Sweden mulls law to stop kids' phones from ruining parents

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"It isn't okay that children can subject their parents to financial ruin with just a few clicks on their phone," Consumer Affairs Minister Birgitta Ohlsson said in a statement.

Her comments came after her ministry received an independent committee's report with proposals on ways to improve consumer protection on the mobile phone market.

The main author of the report, a former Supreme Court judge, recommended that in disputes where parents contest exorbitant fees which they claim were charged by their children, the law should assume that the parents are dealing in good faith.

The report also proposes that controls be strengthened to verify that the person who purchases something with a cell phone or tablet is indeed the owner of the bank account being debited.

The report cited a case that made headlines in Sweden in April 2011, when two six- and seven-year-old brothers spent 50,000 kronor (5,900 euros, $7,600) on berries for Smurfs in a game downloaded for free on an Apple iPad.

Their parents were not required to pay after negotiations.

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