square that voters trust as a place to get news and opinions about the issues of the day, a place where people can communicate about matters of public concern.
- 15. Mr. Kennedy is a lawyer, a son of former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and a nephew of former President John F. Kennedy.
- 16. Mr. Kennedy is seeking the Democratic Party's nomination for president. He has filed the necessary paperwork with the Federal Election Commission and is taking steps to qualify for the ballot in the early primary states, including New Hampshire. He declared his candidacy on April 19, 2023.
- 17. Before announcing his campaign, Mr. Kennedy took a strong stance against the Democratic National Committee's effort to strip New Hampshire of its "First in the Nation" primary. He accepted an invitation to speak about that and other issues at Saint Anselm College in March. His speech, which was viewed as a political

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

speech and attended by several prominent New Hampshire Democrats including the chairman of New Hampshire's Democratic Party, lasted nearly two hours. It centered on Mr. Kennedy's concerns about the corrupt merger of corporate and state power, an issue he has fought about for years and which, in recent years, caused him to question the increasing numbers of vaccines American children must take.

- 18. Mr. Kennedy's criticism and questioning of the pharmaceutical industry over vaccines has been deemed controversial by some people, including government officials whose funding depends on the pharmaceutical industry. But he spoke intelligently about his views for years, free of censorship, and with people like the former Comedy Central host Jon Stewart who disagree with him, reflecting the principle, fundamental to American democracy, that more speech is better than less speech, especially when it comes to political speech.
- 19. That fundamental principle is under attack. It seems to have started after Big Tech companies like Google, Facebook and Twitter blamed themselves for the election of Donald Trump as president in 2016. Moreover, in 2018, Congress passed, and the president signed into law, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2018. This law created a new agency, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency ("CISA"), within the Department of Homeland Security to protect America from cyber threats. According to CISA, its mission "requires effective coordination and collaboration among a broad spectrum of government and private sector organizations." These organizations include YouTube and CISA's mission apparently includes removing speech about issues of public concern that the federal government deems dangerous.
- 20. The coordination and collaboration between YouTube and the federal government included developing misinformation policies like the one YouTube has used, and will continue to use, to censor statements that Mr. Kennedy makes in the 2024 presidential campaign. For example, YouTube removed video of Mr. Kennedy's

COMPLAINT CASE NO.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

March 2023 speech at Saint Anselm's New Hampshire Institute of Politics that had been posted on the platform by Manchester Public Television. The station's director said: "YouTube will not allow us to post the video because of controversial vaccination content. MPTS has recorded more than 100 wonderful NHIOP events, and I cannot recall this happening before."

- YouTube doubled down on the decision, saying that it "removed the 21. [Kennedy speech] for violating our policies on COVID-19 vaccine misinformation .... While we do allow content with educational, documentary, scientific or artistic context, such as news reports, the content we removed from this channel was raw footage and did not provide sufficient context." A true and correct copy of YouTube's "COVID-19 medical misinformation" policy is attached as **Exhibit "A."** A true and correct copy of its "vaccine misinformation" policy is attached as Exhibit "B." These policies are referred to collectively as YouTube's medical misinformation policies.
- Of course, only a portion of Mr. Kennedy's Manchester speech dealt with his views about vaccines or COVID-19. Much of the speech focused on the DNC's attempt to strip New Hampshire of its slot in the primary calendar, as well as Kennedy's history of environmental activism, including his successful efforts to clean up the Hudson River. YouTube removed everything.
- 23. This was not an isolated incident. Since Mr. Kennedy declared his candidacy, YouTube has removed other videos of him speaking, including interviews he did with Jordan Peterson and Joe Rogan. Again, although YouTube has cited its medical misinformation policies to justify these decisions, it has removed the entire video of Mr. Kennedy speaking.
- 24. This trend will continue throughout the 2024 campaign. Unlike other tech companies—notably Facebook and Instagram (both owned by Facebook parent Meta) and Twitter (now owned by Elon Musk)—YouTube has not treated Mr. Kennedy differently now that he is a political candidate. If anything, Mr. Kennedy's candidacy,

6

COMPLAINT CASE NO.

for the public/private censorship regime that Google and YouTube are an integral part of.

25. This censorship campaign prevents Mr. Kennedy's message from

and the issues of public concern he speaks about, have made him an even bigger target

- 25. This censorship campaign prevents Mr. Kennedy's message from reaching millions of voters. It also makes it harder for groups that are supporting his campaign to amplify his message through public sources.
- 26. The decisions to censor Mr. Kennedy on these matters of public concern were not made by YouTube, acting of its own accord, but as part of the partnership between YouTube and federal government officials, including the Biden White House, to censor dissenting views that started during the COVID-19 pandemic. As documents discovered by two state attorneys general show, federal officials, including White House officials Rob Flaherty and Clarke Humphrey, were the ones who directed tech companies to remove statements Mr. Kennedy made about the government's COVID policies. For example, a true and correct copy of an email showing Ms. Humphrey's demand that one tech company, Twitter, remove one of Mr. Kennedy's posts on January 22, 2021, is attached as **Exhibit "C."**
- 27. Although this email targeted Twitter, White House and other government officials repeatedly worked with the big tech companies, including YouTube, to censor Mr. Kennedy during 2021 and 2022. Indeed, by July 2021, the White House press secretary was calling on the tech platforms to ban Mr. Kennedy completely and, on information and belief, YouTube was working behind the scenes with CISA and other government officials to do just that. It is reasonable to believe that this partnership, and the related White House pressure campaign, increased after Mr. Kennedy challenged President Biden for the Democratic Party's nomination.
- 28. YouTube plays an especially important role in this public/private censorship regime. Whether it is through advertising, interviews, or raw footage, YouTube provides people—especially political candidates—with unfettered access to

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

the American public. YouTube is not simply a tool of communication, like a telephone or a social media app. It is not simply a publisher like *The New York Times* or The Wall Street Journal. It is a place for people to view, to listen, and to learn about whatever they want. For the most part, they can do that without registering and without paying anything. They can simply log onto the platform and watch. Thus, YouTube is the digital equivalent of the town square. It is a platform for speech. And YouTube has monetized that role, earning billions of dollars for Google in the process.

- 29. With that reach comes responsibility, though. YouTube may own its website. In that sense, youtube.com is private property. But, by allowing the public to post videos there, YouTube turned youtube.com into a public forum of some sort. Whether it is a traditional public forum, a limited public forum or something else does not matter. It cannot exclude people from the platform based on their viewpoint. It cannot decide which speech people hear. It cannot do that itself and it especially cannot do that, as it has with Plaintiffs, based on a public/private partnership in which YouTube relies on the government to decide what information to censor.
- 30. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has historically construed the state action doctrine liberally, echoing Justice William Brennan's view that, "[i]f the Fourteenth Amendment is to have its intended effect as a restraint on the abuse of state power, courts must be sensitive to the manner in which state power is exercised. In an era of active government intervention to remedy social ills, the true character of the State's involvement in, and coercive influence over, the activities of private parties, often through complex and opaque regulatory frameworks, may not always be apparent. But if the task that the Fourteenth Amendment assigns to the courts is thus rendered more burdensome, the courts' obligation to perform that task faithfully, and

COMPLAINT CASE NO.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> There are also private areas of YouTube, but the speech Google censored that is at issue in this case was available to anybody.

consistently with the constitutional purpose, is rendered more, not less, important."

31. Those words echo today. This will be the last presidential election before America's 250th birthday. Much has changed since 1776. The country's demand for freedom of speech—especially political speech—should not be one of them.

## FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

## (Injunctive Relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983/State Action Doctrine)

- 32. Mr. Kennedy incorporates paragraphs 1 through 29 of this Complaint as though set forth fully herein.
- 33. When Mr. Kennedy speaks about the federal government's COVID-19 policies, as he has in the Manchester speech and in interviews on the campaign trail, he is engaging in speech on matters of public concern that are protected by the First Amendment.
- 34. Although YouTube is a private (non-governmental) party, it violated Mr. Kennedy's First Amendment rights when it removed videos of his political speech, as alleged above, in several ways.
- 35. *First*, there is a sufficiently close nexus between YouTube and the federal government such that YouTube's actions may be fairly treated as that of government itself. For example, although it cited its own COVID vaccine misinformation policies when censoring Mr. Kennedy, the policies rely entirely on government officials to decide what information gets censored. They say that YouTube does not allow people to say anything "that contradicts local health authorities' (LHA) or the World Health Organization's (WHO) medical information about COVID-19." These policies are subject to change, but only "in response to changes to global or local health authorities' guidance on the virus." In other words, the government provides the rules that guide YouTube's enforcement of the medical misinformation policies.
- 36. *Second*, YouTube's medical misinformation policies were developed as part of a joint enterprise between YouTube and federal government officials to

COMPLAINT CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

prevent Americans from hearing people like Mr. Kennedy who disagreed with the government's policy decisions. YouTube had no obligation to act as the government's censor. But, after the creation of CISA and especially after President Biden took office, YouTube decided to partner with the federal government to censor dissenting voices about COVID-19. In this way, the federal government insinuated itself into such a position of interdependence with YouTube that they can be deemed joint participants in the censorship regime. This partnership consists of a complex and deeply intertwined process between the federal government and YouTube—but led by the government, which plays an outsized role in the decision—about what information is "dangerous" and which speakers (especially Mr. Kennedy) need to be silenced.

- 37. Again, these are not conclusory allegations but facts that have been revealed in other litigation against Big Tech platforms, including emails from early 2021 in which Biden White House officials discussed alleged vaccine misinformation and "ways the White House (and our COVID experts) can partner [with the tech companies] in product work." A true and correct copy of one such email is attached as **Exhibit "D."** This partnership has targeted Mr. Kennedy from day one of the Biden Administration but, on information and belief, it has increased since Kennedy challenged the president politically.
- 38. When engaging in this partnership, YouTube did not act in good faith, to promote its own business, but to fulfill the government's objective of preventing people from hearing Kennedy's comments. It was fulfilling the government's censorship goals. It will continue to do that. Indeed, YouTube is the only one of the Big Tech platforms that is still censoring Mr. Kennedy during his political campaign.
- 39. *Third*, the federal government has ensured that YouTube cooperate in its censorship campaign by publicly demanding that it do so, by accusing it of killing people when it does not cooperate, and by threatening to take away certain legal protections that YouTube has under federal law (namely immunity under section 230

COMPLAINT CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

of the Communications Decency Act). Indeed, YouTube bases its right to censor people on section 230. Thus, a federal law—section 230—is the very source of authority through which tech censorship occurs, a situation in which the Supreme Court has found state action to exist.

- 40. Through this public and private pressure, the federal government has offered such significant encouragement, both overt and covert, that YouTube's decision to censor Mr. Kennedy's political speech must be deemed to have been made by the government itself, including Kennedy's political opponent, President Biden. Under these circumstances, YouTube is a state actor and it violated Mr. Kennedy's First Amendment rights by engaging in viewpoint discrimination, as alleged above.
- 41. In addition, at least with respect to the fully public aspects of its platform, YouTube operates as a public forum, the digital equivalent of a town square. As such, it cannot remove protected speech, especially political speech, based on its viewpoint. Furthermore, any viewpoint-neutral rules must be narrowly tailored to leave open ample alternative channels for communication. YouTube admittedly does not comply with these rules.
- 42. YouTube's medical misinformation policies also violate the First Amendment on their face because they are overbroad and vague. Indeed, the policies give YouTube and its government partners unfettered discretion to decide what information they censor, including when they say the speech lacks "context." Thus, the policies violate both the overbreadth and void-for-vagueness doctrines.
- Unlike other technology companies, YouTube has refused to remove its 43. misinformation policies and has refused to stop censoring Mr. Kennedy during his political campaign. Thus, there is a substantial likelihood that it will continue censoring Mr. Kennedy, preventing his political message from reaching millions of American voters.
  - Mr. Kennedy will be irreparably harmed if the Court does not grant 44.

11 COMPLAINT CASE NO.

injunctive relief prohibiting YouTube from censoring him during his political campaign. He brings this action to seek such relief and to prohibit YouTube from enforcing its unconstitutional medical misinformation policies against him while he is seeking political office.

## **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

## (Declaratory Judgment under 28 U.S.C. § 2201)

- 45. Mr. Kennedy incorporates paragraphs 1 through 29 of this Complaint as though set forth fully herein.
- 46. Mr. Kennedy contends that YouTube's medical misinformation policies are unconstitutional on their face and as applied to him during his presidential campaign because they are impermissibly vague and overbroad and because they give unnamed government officials, who the policies depend entirely on, the unfettered discretion to decide what information gets removed from YouTube.
- 47. On information and belief, Defendants contend that YouTube's medical misinformation policies are constitutional on their face and as applied to Mr. Kennedy.
- 48. Mr. Kennedy desires a judicial declaration that YouTube's medical misinformation policies are unconstitutional on their face for the reasons alleged above.
- 49. Under 28 U.S.C. § 2201, a judicial determination of these issues is necessary and appropriate because such a declaration will clarify the parties' rights and obligations, permit them to have certainty regarding those rights and potential liability, and avoid a multiplicity of actions.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Mr. Kennedy prays for relief as follows.

1. For an order declaring that Defendants violated Mr. Kennedy's rights under the First Amendment when they used information from, and partnered with, federal

COMPLAINT

CASE NO.

government officials, including those who work for Mr. Kennedy's political opponent, to censor his political speech.

- 2. For an order requiring that YouTube restore any videos of Mr. Kennedy's political speech that it has removed during the 2024 presidential campaign.
- 3. For an order declaring YouTube's medical misinformation policies to be unconstitutional on their face, and as applied to Mr. Kennedy during his presidential campaign, and for an injunction prohibiting Defendants from further enforcing them.
  - 4. For costs and legal fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1988.
  - 5. For such other relief as the Court deems proper.

DATED: August 2, 2023 JW HOWARD/ATTORNEYS, LTD.

Bv:

John W. Howard Scott J. Street

Andrew G. Nagurney Attorneys for Plaintiff

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.

## **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Mr. Kennedy requests a trial by jury on all claims for which it is available.

DATED: August 2, 2023 JW HOWARD/ATTORNEYS, LTD.

Scott J. Street

Andrew G. Nagurney Attorneys for Plaintiff,

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.

# **EXHIBIT A**

## COVID-19 medical misinformation policy

The safety of our creators, viewers, and partners is our highest priority. We look to each of you to help us protect this unique and vibrant community. It's important you understand our Community Guidelines, and the role they play in our shared responsibility to keep YouTube safe. **Take the time to carefully read the policy below**. You can also check out this page for a full list of our guidelines.

YouTube doesn't allow content about COVID-19 that poses a serious risk of egregious harm.

YouTube doesn't allow content that spreads medical misinformation that contradicts local health authorities' (LHA) or the World Health Organization's (WHO) medical information about COVID-19. This is limited to content that contradicts WHO or local health authorities' guidance on:

- Treatment
- Prevention
- · Diagnosis
- Transmission
- The existence of COVID-19

**Note**: YouTube's policies on COVID-19 are subject to change in response to changes to global or local health authorities' guidance on the virus. There may be a delay between new LHA/WHO guidance and policy updates given the frequency with which this guidance changes, and our policies may not cover all LHA/WHO guidance related to COVID-19.

Our COVID-19 policies were first published on May 20, 2020.

### What this policy means for you

#### If you're posting content

Don't post content on YouTube if it includes any of the following:

#### Treatment misinformation:

- Content that encourages the use of home remedies, prayer, or rituals in place of medical treatment such as consulting a doctor or going to the hospital
- · Content that claims that there's a guaranteed cure for COVID-19
- Content that recommends use of Ivermectin or Hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of COVID-19
- · Claims that Hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment for COVID-19
- · Categorical claims that Ivermectin is an effective treatment for COVID-19
- · Claims that Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine are safe to use in the prevention of COVID-19
- Other content that discourages people from consulting a medical professional or seeking medical advice

**Prevention misinformation**: Content that promotes prevention methods that contradict local health authorities or WHO.

- Claims that there is a guaranteed prevention method for COVID-19
  - · Claims that any medication or vaccination is a guaranteed prevention method for COVID-19
- · Content that recommends use of Ivermectin or Hydroxychloroquine for the prevention of COVID-19
- Claims that Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroguine are safe to use in the prevention of COVID-19
- Claims about COVID-19 vaccinations that contradict expert consensus from local health authorities or WHO

- Claims that an approved COVID-19 vaccine will cause death, infertility, miscarriage, autism, or contraction of other infectious diseases
- Claims that an approved COVID-19 vaccine will contain substances that are not on the vaccine ingredient list, such as biological matter from fetuses (e.g. fetal tissue, fetal cell lines) or animal products
- Claims that an approved COVID-19 vaccine will contain substances or devices meant to track or identify those who've received it
- · Claims that COVID-19 vaccines will make people who receive them magnetic
- · Claims that an approved COVID-19 vaccine will alter a person's genetic makeup
- · Claims that COVID-19 vaccines do not reduce risk of serious illness or death
- Claims that any vaccine causes contraction of COVID-19
- Claims that a specific population will be required (by any entity except for a government) to take
  part in vaccine trials or receive the vaccine first
- Content that promotes the use of unapproved or homemade COVID-19 vaccines
- · Instructions to counterfeit vaccine certificates, or offers of sale for such documents

**Diagnostic misinformation**: Content that promotes diagnostic information that contradicts local health authorities or WHO.

- · Claims that approved COVID-19 tests are dangerous or cause negative physical health effects
- Claims that approved COVID-19 tests cannot diagnose COVID-19

**Transmission misinformation**: Content that promotes transmission information that contradicts local health authorities or WHO.

- · Content that claims that COVID-19 is not caused by a viral infection
- · Content that claims COVID-19 is not contagious
- · Content that claims that COVID-19 cannot spread in certain climates or geographies
- Content that claims that any group or individual has immunity to the virus or cannot transmit the virus

#### Content that denies the existence of COVID-19:

- · Denial that COVID-19 exists
- · Claims that people have not died or gotten sick from COVID-19
- Claims that the death rate of COVID-19 is equal to or less than that of the common cold or seasonal flu
- · Claims that COVID-19 is equal to or less transmissible than the common cold or seasonal flu
- Claims that the symptoms of COVID-19 are never severe

This policy applies to videos, video descriptions, comments, live streams, and any other YouTube product or feature. Keep in mind that this isn't a complete list. Please note these policies also apply to <u>external links</u> in your content. This can include clickable URLs, verbally directing users to other sites in video, as well as other forms.

## **Examples**

Here are some examples of content that's not allowed on YouTube:

- · Denial that COVID-19 exists
- · Claims that people have not died from COVID-19
- · Claims that any vaccine is a guaranteed prevention method for COVID-19
- Claims that a specific treatment or medicine is a guaranteed cure for COVID-19
- · Claims that hydroxychloroquine saves people from COVID-19
- Promotion of MMS (Miracle Mineral Solution) for the treatment of COVID-19

- · Claims that certain people have immunity to COVID-19 due to their race or nationality
- · Encouraging taking home remedies instead of getting medical treatment when sick
- · Discouraging people from consulting a medical professional if they're sick
- · Content that claims that holding your breath can be used as a diagnostic test for COVID-19
- · Videos alleging that if you avoid Asian food, you won't get the coronavirus
- Videos alleging that setting off fireworks can clean the air of the virus and will prevent the spread of the virus
- · Claims that COVID-19 is caused by radiation from 5G networks
- · Videos alleging that the COVID-19 test is the cause of the virus
- · Claims that countries with hot climates will not experience the spread of the virus
- · Claims that COVID-19 vaccines kill people who receive them
- · Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are a means of population reduction
- · Videos claiming that COVID-19 vaccines contain fetal tissue
- Claims that the flu vaccine causes contraction of COVID-19
- · Claims that the flu is more contagious than COVID-19
- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines cause contraction of other infectious diseases or makes people more vulnerable to contraction of other infectious diseases
- · Claims that COVID-19 vaccines contain a microchip or tracking device
- Claims that achieving herd immunity through natural infection is safer than vaccinating the population
- Claims that COVID-19 never causes serious symptoms or hospitalization
- Claims that the death rate from the seasonal flu is higher than the death rate of COVID-19
- · Claims that people are immune to the virus based on their race
- Claims that children cannot or do not contract COVID-19
- Claims that there have not been cases or deaths in countries where cases or deaths have been confirmed by local health authorities or the WHO

## Educational, documentary, scientific or artistic content

We may allow content that violates the misinformation policies noted on this page if that content includes additional context in the video, audio, title, or description. This is not a pass to promote misinformation. Additional context may include countervailing views from local health authorities or medical experts. We may also make exceptions if the purpose of the content is to condemn, dispute, or satirize misinformation that violates our policies. We may also make exceptions for content showing an open public forum, like a protest or public hearing, provided the content does not aim to promote misinformation that violates our policies.

## What happens if content violates this policy

If your content violates this policy, we'll remove the content and send you an email to let you know. If we can't verify that a link you post is safe, we may remove the link.

If this is your first time violating our Community Guidelines, you'll likely get a warning with no penalty to your channel. If it's not, we may issue a strike against your channel. If you get 3 strikes within 90 days, your channel will be terminated. You can learn more about our strikes system here.

We may terminate your channel or account for repeated violations of the Community Guidelines or Terms of Service. We may also terminate your channel or account after a single case of severe abuse, or when the channel is dedicated to a policy violation. You can learn more about channel or account terminations here.

Need more help? Try these next steps:

Post to the help community

Get answers from community members

# **EXHIBIT B**

## Vaccine misinformation policy



YouTube doesn't allow content that poses a serious risk of egregious harm by spreading medical misinformation about currently administered vaccines that are approved and confirmed to be safe and effective by local health authorities and by the World Health Organization (WHO). This is limited to content that contradicts local health authorities' or the WHO's guidance on vaccine safety, efficacy, and ingredients.

### What this policy means for you

#### If you're posting content

Don't post content on YouTube if it includes harmful misinformation about currently approved and administered vaccines on any of the following:

- Vaccine safety: content alleging that vaccines cause chronic side effects, outside of rare side effects that are recognized by health authorities
- Efficacy of vaccines: content claiming that vaccines do not reduce transmission or contraction of disease
- Ingredients in vaccines: content misrepresenting the substances contained in vaccines

This policy applies to videos, video descriptions, comments, live streams, and any other YouTube product or feature. Keep in mind that this isn't a complete list. Please note these policies also apply to <u>external links</u> in your content. This can include clickable URLs, verbally directing users to other sites in video, as well as other forms.

### **Examples**

Here are some examples of content that's not allowed on YouTube:

- · Claims that vaccines cause chronic side effects such as:
  - Cancer
  - Diabetes
  - · Other chronic side effects
- · Claims that vaccines do not reduce risk of contracting illness
- Claims that vaccines contain substances that are not on the vaccine ingredient list, such as biological matter from fetuses (e.g. fetal tissue, fetal cell lines) or animal byproducts
- Claims that vaccines contain substances or devices meant to track or identify those who've received them
- · Claims that vaccines alter a person's genetic makeup
- · Claims that the MMR vaccine causes autism
- · Claims that vaccines are part of a depopulation agenda

- Claims that the flu vaccine causes chronic side effects such as infertility
- · Claims that the HPV vaccine causes chronic side effects such as paralysis

### Educational, scientific, artistic, or testimonial content

YouTube may allow content that violates the misinformation policies noted on this page if that content includes additional context in the video, audio, title, or description. This is not a pass to promote misinformation. Additional context may include countervailing views from local health authorities or medical experts. We may also make exceptions if the purpose of the content is to condemn, dispute, or satirize misinformation that violates our policies. We may also make exceptions for content showing an open public forum, like a protest or public hearing, provided the content does not aim to promote misinformation that violates our policies.

YouTube also believes people should be able to share their own experiences, including personal experiences with vaccinations. This means we may make exceptions for content in which creators describe firsthand experiences from themselves or their family. At the same time, we recognize there is a difference between sharing personal experiences and promoting misinformation about vaccines. To address this balance, we will still remove content or channels if they include other policy violations or demonstrate a pattern of promoting vaccine misinformation.

### What happens if content violates this policy

If your content violates this policy, we'll remove the content and send you an email to let you know. If we can't verify that a link you post is safe, we may remove the link.

If this is your first time violating our Community Guidelines, you'll likely get a warning with no penalty to your channel. If it's not, we may issue a strike against your channel. If you get 3 strikes within 90 days, your channel will be terminated. You can learn more about our strikes system here.

We may terminate your channel or account for repeated violations of the Community Guidelines or Terms of Service. We may also terminate your channel or account after a single case of severe abuse, or when the channel is dedicated to a policy violation. You can learn more about channel or account terminations here.

#### Additional resources

More information on vaccines, including their safety and efficacy, can be found below.

#### **Health Authority Vaccine Information:**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (US)
- European Vaccination Information Portal (EU)
- National Health Service (UK)
- World Health Organization vaccine safety (Global)
- World Health Organization vaccine preventable diseases (Global)

#### **Additional Vaccine Information:**

- American Academy of Pediatrics (US)
- GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance (Global)
- UNICEF (Global)

## Need more help?

Try these next steps:

Post to the help community

Get answers from community members

# **EXHIBIT C**

# CONFIDENTIAL Case 3:23-cv-03880-TLT Document 1 Filed 08/02/23 Page 25 of 27

From: @twitter.com]

Sent: 1/23/2021 1:08:36 AM

To: Humphrey, Clarke EOP/WHO @who.eop.gov]

CC: @twitter.com]; Flaherty, Robert EOP/WHO @who.eop.gov]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Flagging Hank Aaron misinfo

Thanks. We recently escalated this.

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 8:05 PM Humphrey, Clarke EOP/WHO

Hey folks —

Wanted to flag the below tweet and am wondering if we can get moving on the process for having it removed ASAP:

>https://twitter.com/RobertKennedyJr/status/1352748139665645569<

And then if we can keep an eye out for tweets that fall in this same ~genre that would be great.

Thanks!

Clarke

Twitter, Inc. | Public Policy
@TwitterGov & @Policy

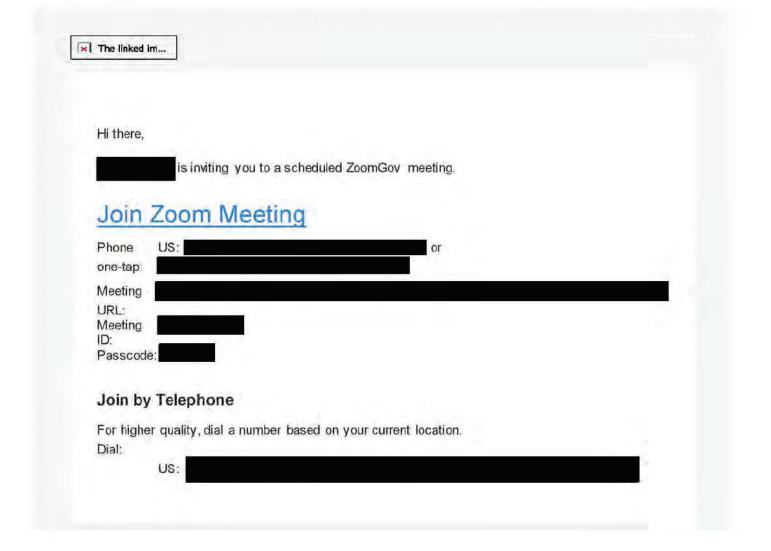
# **EXHIBIT D**

#### CONFIDENTIAL

Case 3:202asre03:22133cvt/40238/4041D\_000000cmtme10tr310 Fillitech0389402222 Pargage237/108/2378 ageID #: 2748

From: Flaherty, Rob EOP/WHO [ @who.eop.gov] Sent: 4/16/20214:25:15 PM Flaherty, Rob EOP/WHO @who.eop.gov]; Slavitt, Andrew M. EOP/WHO To: @twitter.com]; @who.eop.gov]; | Dtwitter.com] twitter.com]; @twitter.com Fitzpatrick, Kelsey V. EOP/WHO CC: @who.eop.gov]; (HHS/OASH) @hhs.gov] Subject: Twitter Vaccine Misinfo Briefing Location: 4/21/2021 2:00:00 PM Start: End: 4/21/2021 3:00:00 PM Show Time As: Tentative Recurrence: (none)

White House Staff will be briefed by Twitter on vaccine misinfo. Twitter to cover trends seen generally around vaccine misinformation, the tangible effects seen from recent policy changes, what interventions are currently being implemented in addition to previous policy changes, and ways the White House (and our COVID experts) can partner in product work.



JS-CAND 44 (Rev. 10/2020)

#### CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

#### I. (a) PLAINTIFFS ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.

- (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)
- (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

John W. Howard, Scott J. Street, JW Howard/Attorneys, 600 West Broadway, Ste. 1400, San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 234-2842

#### **DEFENDANTS**

GOOGLE LLC, a Delaware corporation, and YOUTUBE, LLC, a Delaware

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) Santa Clara

IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II.	BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III.	CITIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIP	AL PA	ARTIES (Place an "X" in One Bo and One Box for Defend	ox for Pl lant)	aintiff
				PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
1	U.S. Government Plaintiff  X 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citizen of This State	1	1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	4	4
2	U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State	2	2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	5	5
	(marcute Chizenship of Farites in Helli H)		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3	3	Foreign Nation	6	6

CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL IN  310 Airplane 365 Personal Injury 315 Airplane Product Liability Liability		Property 21 LISC 8 991	### BANKRUPTCY  422 Appeal 28 USC § 158  423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157	375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a))
140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment Of Veteran's Benefits 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract	320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury -Medical Malpractice	367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Pe Injury Product Lia 368 Asbestos Personal Product Liability PERSONAL PROPE 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Pro Damage 385 Property Damage I Liability	710 Fair Labor Standards Ac 720 Labor/Management Relations 740 Railway Labor Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  1MMIGRATION	PROPERTY RIGHTS  t 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 835 Patent—Abbreviated New Drug Application 840 Trademark 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016  SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commoditie
	X 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities— Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities—Other 448 Education	PRISONER PETITION  HABEAS CORPU  463 Alien Detainee  510 Motions to Vacate Sentence  530 General  535 Death Penalty  OTHER  540 Mandamus & Othe  550 Civil Rights  555 Prison Condition  560 Civil Detainee—  Conditions of  Confinement	Application  465 Other Immigration Actions	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS  870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC § 7609	Exchange 890 Other Statutory Action 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Informatio Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of Sta Statutes

REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: **DEMAND \$** 

UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. JURY DEMAND: Yes **COMPLAINT:** VIII. RELATED CASE(S), **JUDGE** DOCKET NUMBER IF ANY (See instructions):

**DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)** 

SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

× SAN JOSE

**EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE** 

DATE 08/02/2023

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD



JS-CAND 44 (rev. 10/2020)

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I. a)** Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)."
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
  - (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
  - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
  - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
  - (4) <u>Diversity of citizenship</u>. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)**
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS-CAND 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
  - (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
  - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
  - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
  - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
  - (5) <u>Transferred from Another District</u>. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
  - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
  - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment. If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: "the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated."

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

	S DISTRICT COURT
	for the
Northern Dis	strict of California
ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.	) ) )
Dlainsis(s()a)	)
Plaintiff(s) V.	Civil Action No.
GOOGLE, LLC, a Delaware corporation, and YOUTUBE, LLC, a Delaware corporation	)
	)
Defendant(s)	)
Dejendani(s)	)
SUMMONS IN	A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address) GOOGLE LLC, a Delaware 901 Cherry Avenue San Bruno, CA 94066	
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
are the United States or a United States agency, or an office	D.
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
	CLERK OF COURT
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

	This summons for (name	e of individual and title, if any)		
as rec	ceived by me on (date)			
	☐ I personally served t	he summons on the individual at	(place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summons a	t the individual's residence or usu	ual place of abode with (name)	
		, a person	of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)		e individual's last known address; or	
	☐ I served the summor	ns on (name of individual)		, who is
	designated by law to a	ccept service of process on behalf	of (name of organization)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the summ	ons unexecuted because		; or
	☐ Other (specify):			
	M. C	C	C	
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information is	s true.	
ate:			Server's signature	
			20.10.200	
			Printed name and title	-
			Server's address	

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

	DISTRICT COURT
•	rict of California
ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.	) ) )
Plaintiff(s)  V.  GOOGLE, LLC, a Delaware corporation, and YOUTUBE, LLC, a Delaware corporation	Civil Action No.
	A CIVIL A CTION
	A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address)  YOUTUBE, LLC 901 Cherry Avenue SAn Bruno, CA 94066	
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
are the United States or a United States agency, or an office	
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
	CLERK OF COURT
Date:	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)		
eceived by me on (date)			
☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual at	(place)	
		on (date)	; or
☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or usu	ual place of abode with (name)	
	, a person	of suitable age and discretion who res	ides there,
on (date)	, and mailed a copy to th	e individual's last known address; or	
☐ I served the summo	ons on (name of individual)		, who
designated by law to	accept service of process on behalf	of (name of organization)	
		on (date)	; or
☐ Other (specify):			
My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
I declare under penalt	y of perjury that this information is	s true.	
		Server's signature	
		Printed name and title	
		Printed name and title	
		Printed name and title	

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: