

Guardian Shield

Privacy-preserving age assurance for child safety

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Open Feed Network, Inc. · candortrustandsafety.com *Every claim below maps to a dated behavioral proof in the public evidence record. Updated only when it matches the running system.*

The problem

Every adult platform has minors trying to get in, and a checkbox that asks “are you 18?” protects no one. An adult platform’s first duty to children is keeping them off it — which means replacing the checkbox with something that actually works, without turning age-gating into a privacy tax that collects government IDs or birthdays from everyone.

What Guardian Shield does

Guardian Shield identifies probable minors attempting to open profiles on the adult platform, then offers a privacy-preserving path for adults to restore full access. It sits in the write path — like everything in the Candor architecture, it cannot be skipped — and it runs protective: uncertainty escalates to review rather than waving anyone through.

How it works, in principle

Signals accumulate across several independent checks rather than resting on any single test, so no one factor decides alone and ambiguous cases are held for review. When the signals suggest a probable minor, the account is **soft-paused rather than punished** — the account holder is given the chance to prove adulthood before any redirect decision is made.

The age check is **zero-knowledge**: an adult can prove they are over 18 without revealing their name, date of birth, ID number, or any personal information. The platform never receives identity data — only a one-time-use token that prevents the same proof from being reused to verify a second account. No government ID ever touches the platform. *The detailed detection mechanics are deliberately not published — describing the checks in full would be a manual for evading them.*

Compliance posture

Designed around COPPA, GDPR-K, and KOSA obligations: probable minors are identified and protected without collecting personal information, and age assurance occurs without processing personally identifiable data.

Verified behaviors

- **Single-use age proof.** A proof of adulthood cannot be replayed to verify a second account; a reused proof is rejected, enforced consistently across production. *Verified July 2, 2026.*
- **Soft-pause, then prove.** An account carrying probable-minor signals is soft-paused pending age assurance; a successful proof lifts the pause, a failed or missing proof redirects the account to the youth service. *Verified July 2, 2026.*

Honest limitations

No age-assurance system is perfect; the gateway is built to escalate uncertainty to review rather than pretend certainty.