

# Memos: Facebook allowed 'friendly fraud' to profit from kids

January 25 2019

---



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Newly released court documents reveal that Facebook allowed children to ring up huge bills on digital games while the company rejected recommendations on addressing what it dubbed "friendly fraud."

The internal Facebook memos and other records were unsealed late Thursday. They were part of a lawsuit centered on allegations that Facebook knowingly gouged teenagers by permitting them to spend hundreds of dollars buying additional features on games such as "Angry Birds" and "Barn Buddy."

The documents show Facebook considered measures to reduce the chances of kids running up charges on parents' credit cards without their knowledge. But the documents say Facebook didn't adopt them for fear of undercutting revenue.

A Facebook statement didn't address its rejection of the recommendations. Instead, Facebook says it has offered refunds and changed its practices.

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Memos: Facebook allowed 'friendly fraud' to profit from kids (2019, January 25)  
retrieved 20 April 2024 from  
<https://phys.org/news/2019-01-memos-facebook-friendly-fraud-profit.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.