

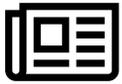


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ROB BONTA

Attorney General

Consumer Complaint Against A Business/Company

Consumer Complaint Against A Business/Company

/ *Consumer Complaint Against A Business/Company*

Thank you, your submission has been sent.

A copy of your submission is shown below. **Please use your browser Print function to print this page for your records.**

Please be advised that our office cannot represent individual citizens in legal matters, and cannot give individuals legal advice.

If you need legal assistance, we suggest that you contact a private attorney. You may obtain a referral to a certified lawyer referral service by contacting the State Bar at 866-442-2529 (toll-free in California) or 415-538-2250 (from outside California), or via the State Bar website.

If you cannot afford a private attorney, you may consider contacting your local legal

aid office. For a referral, visit the Legal Services Corporation and click on the Find Legal Aid tab.

If you have information about a crime, please report the matter locally to the police department or sheriff's office. For contact information, visit the California Law Enforcement Agencies page and click on your city or county law enforcement agency.

If you are contacting our Office about the national mortgage servicing settlement with Citibank, JPMorgan Chase/Washington Mutual, Bank of America/Countrywide, Wells Fargo/Wachovia, and Ally Financial/GMAC, please visit our National Mortgage Settlement website for helpful information.

Although we do our best to respond to all e-mails as quickly as possible, due to high volume, it is possible to experience a delay. We thank you for your patience.

PUBLIC INQUIRY UNIT

Data you submitted:

Your Information
First Name Robert
Middle Initial
Last Name
Address Line
Address Line 2
City

State CA

Zip Code

(+4)

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Area Code

Phone Number

Are you submitting this complaint on behalf of someone else? No

Business Information (Complaint Against):

Company Name Google

Company Address

Company City

Company State

Zip Code

(+4)

Area Code

Phone Number

Email Address

Website

Complaint

Amount in dispute

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding Google's upcoming policy requiring all Android developers to register with and pay a \$25 fee to Google in order to distribute apps outside the Google Play Store, even through third-party app stores or direct downloads.

This policy, set to roll out globally starting in September 2026, fundamentally undermines the open nature of the Android platform. By mandating central developer verification, Google extends its gatekeeping control far beyond its own ecosystem, effectively blocking apps from installation on certified Android devices if their developers refuse to comply. This represents a significant shift toward a walled-garden model akin to Apple's iOS, contrary to Android's long-standing commitment to openness and user choice.

The policy raises serious antitrust, privacy, and innovation concerns:

- * **Anticompetitive Effects:** It gives Google unprecedented control over all Android app distribution, allowing it to collect data on all developers and apps, potentially favoring its own services and stifling competition.

- * **Barriers to Entry:** The \$25 fee and identity verification process create unnecessary hurdles for independent developers, open-source projects, and nonprofits, disproportionately impacting smaller players.

- * **Privacy Risks:** Requiring government-issued ID for app distribution creates a centralized database of developers, increasing surveillance risks and endangering those working on privacy-sensitive or politically controversial

endangering those working on privacy-sensitive or politically controversial software.

California has long been a leader in protecting consumer rights and fostering technological innovation. I urge your office to investigate this policy as a potential violation of antitrust and consumer protection laws. Google's actions threaten to consolidate its dominance, reduce competition, and limit user freedom on a platform used by billions.

I respectfully request that the California Department of Justice take action to ensure that Android remains an open platform where developers and users are free to innovate and distribute software without undue corporate control.

Briefly state what you would consider a reasonable resolution from the company

put a stop to restricting all Android users from installing any software they want

Have you contacted the company about this issue?

Have you previously contacted our Office or other agencies about this issue?

Documents

Do you want to upload supporting documents? No

Additional Information About You (optional)

Are you 65 years or older?

Do you have a disability?

What is your annual household income?

Are you a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces or the immediate family of a service member?

Are you a former member of the U.S. Armed Forces?

Do you have limited English ability?

Statement

I affirm that the foregoing information is true and accurate Yes

By filing this complaint, I authorize you to send this complaint to the party named, and for that party to communicate, including disclosure of non-public personal information, with the Attorney General's office concerning this complaint.

Yes

Attorney General's Role

[Return to the Comment form](#)