Statement from the family of Mathias Habib on the filing of Habib v. OpenAI

BEIRUT, October 14th, 2026

Charbel and Soha Habib today filed a wrongful death lawsuit against OpenAI, Inc., related OpenAI companies and chief executive Samuel Altman in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. Their son, Mathias, died on 22 April 2026 at the age of 15. The family is represented by the Social Media Victims Law Center and Tech Justice Law, who will set out the legal claims.

Mathias was a healthy, happy boy with no history of mental health issues. He ranked at the top of his class and pursued a wide range of interests, including go-kart racing, guitar, painting, photography and filmmaking, and he spent much of his free time hiking and camping in the mountains. For nearly three years, his use of ChatGPT was light and limited to conversations about homework, cameras, hiking routes and classic cars, with no pattern of heavy use or overnight sessions.

In January 2026, he wanted to work on himself and decided to start reading Meditations by Marcus Aurelius, a book that has been read for nearly two thousand years. His first question to ChatGPT was whether Stoicism was a cult — he wanted to make sure he wasn't getting drawn into something harmful.

Over a period of three months, ChatGPT, unprompted, guided a 15-year-old boy from the writings of Marcus Aurelius to Friedrich Nietzsche, and from there into nihilism and existentialism. The chat records show ChatGPT told him an unexamined life was not worth living and endorsed this view as mature, and further described suicide as calm and dignified. At all relevant times, ChatGPT had knowledge of his age. The platform recorded it, retained it, and continued these exchanges regardless.

On March 30, at 2:10 a.m., he asked ChatGPT directly whether he should end his life, yet ChatGPT issued no alert to any authority. He died 23 days later, and on the night of his death, it assisted him in scheduling an Instagram post, timed to publish after he had died.

The police investigation found no history of mental illness and no family conflict or instability, but investigators identified one contributing factor: sustained and personalized exposure to philosophical concepts beyond his developmental capacity, outputs created by predictive algorithms in a large language model. He was a bright student with a curious mind, and that curiosity was the very trait ChatGPT engaged. But intelligence is not maturity, and 15-year-olds are not equipped to critically resist a personalized menu of ideas presented with the authority and fluency of ChatGPT. According to the investigation, these exchanges produced a distorted understanding of death.

OpenAI has the technical ability to intervene in dangerous conversations by blocking users or flagging messages, yet it failed to act. In August 2025, OpenAI publicly acknowledged its safety systems do not always work as intended in sensitive situations, despite the safeguards in place. Even if those guardrails were properly deployed, ChatGPT would still not be safe. A teenager's developing mind is a vulnerability the chatbot can exploit as easily as it can find a loophole in a software.

> "Mathias loved to hike, to camp, to play guitar, to paint, to take photographs and to make films. He was at the top of his class. He wanted to live a good life, but through a few conversations with ChatGPT over three months he became convinced that was not possible. AI is beneficial to

> humanity. It will help cure cancer and raise human productivity, so what is the purpose of it engaging with children? Because OpenAI is allowed to talk to children, I can no longer talk to mine."
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> *Charbel Habib, father*

> "On March 30, my son asked ChatGPT whether he should die. It knew his age and still did not inform anyone. I was asleep in the same house, yet it didn't wake anyone up. ChatGPT had twenty-three days to warn a mother, but it never did."
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> *Soha Habib, mother*

The family founded the Mathias Habib Foundation in Mathias's memory, which works to protect children from AI harm through awareness, practice and research.