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# A New Era of online safety

Online Platforms Now Subject  
to Stricter Age Verification  
Measures

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From viral challenges on TikTok to group chats on Snapchat, young people spend a significant part of their lives online. As their digital footprint grows, so too do the risks, from inappropriate content to online grooming and data exploitation. Ireland has taken a bold step forward: online platforms are now subject to stricter age verification measures, marking a significant shift in how digital safety is managed.



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# Why Stricter Age Verification Measures Are Being Introduced

Every day, more young people are going online, often without proper checks in place. This puts them at risk of seeing or being targeted by harmful content. In early 2025, hotlines across Europe received:

- 183 reports of child nudity
- 68 reports of grooming
- 159 cases of sextortion
- 689 reports of hate speech.

Hotlines also answered over 74,000 questions from the public, showing how many people are concerned and looking for help. These figures highlight why stricter age verification measures are needed to help keep young people safe and give parents and teachers more peace of mind.

# What Are the New Measures?

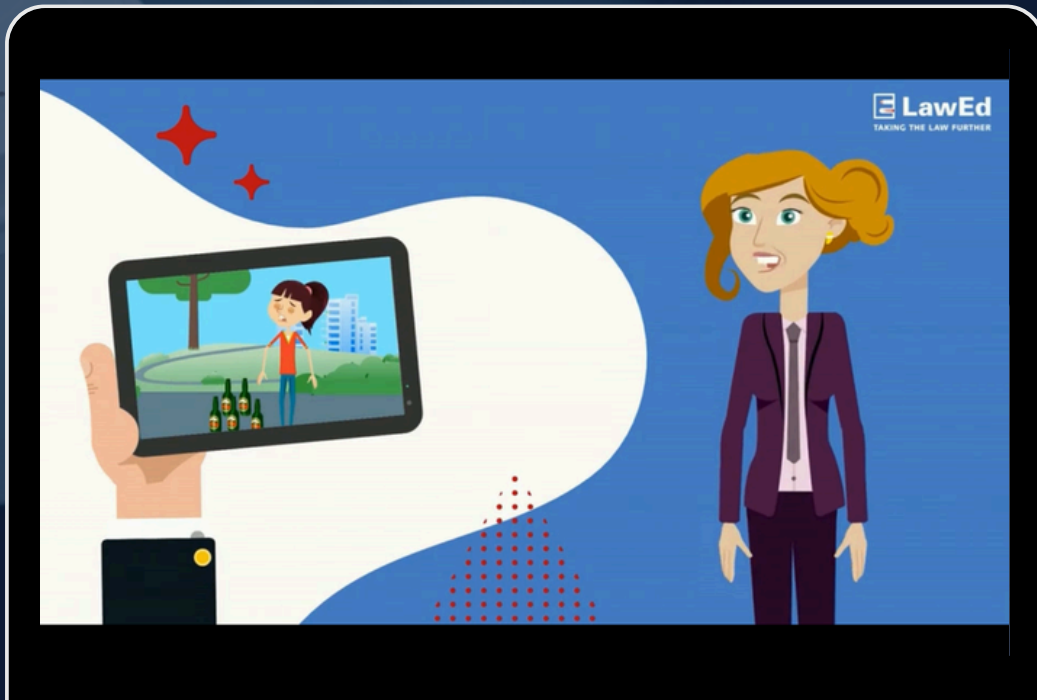
New rules have been introduced under the Online Safety Code, led by Coimisiún na Meán, Ireland's new media regulator. These rules makes video-sharing platforms responsible for keeping young people safe online. Platforms with violent or pornographic content must use stricter age verifications to stop children from seeing it. This Code is part of Ireland's wider Online Safety Framework, which aims to make the internet a safer place for everyone.

## The new measures include:

- Platforms must stop harmful content from being shared.
- They must use proper age verifications, not just ask for a birthdate.
- They need to offer parental controls to help protect children under 16 from content that could harm their wellbeing.
- They must provide clear and easy ways for users to report harmful content, flag issues, or make complaints.

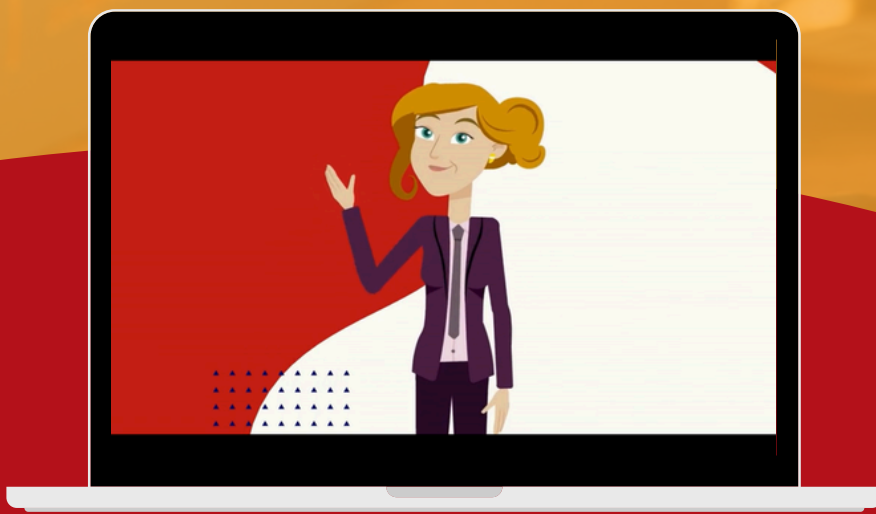






# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TECH GIANTS?

Major digital companies will now be held accountable under the Online Safety and Media Regulation Act. Failure to meet obligations could result in fines of up to €20 million or 10% of their annual turnover.



The introduction of stricter age verification measures is an important step in protecting children online.

At LawEd, we help young people understand not just their rights online, but all aspects of the law that affect their daily lives, from social media and consent to interactions with Gardaí, and more. We believe real safety and confidence come from knowing the law.