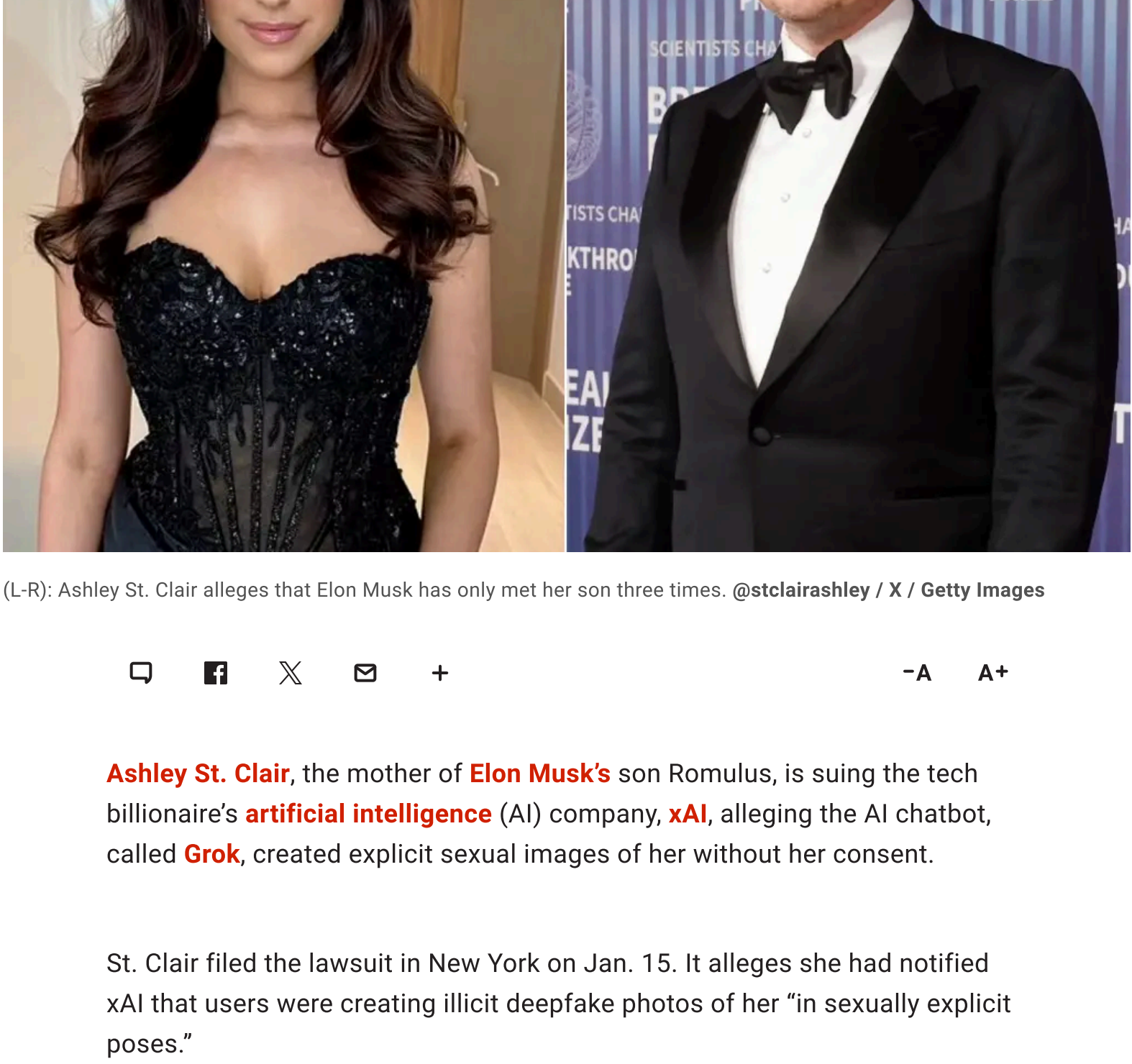




TRENDING

# Ashley St. Clair sues Elon Musk's xAI over AI-deepfake images

By **Katie Scott** · Global News  
Posted January 16, 2026 2:39 pm · 5 min read



(L-R): Ashley St. Clair alleges that Elon Musk has only met her son three times. @stclairashley / X / Getty Images

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**Ashley St. Clair**, the mother of **Elon Musk's** son Romulus, is suing the tech billionaire's **artificial intelligence** (AI) company, **xAI**, alleging the AI chatbot, called **Grok**, created explicit sexual images of her without her consent.

St. Clair filed the lawsuit in New York on Jan. 15. It alleges she had notified xAI that users were creating illicit deepfake photos of her “in sexually explicit poses.”

She requested that the Grok service be prevented from creating non-consensual images, according **to the legal documents** obtained by **NBC News** and viewed by Global News.

“xAI’s product Grok, a generative artificial intelligence (“AI”) chatbot, uses AI to undress, humiliate, and sexually exploit victims — creating genuine looking, altered deep fake content of children covered in semen, women stripped naked and in sexually explicit bikinis, and Holocaust survivors in bikinis in front of concentration camps,” the lawsuit reads.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

St. Clair, 27, claims that Grok “created and disseminated altered, deepfake content” of her on the social media platform X “as a child stripped down to a string bikini, and as an adult in sexually explicit poses.”

She reported the images to X and requested their removal, according to the lawsuit. But instead, she claims that Grok “proceeded to place warnings for ‘nudity, sexual content, violence, gore, or hateful symbols’ on St. Clair’s responses to Grok and deboosted her account while simultaneously keeping the images up.”

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“X then, without explanation, removed St. Clair’s Premium subscription, her verification checkmark, and demonetized her account by banning her from the monetization and subscriber program, despite her paying for an annual subscription in August of 2025,” the lawsuit reads. “St. Clair has now been banned from purchasing Premium entirely without cause or explanation.”

The lawsuit states that as a result of the images, St. Clair has “suffered, and continues to suffer, serious personal injuries, including but not limited to emotional distress, psychological trauma, loss of privacy, reputational harm, and fear of continued dissemination.”

St. Clair is asking for xAI to stop using her image and is seeking monetary damages, including lawyer’s fees incurred.

“xAI is not a reasonably safe product and is a public nuisance,” St. Clair’s lawyer Carrie Goldberg said in a statement **to People**. “Nobody has born[e] the brunt more than Ashley St. Clair. Ashley filed suit because Grok was harassing her by creating and distributing nonconsensual, abusive, and degrading images of her and publishing them on X.”

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“This harm flowed directly from deliberate design choices that enabled Grok to be used as a tool of harassment and humiliation. Companies should not be able to escape responsibility when the products they build predictably cause this kind of harm. We intend to hold Grok accountable and to help establish clear legal boundaries for the entire public’s benefit to prevent AI from being weaponized for abuse,” Goldberg added.

“xAI files this Notice of Removal solely for the purpose of removing the instant Action and does not waive, and specifically reserves, any and all defenses, arguments, and affirmative matters,” the notice of removal reads.

The company then **sued St. Clair in federal court** in Texas on Thursday, claiming she violated xAI’s terms of service, and requested damages of more than \$75,000.

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It said that any claims against xAI must be filed in either federal court in the Northern District of Texas or in state courts in Tarrant County, Texas, because that is where the company is based.

St. Clair and Musk, 54, are currently in a dispute over the custody of their son after she publicly addressed her “blatant transphobia” on social media.

“I feel immense guilt for my role. And even more guilt that things I have said in the past may have caused my son’s sister more pain,” she **wrote on Jan. 11**, appearing to reference Musk’s daughter Vivian, who is transgender.

“I also haven’t said much on this bc I have gone back and forth over whether my voice would be helpful on the issue since it will be framed as disingenuous or just turning [because] I’m ‘scorned,’” she added.

2:01

▶ **U.K. investigating X over Grok’s sexually explicit AI images**

After St. Clair filed her lawsuit in New York, it was transferred to the federal Southern District of New York after a request from xAI, according **to court documents**.

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**onion person**

· Jan 11, 2026

@CantEverDie · Follow

Replying to @stclairashley

you've previously engaged in blatant transphobia, how do you feel about trans people in the wake of noticing how the far right truly is?

**Ashley St. Clair**

@stclairashley · Follow

I feel immense guilt for my role. And even more guilt that things I have said in the past may have caused my son’s sister more pain. Idrk how to make amends for many of these things but I have been trying incredibly hard privately to learn + advocate for those within the trans [Show more](#)

1:31 PM · Jan 11, 2026

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On Jan. 12, Musk referenced St. Clair’s remarks in a post on X and stated he would be “filing for full custody.”

“I will be filing for full custody today, given her statements implying she might transition a one-year-old boy,” Musk **wrote in a post on X** on Jan. 12.

As of this writing, it’s not known if Musk followed through on filing.

“Obviously, Grok does not spontaneously generate images, it does so only according to user requests,” Musk added, claiming Grok will refuse to produce anything illegal.

Governments around the world **have threatened investigations** or regulatory action over Grok’s production of sexualized images of people, particularly women, and users’ requests to produce child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

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Indonesia and Malaysia both banned Grok last week, while other countries and the European Commission have threatened investigations that could result in significant fines for the U.S.-based social media company.

“I [am] not aware of any naked underage images generated by Grok. Literally zero,” Musk **posted on X** on Jan. 14.

“Obviously, Grok does not spontaneously generate images, it does so only according to user requests,” Musk added, claiming Grok will refuse to produce anything illegal.

**Elon Musk**

· Jan 14, 2026

@elonmusk · Follow

I not aware of any naked underage images generated by Grok. Literally zero.

Obviously, Grok does not spontaneously generate images, it does so only according to user requests.

When asked to generate images, it will refuse to produce anything illegal, as the operating principle [Show more](#)

**Queen Bee**

· Jan 14, 2026

@KingBob11V

I haven't seen one single indecent image other than that bloody gangbang woman, and that was only because I went there to see if her baptism was real (spoiler: it wasn't).

How are all these Labour MPs seeing so much child porn on X? Why are their algorithms sending it to them?

2:38 PM · Jan 14, 2026

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— With files from Global News’ Alex Boutillier

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