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Attorney General Griffin Announces Multistate \$700 Million Settlement with Google

Griffin: 'These actions were deceptive and unconscionable, and I will continue fighting to protect Arkansas families and ensure that companies play by the rules'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin is directing consumers' attention to information about how to receive funds from a \$700 million settlement with Google secured by Attorney General Griffin and a coalition of 52 other attorneys general. Preliminary approval was granted on November 20, 2025, triggering the court's notice and approval process. If the court approves the settlement at a hearing on April 30, 2026, the majority of the settlement funds will be distributed to consumers who made purchases on the Google Play Store between August 2016 and September 2023 and who were harmed by Google's anticompetitive conduct. Google will also stop its anticompetitive practices that harmed consumers and app developers. Eligible consumers will receive between \$2 and \$20,034, with an average settlement award of \$4.41.

"The \$700 million settlement with Google is a step in the right direction toward accountability and fairness. Google's anticompetitive practices harmed consumers and developers. Google used exclusionary agreements with phone manufacturers and carriers to control app distribution on Android devices through its Play Store. These agreements allowed Google to demand a 30 percent fee—10 times higher than competing payment systems—for app sales and in-app purchases. This practice raised prices for consumers and limited choices, eliminating competition for app stores and payment systems.

"These actions were deceptive and unconscionable, and I will continue fighting to protect Arkansas families and ensure that companies play by the rules."

Beginning December 2, 2025, consumers who made purchases on the Google Play Store between August 2016 and September 2023 and were harmed by Google's anticompetitive practices began receiving notices about the distribution process for the settlement funds. Most affected consumers do not need to take further

action to receive a payment from the settlement fund. The settlement fund will make the majority of payments automatically, and no claim form is necessary in most cases.

Once the court approves the settlement, consumers will receive an email from PayPal or a text from Venmo notifying them of their incoming payment at the email address or mobile phone number associated with their Google Play account. If that email address or phone number is also associated with a PayPal or Venmo account, then the payment will be made directly to that account. If that email address or phone number does not match an email address or phone number associated with a PayPal or Venmo account, then consumers have the option to create a new account or direct the payment to a PayPal or Venmo account at another email address or phone number.

There will be a supplemental claims process after the automatic payments process is complete for consumers who either:

- Do not have an existing PayPal or Venmo account and do not want to sign up for PayPal or Venmo;
- No longer have access to the email address or mobile phone number associated with their Google Play account; or
- Were expecting to receive a payment but did not.

If consumers would like to be notified by email when the supplemental claims process starts, they may submit their name, email address, and mobile phone number on the settlement website.

Attorney General Griffin encourages all affected consumers to keep track of important upcoming dates in the settlement approval process:

- Consumers who do not want to receive payment from the settlement fund and want to bring their
 own case against Google must submit a request to be excluded <u>online</u> or in writing by February 19,
 2026.
- Consumers who want to object to the settlement can file a written objection by February 19, 2026.
- The court will hold a hearing on April 30, 2026, to consider whether to approve the settlement.

Joining Attorney General Griffin in securing this settlement are the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

To read the settlement order, <u>click here</u>.

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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