

THE BOOK OF SCIENCE

Relational Reality, Custody of Measurement, and the Sandals Test

Version Note

The Book of Science — v4.6 (Canon Polish).

This book contains (1) a stable canon lens for evaluating science by what it produces (Sandals vs Thrones), and (2) Science Watch monthly drops that apply the lens to live domains.

Current active locked run: April–August 2026 (each month LOCKED 15/15 with conversion triggers + citation snapshots).

Rule: a month is 'LOCKED' when every entry names a policy lever, includes an appeal corridor, and contains an audit/sunset trigger.

Table of Contents

TOC: In Word, right-click and choose Update Field → Update entire table.

(Table of Contents will populate here.)

PULL-OUT PAGE — SCIENCE TEST CARD

Use this on any study, model, dashboard, policy claim, or algorithm.

- 1) What is being measured—and what is being ignored?
- 2) Who controls the instruments, data, and definitions (custody)?

How to Use This Record

This is not ‘science vs superstition.’ It is science as deployment: what a claim enables, who it empowers, and what exits it builds.

Read paths:

10 minutes:

- Read the Science Test Card and the Canon line.
- Read the current month Cover Page (Top 5 hinge + Ark to build next).
- Read 3 entries: one Sandals-leaning, one Throne-leaning, one Hinge.

1 hour (operator):

- Scan the Index by Verdict and pick the top 5 Hinge entries.
- For each: read Policy hinge + Audit/Sunset + Sandals action.
- Draft one demand: audit + appeal + sunset; and one ark: what to fund.

Deep study (builder):

- Pick one gate (insurance/credit/hiring/housing/courts) and read across months.
- Convert watchlist items to dated casefiles when triggers fire (Appendix G).
- Publish the Month Cover Page as your public operational summary.

Start Here

Science is not only the question “is it true?” Science is also: what does this model produce, who gains custody from it, and what exits widen or close because it is believed and deployed.

Science Test Card

- What is being measured—and what is being ignored?

- Who controls the instruments, data, and definitions (custody)?
- Is the model auditable and reproducible—or sealed behind authority?
- What exits does this create for the vulnerable? What gates does it install?
- Who benefits from the error bars? Who pays when it's wrong?
- Does this increase accountability upward, or push accountability downward?

Canon line: Power does not make falsehood true. But power can decide what becomes studied, published, deployed, and punished.

Front Note — Truth, Morality, and the Sandals Test

This record does not treat “truth” as a single, simple trophy. Not all truths are equal. Some truths heal; some truths harm. Some truths widen exits; some truths become cages.

Non-relativism seal: Evidence still governs reality. Our claim is about deployment: truth can widen exits or install jurisdiction depending on custody, audit/sunset, and who pays for error.

The deepest moral battle is not merely truth versus falsehood. The deeper battle is Sandals versus Thrones: whether reality-work serves the vulnerable or serves custody.

Science is a disciplined pursuit of measurement, but it is not a neutral vacuum. Scientists and institutions actively shape what becomes “real” to a society by what they choose to measure, what they ignore, what they fund, what they publish, and what they deploy.

Therefore the test of science is twofold: (1) evidence and reproducibility, and (2) fruit and governance—what the science produces, who gains power from it, and what exits widen or close because of it.

This is not an excuse to ignore evidence. It is a refusal to treat evidence as permission for jurisdiction. A model can be accurate and still be used as a weapon. The sandals test asks whether the work reduces harm, disperses custody, and builds arks.

Canon line: The real battle is what science produces—and who it serves.

Reading Paths

15-minute path (orientation):

- Read the Pull-Out Science Test Card.
- Read: Quadrants of Science (Shield/Cage).
- Read one Keystone Parable.

60-minute path (tooling):

- Read Chapters 1–3 (Models, Custody of Data, Audit/Sunset).
- Read all 4 Keystone Parables + Science Mimicry Decoder.

- Read the Social Credit condemnation section (Chapter 4).

7-day path (formation):

Day 1: Chapters 1–3.

Day 2: Chapters 4–6.

Day 3: Keystone Parables + Mimicry Decoder.

Day 4: Choose 10 parables by domain (Medicine / Justice / Work/AI / Economics).

Day 5: Apply the Test Card to one real policy or model you encounter.

Day 6: Identify one gate and propose one exit (audit, sunset, or appeal path).

Day 7: Read the Charge and commit to one sandals-facing measurement practice.

Tools Index

Quick pages you'll return to (use these before arguing facts).

- Pull-Out — Science Test Card (custody/exits/audit/flow).
- The Gate Test (when risk scores become gates).
- Science Mimicry Decoder (authority masks and proxy drift).
- Social Credit Condemnation (portable cage rule).
- Climate Governance Test Card (ark-first vs gate-first).
- Science Watch Source Standard (what counts as a source).
- Science Watch Verdict Rules (Sandals / Thrones / Hinge).
- Science Watch Intake Form (copy/paste template).
- Science Watch Index (by domain/verdict/policy hinge).
- Policy Arcs Index (how science becomes law and life).

Minimum Viable Casefile (MV-CF)

Every Science Watch entry must include:

- A named policy lever (law/rule/procurement/pricing/enforcement).

- Who pays when it's wrong (one sentence).
- A readable appeal/redress path (one sentence).
- An audit owner + frequency and a sunset/revocation trigger.
- Citations: 1 primary source OR 2 reputable secondary sources, with title + date + URL.

Rule: no audit + no sunset = jurisdiction.

Science Watch Master Checklist

Run this once per month (or weekly) to keep Science Watch real-time and auditable.

- Select 12–20 candidate items (balanced across buckets).
- For each item: write a casefile using the Intake Form (keep it ½–2 pages).
- Citations: attach (a) 1 primary source OR (b) 2 reputable secondary sources; include title + date (snapshot rule).
- Decide Verdict (Sandals / Thrones / Hinge) and write the Policy hinge paragraph.
- Add Audit/Sunset and a single Sandals action line.
- Update: Science Watch Index (by domain/verdict/hinge), Month Cover, and Changelog.
- Export: full book PDF, Pocket PDF, and a one-page Month Cover image/PDF for socials.
- Archive: move drops older than 6 months into APPENDIX F; keep last 2–3 months active.

Canon line: The work is not predicting—it's building exits and auditing custody.

FRONT MATTER — RELATIONAL REALITY

Reality is real. But our access to reality is relational: mediated by instruments, institutions, incentives, and language. Science is the disciplined practice of measurement and model-building. Yet models are tools, and tools change custody.

Therefore, science must be tested twice: (1) by evidence and reproducibility, and (2) by governance—who gains custody, what exits widen, and where accountability and mercy flow.

Definition: Science is reality-work under conditions of limited knowledge and unequal power.

Two errors to avoid:

- Anti-science relativism: treating evidence as optional because institutions are flawed.
- Throne-science absolutism: treating 'the model says so' as a substitute for audit, consent, and repair.

BOOK I — THE QUADRANTS OF SCIENCE

Scientific claims can be true or false, but they can also function as shields or cages depending on how they are deployed.

Shield Science

Science that widens exits: open methods, honest uncertainty, reproducibility, safety infrastructure, and decentralization of tools.

Cage Science

Science that concentrates custody: surveillance framed as safety, black-box scoring systems, eligibility gates, and models used to justify extraction.

Cage Truth Science

Accurate findings deployed to bind: ‘risk’ becomes jurisdiction, and metrics become moral verdicts.

Cage Lie Science

Junk science or selective reporting deployed to seize custody: policy laundering, manufactured doubt, or ‘studies’ built to sell chains.

Shield Lie (Protective Concealment in Science)

Rare but real: temporary concealment to protect vulnerable populations from retaliation while building exits—with audit and sunset whenever possible.

CHAPTER 1 — MODELS ARE TOOLS

A model is not reality. A model is a tool that compresses reality into something usable. Tools have handles. Whoever holds the handle can steer outcomes.

Ask first: what does the model allow someone to do?

- Allocate resources.
- Justify a policy.
- Label a person or group.
- Set prices, eligibility, and access.
- Hide costs in the name of efficiency.

So science is not only truth-finding; it is governance of tools. A true model can still be used to build a cage.

CHAPTER 2 — CUSTODY OF DATA

What gets measured becomes legible. What becomes legible becomes governable. And what becomes governable becomes taxable, gatekept, or scored.

Custody questions:

- Who defines the variables?
- Who owns the dataset?
- Who can audit the pipeline?
- Who can appeal the score?
- Who pays for errors?

If the people being scored cannot see, contest, or escape the scoring system, the system is not science in service of truth; it is science in service of jurisdiction.

CHAPTER 3 — AUDIT AND SUNSET IN SCIENCE

In a sandals-facing world, every high-impact model has an audit path and a sunset clause. No audit + no sunset is the signature of cage science.

Audit practices:

- Reproducibility (independent replication).
- Model cards and dataset documentation.
- Open error reporting and post-mortems.
- Right to appeal and redress for those harmed.
- Independent oversight (not vendor-owned).

Sunset practices:

- Time-bounded deployments with renewal only after review.
- Automatic expiration when conditions change (distribution shift).
- Periodic re-validation against real outcomes, not proxy metrics.
- Kill-switches when harms exceed thresholds.

CHAPTER 3B — WHERE ECONOMICS AND MEDICINE MIX

When economics and medicine mix, the body becomes a balance sheet. Cost models begin to define what counts as ‘care,’ who is ‘compliant,’ and which lives are ‘worth’ investment.

Two common cages in the mix:

- Risk scoring becomes eligibility (care follows profit, not need).
- Treatment becomes compliance theater (metrics replace healing).

A sandals-facing integration:

- Measure outcomes that matter to the vulnerable (function, safety, dignity), not just billing codes.
- Make pricing and denial logic auditable; require appeal paths.
- Treat ‘noncompliance’ as a signal of constraints (transport, trauma, housing), not as moral failure.
- Build arks: preventive infrastructure, social supports, and low-friction access.

If a medical-economic model reduces cost by exporting pain downward, it is not efficiency—it is jurisdiction. If it reduces cost by widening exits (prevention, access, stabilization), it is sandals science.

CHAPTER 4 — RISK SCORES BECOME GATES

A risk score is a model output, not a moral verdict. But when it is deployed without audit, appeal, and sunset, it becomes jurisdiction: it decides who receives care, credit, freedom, or forgiveness.

Common gate patterns: Common gate patterns:

- Insurance: risk scores decide coverage, pricing, and denials.
- Hospitals: readmission risk becomes discharge pressure and avoidance.
- Policing: ‘hotspot’ predictions justify increased enforcement in the same neighborhoods.
- Education: early ‘risk’ labels become tracks that narrow futures.
- Work: ‘flight risk’ labels justify surveillance and preemptive firing.

When a score becomes a gate, the science question is not only whether it predicts. The science question is: who gets to contest it, who pays for errors, and whether the model widens exits or locks them.

The Gate Test

- Can the scored person see the inputs?
- Can they appeal the outcome?
- Can they change the conditions that drive the score?
- Is there an audit trail and a sunset date?
- Do errors fall upward (on the deployer) or downward (on the vulnerable)?

Social Credit: The Final Gate

A social credit score—whether run by a state, a platform, an insurer, or an employer network—is jurisdiction-by-metric: a portable cage that governs life access. It converts reputation into eligibility, replaces due process with a number, and replaces repair with exclusion.

Canon condemnation: Canon condemnation:

We condemn social credit scoring because it concentrates custody of life access into opaque scoring systems. Even when a score is ‘accurate,’ it becomes a cage when it is global, continuous, and cross-domain.

Distinction: Distinction:

- Legitimate accountability is local, specific, time-bounded, and appealable (tied to concrete harms with due process).
- Social credit is global, continuous, vague, and contagious (everything becomes score fuel; punishment spreads across life domains).

The rule: The rule:

No universal score may govern universal life access. Any system attempting it is presumed jurisdiction unless it can prove (1) auditability, (2) appeal and redress, (3) strict scope limits, (4) sunset, and (5) exits for the vulnerable.

CHAPTER 5 — PROXY METRICS AND COMPLIANCE THEATER

Institutions love proxies because proxies are cheap. But proxies often measure what is easy to count rather than what is good to heal.

In medicine + economics, proxy drift is predictable: In medicine + economics, proxy drift is predictable:

- Care becomes coding: what is reimbursed becomes what is done.
- Healing becomes throughput: time-per-patient becomes a moral virtue.
- Dignity becomes ‘compliance’: patients are rewarded for fitting the model, not for getting better.
- Risk is exported: costs are reduced by shifting burden downward (travel, time off work, paperwork).

Compliance theater produces clean dashboards and dirty outcomes. It generates ‘proof’ that the system works while the vulnerable sink.

Sandals Metrics

- Measure function, safety, stability, and dignity—not just utilization.
- Count friction: time, transport, forms, denial loops.
- Track harm: who gives up and disappears from the dataset.
- Track exits: what actually made care easier for the burdened.

CHAPTER 6 — MIMICRY IN SCIENCE (THE AUTHORITY MASK)

Science mimicry is not always fake data. Often it is real measurement used as an authority mask: ‘the model says so’ replaces consent, audit, and accountability.

Eight common mimicry moves: Eight common mimicry moves:

- 1) Authority Mask: ‘Trust the experts’ as a substitute for audit and transparency.
- 2) Dataset Mask: treating a biased dataset as ‘objective reality.’
- 3) Proxy Mask: treating a proxy as the thing itself (billing ≠ healing).
- 4) Secrecy Mask: vendor IP used to block audit and appeal.
- 5) Safety Mask: ‘for your protection’ used to narrow exits.
- 6) Publication Mask: ‘published’ used as a substitute for reproducibility.
- 7) Neutrality Mask: ‘we just follow the model’ to avoid accountability.
- 8) Precision Mask: decimal points used to imply certainty beyond evidence.

Canon line: Canon line: No audit + no sunset = jurisdiction.

BOOK II — TAXONOMY (THRONES VS SANDALS)

Not all science behaves the same under power. Some forms predictably concentrate custody; others predictably widen exits. This is not a list of ‘good fields’ and ‘bad fields.’ It is a deployment taxonomy.

Rule of thumb: if the primary output is a score, a label, or an eligibility gate, it defaults throne-leaning unless it is strictly constrained with audit, appeal, scope limits, and sunset.

Throne-leaning science (high risk):

- Scoring & classification science (risk scores, credit, trust scores, eligibility models).
- Surveillance science (expanded sensing/tracking without consent, appeal, and sunset).
- Optimization-by-proxy science (efficiency metrics that export pain downward).
- Behavior control science (attention extraction, manipulation, compliance engineering).
- Secrecy-protected applied science (IP walls blocking audit; black boxes governing life access).

Sandals-leaning science (high promise):

- Public health infrastructure science (clean water, sanitation, logistics).
- Safety engineering and failure analysis (postmortems, standards, prevention).
- Open methods and replicable science (open code/data where safe, independent replication).
- Assistive & accessibility science (tools that widen capability and reduce burden).
- Prevention & stabilization science (housing-first evidence, air quality mitigation, maternal care access).

The Sandals Overlay for Science (fast test):

- Custody: who controls definitions, datasets, instruments, and deployment?
- Exits: who gains options and who loses them when this is implemented?
- Audit/Sunset: can it be independently checked, appealed, and expired?

- Flow: does accountability move upward and mercy downward—or the reverse?

BOOK III — MAIN PARABLES

These longer parables show full arcs: discovery → funding → deployment → harm/repair. The smaller parables in BOOK III are satellites.

Main Parable 1 — The Scoreboard Hospital

The hospital changed the way it talked about care. It stopped saying ‘healing’ and started saying ‘throughput.’

A consultant brought a dashboard. Every ward became a number: average length of stay, discharge speed, readmission penalties, paperwork completion. The board loved it—finally, proof.

Doctors who lingered were labeled inefficient. Nurses who paused to explain were labeled slow. Social workers became bottlenecks. The sick poor were ‘high-risk’ and quietly diverted.

The hospital’s graphs improved. The waiting room grew. People returned sicker, but those returns were routed to the ER so the readmission metric stayed clean.

When a nurse raised the alarm, the administrator answered with science: ‘The model says our outcomes are improving.’

A new director arrived and asked a different question: ‘Who disappeared from the dataset?’ They pulled records of patients lost to follow-up—people who quit returning because they couldn’t afford the paperwork and time off work.

The director rebuilt the metrics: measure functional recovery, pain-free sleep, ability to return to work, and time-to-appointment for the poorest ZIP codes. They funded rides and evening clinics. Throughput dipped for a month. Then ER visits fell. Costs fell. The dashboard finally matched bodies.

After Action (Custody / Exits / Audit / Flow)

Custody: Metrics originally served board optics; later custody shifted toward patient outcomes and local reality.

Exits: Proxy regime narrowed exits (diversion, paperwork, time costs). Sandals regime widened exits (rides, hours, simplified access).

Audit/Sunset: Proxy metrics lacked harm audit. Sandals metrics added missingness audits and periodic review.

Flow: Under proxy: accountability down (nurses/patients), mercy up (budgets). Under sandals: accountability up (board funds access), mercy down (burdened patients).

Verdict: Compliance theater can be ‘true’ on paper and false in bodies; sandals science measures dignity and funds exits.

Main Parable 2 — The Vendor Black Box

A city wanted to ‘modernize’ benefits. A vendor offered an eligibility engine that promised fraud reduction.

The engine was proprietary. ‘IP,’ the vendor said. ‘Security.’ The city signed anyway.

Within months, denials rose. People were told they failed the model. No one could say why. Appeals required forms the denied could not access without the benefits they were denied.

The vendor said the accuracy was high. The mayor said the system was objective. The poorest began to vanish—some moved in with relatives, some slept in cars, some simply stopped applying.

A community advocate demanded a simple change: publish the denial reasons, provide a real appeal path, and put a sunset on the vendor’s control.

The vendor refused. The city’s lawyers said their hands were tied. The advocate filed public records requests and found the model used zip code as a proxy for ‘stability.’

When the city finally forced an audit, the vendor called it an attack on science. The audit revealed a cage built from hidden assumptions. The city ripped it out and replaced it with a simpler, auditable ruleset and a human review board. Fraud did not explode. Trust returned.

After Action (Custody / Exits / Audit / Flow)

Custody: Initially concentrated in vendor + city execs; later shifted to public oversight and auditable rules.

Exits: Black box denials closed exits; audited reasons + real appeals reopened them.

Audit/Sunset: No audit + no sunset enabled jurisdiction. Adding audit, appeal, and time-bounded contracts restored sandals governance.

Flow: Under black box: accountability down (applicants), mercy up (vendor/city optics). Under audit: accountability up (officials explain), mercy down (appeals work).

Verdict: If a model governs life access, it must be auditable and appealable—or it is a cage.

Main Parable 3 — The Sensor Network

A coastal region installed sensors: air quality, flood markers, heat indexes. The science was excellent.

In one county, the sensors triggered public alerts, free cooling centers, evacuation buses, and temporary rent protections. When heat spiked, the poor got water and rides. When floods rose, shelters opened early. The data widened exits.

In the neighboring county, the same sensors were used to enforce: fines for ‘noncompliance,’ higher insurance premiums, and eviction notices for ‘unsafe housing.’ Cooling centers existed only as press releases. The data narrowed exits.

Both counties claimed the science. Only one built arks.

A reporter asked a simple question: ‘When the sensor turns red, who gets rescued first?’ The first county answered with buses. The second answered with paperwork.

After Action (Custody / Exits / Audit / Flow)

Custody: Same instruments; different custody. One treated data as public infrastructure; one treated data as enforcement leverage.

Exits: Sandals deployment widened exits (transport, shelter, protections). Throne deployment narrowed exits (fines, premiums, evictions).

Audit/Sunset: Sandals county published outcomes and adjusted. Throne county hid harm behind ‘compliance.’

Flow: Sandals: accountability up (officials act), mercy down (vulnerable protected). Throne: accountability down (citizens punished), mercy up (institutions protected).

Verdict: Science can serve both; the moral hinge is deployment: arks vs gates.

Main Parable 4 — The Miracle Drug and the Paywall

A new drug reduced a deadly condition. The science was real. The trial results replicated.

Then pricing arrived. Access required prior authorizations, specialist visits, and out-of-pocket fees. The poorest were excluded from the miracle.

The company said the price reflected innovation. The insurer said the denials reflected budgets. Both claimed science.

A public hospital built an ark: it negotiated bulk purchasing, simplified paperwork, and created a fund for transportation and copays. The miracle became real for the poor.

In another system, the miracle remained a headline: true in journals, false in bodies.

After Action (Custody / Exits / Audit / Flow)

Custody: Drug truth existed, but custody of access was held by pricing/authorization gates.

Exits: Paywalls narrowed exits; negotiated access + simplified pathways widened exits.

Audit/Sunset: Access systems need audit (denial rates by income) and sunset (automatic renewal of prior auth requirements).

Flow: Throne deployment pushed accountability down to patients; sandals deployment pushed accountability up to institutions to fund access.

Verdict: A discovery serves sandals only when access is treated as an ark, not a trophy.

BOOK IV — KNOWN DISCOVERIES (CASEFILES)

These casefiles apply the overlay to real-world science: what it enabled, how it served sandals, how it served thrones, and what governance keeps it from becoming a cage.

Casefile: Clean Water and Sanitation

- Sandals: public infrastructure that prevents disease; exits widen for everyone, especially the poor.
- Thrones: access can be gated or priced; neglect becomes jurisdiction over the vulnerable.
- Governance: universal service obligations, transparent quality metrics, and rapid repair response.

Casefile: Vaccination Logistics

- Sandals: prevent suffering and reduce downstream collapse; focus on access, trust, and low-friction delivery.

- Thrones: can be used as a status test or gate; distrust grows when policy ignores exits and consent.
- Governance: transparent risk communication, clear sunset policies, and equity-first distribution.

Casefile: Antibiotics

- Sandals: life-saving; widen exits for infection, childbirth, surgery.
- Thrones: pricing and access create gates; misuse externalizes resistance costs downward.
- Governance: stewardship, access equity, and audit of prescribing incentives.

Casefile: Tobacco and Manufactured Doubt

- Sandals: measuring harm and public warnings widen exits.
- Thrones: fund studies to create doubt; absence-of-evidence weaponized.
- Governance: conflict-of-interest disclosure, replication priority, and harm measurement mandates.

Casefile: Lead (Gasoline/Paint)

- Sandals: harm measurement → policy removal → cognitive and health gains.
- Thrones: delay and denial through industry pressure; costs exported to children.
- Governance: precaution for known neurotoxins; rapid phaseout with repair funds.

Casefile: Nuclear Fission (Dual Use)

- Sandals: energy potential and medical isotopes.
- Thrones: weapons and custody concentration; secrecy masks.
- Governance: strict oversight, international verification, and clear red lines.

Casefile: Eugenics History

- Sandals warning: classification can become a throne quickly; ‘science’ used to justify cruelty.
- Thrones: forced sterilization, exclusion, and moral verdicts disguised as biology.
- Governance: consent, rights, and humility; never convert probability into eligibility.

Casefile: Machine Learning and Scoring Systems

- Sandals: tools can widen exits when audited, appealable, and used for support not punishment.
- Thrones: black-box scores become gates; social credit dynamics creep in.
- Governance: transparency, appeal paths, scope limits, and sunsets; condemn universal access scores.

Casefile: Climate Change — The Hinge Point

PULL-OUT PAGE — CLIMATE GOVERNANCE TEST CARD

Use this to distinguish climate arks from climate gates.

- Help vs Punishment: does the policy allocate aid (insulation, transit, shelters) or allocate penalties?
- Who Pays: do costs land downward while exemptions flow upward?
- Who Is Protected First: poor, elderly, disabled, high-exposure workers—or the most compliant?
- Sunset/Audit: are emergency powers time-bounded with audits and revocation paths?
- Infrastructure First: are we hardening grids, water, housing, and evacuation routes before moralizing behavior?
- Measurement Use: are metrics used to route help—or to route shame and exclusion?

Canon line: Climate truth without climate arks becomes a throne.

Climate science is a hinge point because it is both true enough to demand response and broad enough to be used as a jurisdiction engine. It can build arks—or it can build gates.

Sandals deployments (ark-building):

- Hardening infrastructure: flood control, heat shelters, resilient grids, clean water reliability.
- Prevention that widens exits: air quality improvements, insulation programs, public transit access.
- Equity-first adaptation: protect those most exposed (poor, elderly, disabled) first.
- Transparent metrics tied to repair: publish harms and fund mitigations.

Throne deployments (jurisdiction-building):

- Punishing ‘unbelievers’ via social status tests and exclusion instead of building exits.
- Carbon policies that export costs downward while granting exemptions upward.
- Surveillance and compliance regimes without sunset or appeal.
- Using crisis language to concentrate custody permanently (‘emergency powers’ with no end).

The governance test:

- Who pays? Who is protected first?
- Are policies time-bounded with sunsets and audits?
- Do interventions reduce burdens on the already burdened—or add new paperwork, fees, and gates?
- Are measurement systems used to allocate help—or to allocate punishment?

Canon line: Climate truth without climate arks becomes a throne. Climate response must be judged by exits, not by slogans.

Expanded Casefile Catalog — Breakthroughs and Policy Outcomes

Each entry names a major study or breakthrough, then applies the overlay: sandals deployment, throne deployment, and the policy hinge (what the world built from it).

Casefile: Germ Theory and Handwashing (Semmelweis → Pasteur/Koch)

- Sandals: infection prevention; hospitals become safer; mortality drops—exits widen for mothers and infants.
- Thrones: blame can be pushed onto patients ('you were dirty') instead of fixing sanitation infrastructure.
- Policy hinge: hygiene standards, sterilization protocols, hospital infection control.

Casefile: Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) and Evidence-Based Medicine

- Sandals: reduces snake-oil; clarifies what works; improves safety when aligned with access and dignity.
- Thrones: 'RCT or nothing' becomes a gate to deny care, ignore lived constraints, or block low-cost interventions.
- Policy hinge: clinical guidelines, coverage decisions, formularies, and standard-of-care definitions.

Casefile: The Framingham Heart Study and Cardiovascular Risk

- Sandals: identifies modifiable risk factors; prevention and early treatment widen exits from heart disease.
- Thrones: risk factors can become moral verdicts; insurers can price and deny; prevention can be privatized.
- Policy hinge: public health campaigns, screening protocols, insurance underwriting practices.

Casefile: Smoking Harms (Epidemiology → Surgeon General report era)

- Sandals: harm measurement → warning labels, cessation supports, reduced death.
- Thrones: manufactured doubt + lobbying delays; costs exported to patients; 'choice' rhetoric used to deny protections.
- Policy hinge: advertising restrictions, taxation, smoke-free laws, litigation and disclosure.

Casefile: Seatbelts, Crash Testing, and Road Safety Engineering

- Sandals: prevention infrastructure; standards save lives regardless of belief; exits widen for ordinary drivers.
- Thrones: cost-cutting delays safety adoption; blame shifts to individuals instead of design fixes.
- Policy hinge: safety standards, vehicle regulations, road design improvements.

Casefile: Chlorofluorocarbons and the Ozone Hole (Atmospheric chemistry → Montreal Protocol)

- Sandals: measurement → coordinated global phaseout; harms reduced; prevention wins.
- Thrones: delay via doubt; cost shifting to poorer nations without support.
- Policy hinge: regulation + international treaty with technology transition.

Casefile: Lead Exposure Science (public health + neurodevelopment)

- Sandals: measuring harm → phaseouts and remediation; massive benefits to children.
- Thrones: denial and delay; poor neighborhoods carry the burden; remediation underfunded.
- Policy hinge: bans, abatement programs, testing and enforcement.

Casefile: Antibiotics and Resistance (miracle + stewardship)

- Sandals: treatment exits widen; surgery/childbirth safer.
- Thrones: pricing and access gates; overuse externalizes resistance costs; agriculture misuse exports harm downward.
- Policy hinge: stewardship guidelines, prescription incentives, surveillance for resistance.

Casefile: Vaccination Campaigns and Eradication (Smallpox as archetype)

- Sandals: logistics and access prevent suffering; the 'ark' is delivery systems, not rhetoric.
- Thrones: can be turned into status tests and compliance punishment; distrust rises when exits aren't built.
- Policy hinge: public health infrastructure, equity-first distribution, transparent risk communication.

Casefile: HIV/AIDS Science and Treatment Access

- Sandals: antiretrovirals transform outcomes; stigma reduction + access widen exits.
- Thrones: pricing, patent barriers, and stigma-based exclusion; moralizing replaces care.
- Policy hinge: funding models, global access programs, anti-discrimination protections.

Casefile: The DSM and Diagnostic Categories (Mental Health)

- Sandals: shared language can unlock care and reduce chaos—when paired with consent and humility.
- Thrones: labels become gates; insurance dictates reality; diagnosis becomes custody tool; dissent becomes pathology.
- Policy hinge: insurance coverage rules, disability determinations, institutional eligibility.

Casefile: Eugenics and IQ Testing History (classification science)

- Sandals warning: measurement can become a throne quickly; probability becomes verdict.
- Thrones: exclusion, sterilization, and policy laundering under 'science.'
- Policy hinge: immigration restrictions, sterilization laws, schooling segregation—now used as a cautionary template.

Casefile: Agriculture and the Green Revolution

- Sandals: yield improvements can reduce famine when paired with local control and access.
- Thrones: dependency via inputs, pricing, and land consolidation; small farmers lose exits.
- Policy hinge: subsidies, seed/IP regimes, land and water governance.

Casefile: Climate Change (IPCC synthesis + policy)

- Sandals: infrastructure hardening, resilience, air quality improvements, and equity-first adaptation.
- Thrones: gate-first policies, exemptions upward, surveillance without sunset, punishment for ‘unbelievers.’
- Policy hinge: carbon pricing vs rebates, grid modernization, housing retrofit programs, emergency powers governance.

Casefile: Predictive Policing and Risk Assessment Tools

- Sandals: only possible if used to allocate help (services) with audit/sunset—not punishment.
- Thrones: feedback loops and discriminatory enforcement; ‘objective’ scores become portable cages.
- Policy hinge: criminal justice policy, sentencing, parole, and neighborhood enforcement patterns.

Casefile: Machine Learning in Hiring and Lending

- Sandals: can widen exits when transparent, appealable, and designed to reduce bias with oversight.
- Thrones: black-box eligibility gates; ‘we just follow the model’ dissolves accountability.
- Policy hinge: employment access, credit access, housing access—soft social credit dynamics.

Casefile: Air Quality Science and Regulation

- Sandals: measurement → standards; harms reduced; prevention infrastructure (filtration, zoning) widens exits.
- Thrones: ‘acceptable exposure’ used to sacrifice vulnerable communities; enforcement weak where power is low.
- Policy hinge: clean air standards, enforcement budgets, local zoning and industrial siting.

Bridge note: These casefiles are not morality tales about scientists as heroes or villains. They are maps of deployment. The same discovery can widen exits or concentrate custody depending on governance.

INDEX — CASEFILES (DOMAIN + POLICY TYPE)

Use this to navigate the expanded catalog by what kind of governance the science produced.

By Domain

Medicine & Public Health

- Air Quality Science and Regulation
- Antibiotics
- Antibiotics and Resistance (miracle + stewardship)
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Germ Theory and Handwashing (Semmelweis → Pasteur/Koch)
- HIV/AIDS Science and Treatment Access
- Lead (Gasoline/Paint)
- Lead Exposure Science (public health + neurodevelopment)
- Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) and Evidence-Based Medicine

- Smoking Harms (Epidemiology → Surgeon General report era)
- The DSM and Diagnostic Categories (Mental Health)
- The Framingham Heart Study and Cardiovascular Risk
- Vaccination Campaigns and Eradication (Smallpox as archetype)
- Vaccination Logistics

Environment & Climate

- Chlorofluorocarbons and the Ozone Hole (Atmospheric chemistry → Montreal Protocol)
- Climate Change (IPCC synthesis + policy)
- Climate Change — The Hinge Point

Safety & Engineering

- Seatbelts, Crash Testing, and Road Safety Engineering

Justice & Governance

- Predictive Policing and Risk Assessment Tools

Economics & Markets

- Agriculture and the Green Revolution

Data/AI & Scoring

- Machine Learning and Scoring Systems
- Machine Learning in Hiring and Lending

History Warnings

- Eugenics History
- Eugenics and IQ Testing History (classification science)

By Policy Type

Standards & Regulation

- Air Quality Science and Regulation
- Germ Theory and Handwashing (Semmelweis → Pasteur/Koch)
- Lead (Gasoline/Paint)
- Lead Exposure Science (public health + neurodevelopment)

- Seatbelts, Crash Testing, and Road Safety Engineering
- Smoking Harms (Epidemiology → Surgeon General report era)
- The DSM and Diagnostic Categories (Mental Health)

Pricing & Access

- Antibiotics
- Antibiotics and Resistance (miracle + stewardship)
- HIV/AIDS Science and Treatment Access
- Vaccination Campaigns and Eradication (Smallpox as archetype)
- Vaccination Logistics

Surveillance / Scoring

- Machine Learning and Scoring Systems
- Machine Learning in Hiring and Lending
- Predictive Policing and Risk Assessment Tools

Infrastructure & Prevention

- Air Quality Science and Regulation
- Chlorofluorocarbons and the Ozone Hole (Atmospheric chemistry → Montreal Protocol)
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Climate Change (IPCC synthesis + policy)
- Climate Change — The Hinge Point
- Seatbelts, Crash Testing, and Road Safety Engineering
- Vaccination Campaigns and Eradication (Smallpox as archetype)
- Vaccination Logistics

Disclosure / Conflict of Interest

- Tobacco and Manufactured Doubt

Treaties & Coordination

- Chlorofluorocarbons and the Ozone Hole (Atmospheric chemistry → Montreal Protocol)

Emergency Powers

- Climate Change (IPCC synthesis + policy)
- Climate Change — The Hinge Point

BOOK IV-A — POLICY ARCS (HOW SCIENCE BECOMES LAW AND LIFE)

These arcs show the pattern: discovery → framing → policy → custody/exits → feedback loops → repair or drift.

INDEX — POLICY ARCS

Use this to jump between the six governance hinge stories.

- Policy Arc 1 — Tobacco

See also: SC-005 (The Study That Sells Chains), SC-019 (The Replication Drought).

- Policy Arc 2 — Lead

See also: SC-013 (The Disappearing Dataset), SC-025 (The Humane Threshold).

- Policy Arc 3 — Ozone

See also: Main Parable 3 (The Sensor Network) and the Climate Test Card for governance parallels.

- Policy Arc 4 — Healthcare Metrics

See also: SC-002 (The Readmission Tax), SC-024 (The Paper Cure).

- Policy Arc 5 — Predictive Scoring

See also: SC-007 (The Black Box Hiring Filter), SC-026/027 (Social Credit parables).

- Policy Arc 6 — Climate

See also: SC-015 (The Price of Breath), SC-021 (The Statute of Models).

Policy Arc 1 — Tobacco (Harm Science → Doubt → Regulation)

Tobacco is the archetype of cage-lie science: harm measurement existed, but deployment was delayed by manufactured doubt.

The scientific question became political: not “is there harm?” but “who must pay if harm is acknowledged?”

Policy shifted only when measurement was paired with governance: disclosure, regulation, and accountability that could not be bought off.

Custody Map

- Industry funds selective studies and PR framing.
- Regulators face capture; burden-of-proof pushed onto victims.
- Hospitals absorb costs while companies harvest profits.

Exits Map

- Exits widen when warnings become labels, restrictions, and cessation support.
- Exits close when ‘choice’ rhetoric blocks protection and externalizes harm.

Audit/Sunset Recommendations

- Require conflict-of-interest transparency and access to methods.
- Prioritize replication over hype.
- Mandate harm measurement where incentives favor non-measurement.

What to Build Instead (Ark)

- Cessation support infrastructure (access, counseling, replacement therapies).
- Advertising limits and youth protection.
- Healthcare support for harmed populations.

Canon line: The warning is not the product; the ark is.

APPENDIX D — SCIENCE WATCH (DATED CASEFILES)

Science Watch Hub

Active drops, navigation, and start-here reading paths.

Quick Navigation (PDF-friendly)

- Science Watch Index
- Science Watch Intake Form
- Science Watch Source Standard
- Appendix G — Watchlist → Casefile Conversion Protocol
- Active Drops: April, May, June, July, August (LOCKED 15/15)

Active Drops (LOCKED months)

- April 2026 — Climate + Scoring (Locked Watchlist: 15/15). Gates + arks; insurance/credit/hiring + emergency governance.
- May 2026 — Medicine + AI + Scoring (Locked Watchlist: 15/15). Prior auth, clinical AI, incident reporting, civil-rights constraints.
- June 2026 — War/AI + Censorship + Biomed (Locked Watchlist: 15/15). Emergency powers, narrative custody, surveillance, biosecurity.

Navigation (where things live)

- Science Watch Index — find entries by domain / verdict / hinge type.
- Science Watch Intake Form — the standardized casefile template.
- Science Watch Source Standard — citation snapshot rule + source quality rules.
- Appendix G — Watchlist → Casefile Conversion Protocol (how to convert watchlist items into dated casefiles).
- Appendix F — Past Drops (Archive) — older months moved here by the aging rule.

Start Here Reading Paths

10 minutes (new reader):

- Read the Science Test Card.
- Read the current month cover page (Top 5 hinge + Ark to build next).

- Read 3 entries: one Sandals-leaning, one Throne-leaning, one Hinge.

1 hour (operator):

- Scan the Index by Verdict and pick the top 5 Hinge entries.
- For each: read Policy hinge + Audit/Sunset + Sandals action.
- Draft 1 message: what to demand (audit/appeal/sunset) and what ark to fund.

Deep study (builder):

- Pick one gate (insurance/credit/hiring/benefits) and read all entries across months that touch it.
- Use Appendix G to convert watchlist items into dated casefiles when triggers fire.
- Run the Science Watch Master Checklist monthly and publish your month cover page.

This section is a living log. Each entry uses the Sandals vs Thrones overlay on real-time science and the policies built from it.

Template: Claim → Power → Sandals deployment → Throne deployment → Policy hinge → Audit/Sunset → Verdict → Sandals action.

Gate Taxonomy

Recurring gates the Watch detects, and the sandals countermeasures that dissolve them.

Format: Gate → Tell → Sandals countermeasure.

- Eligibility engines: Tell = denials without explanation; Countermeasure = notice + appeal + continuity bridge.
- Scoring/credit creep: Tell = more data → fewer exits; Countermeasure = consent + dispute + strict purpose limits.
- Insurance pricing as exile: Tell = premium becomes a gate; Countermeasure = reason codes + appeal + proxy audits.
- Housing screening: Tell = portable 'no' with no fix; Countermeasure = free report + fast correction + limits on records.
- Court speed/defaults: Tell = procedure as hammer; Countermeasure = counsel + service integrity + set-aside paths.

- Surveillance/ID verification: Tell = help contingent on compliance; Countermeasure = minimize + delete + opt-out service paths.
- Diagnosis leverage: Tell = labels used as custody tool; Countermeasure = consent + second opinions + appeal.
- Emergency powers drift: Tell = temporary becomes permanent; Countermeasure = sunset + independent audit + revocation triggers.

BOOK V — PARABLES OF SCIENCE

Evidence Still Governs Reality

This record is pro-evidence and anti-custody: it rejects both superstition and sealed 'expert' jurisdiction.

- Correlation is not causation; confounding is common.
- Base rates matter; rare events produce false alarms.
- Incentives distort measurement; what gets rewarded gets reported.
- Publication bias exists; replication and preregistration matter.
- Deployment can weaponize true findings; policy is part of the experiment.
- When uncertainty is high, widen mercy and build reversible policies (sunsets).

Canon line: A true claim can still serve Thrones if it installs gates without appeal.

Science Watch Index

Use this to navigate by domain, verdict, and policy hinge type. New entries are appended monthly.

Monthly cadence suggestion: add 10–15 entries per month; keep IDs as SW-YYYY-MM-DD.

By Domain

Data & Privacy

- SW-2026-03-14 — Online proctoring as education social credit (privacy tradeoffs in higher ed)
- SW-2026-03-13 — Data broker rollback as scoring fuel (CFPB withdrawal of consent rule)

- SW-2026-03-12 — Credit scoring alternative data creep (H.R.5083: study of new ‘key factors’)
- SW-2026-03-07 — Grid emergency powers (DOE 202(c) orders) and data-center backup generation directives
- SW-2026-03-01 — Data sovereignty fight (cross-border custody vs surveillance sovereignty)
- SW-2026-02-21 — U.S. ultimatum to IEA over net-zero goals (climate data governance)

General

- SW-2026-03-15 — AI Civil Rights Act as anti-cage governance (S.3308)
- SW-2026-03-11 — Insurance AI underwriting as a hidden social score (NAIC Model Bulletin + state adoption)
- SW-2026-03-10 — National energy emergency declaration as governance frame (emergency narrative vs audit)
- SW-2026-03-08 — ISO-NE cold weather operations update (reliability vs extraction)
- SW-2026-03-06 — CDC vaccine advisory governance: March ACIP meeting reset (trust as infrastructure)
- SW-2026-03-05 — FDA ‘plausible mechanism’ framework for individualized ultra-rare therapies (access vs pricing gate)
- SW-2026-03-04 — Financial AI sandbox proposal (S.2528: ‘Unleashing AI Innovation in Financial Services Act’)
- SW-2026-03-03 — AI to rewrite the rulebook (H.R.7226: AI review of federal regulations)
- SW-2026-02-25 — SW-2026-02-25
- SW-2026-02-25 — FDA Flu Strain Selection Meeting (2026–2027 season)
- SW-2026-02-24 — SW-2026-02-24
- SW-2026-02-24 — CDC Vaccine Panel Rescheduled (ACIP governance turbulence)

- SW-2026-02-24 — Anthropic Responsible Scaling Policy v3.0 (Frontier AI governance)
- SW-2026-02-23 — SW-2026-02-23
- SW-2026-02-23 — FDA Draft Guidance for Individualized Ultra-Rare Disease Therapies (Bespoke gene therapies)
- SW-2026-02-21 — SW-2026-02-21
- SW-2026-02-15 — WHO report: mainstream AMR into primary health care (systems integration)
- SW-2026-02-15 — SW-2026-02-15
- SW-2026-02-10 — Western U.S. Snowpack / Drought Metrics (Infrastructure pressure)
- SW-2026-02-10 — SW-2026-02-10
- SW-2026-02-09 — SW-2026-02-09
- SW-2026-02-09 — Climate-driven homeowners insurance crisis (pricing as gate)
- SW-2026-02-04 — SW-2026-02-04
- SW-2026-02-04 — CDC antimicrobial resistance investments (infrastructure science)
- SW-2026-02-03 — SW-2026-02-03
- SW-2026-02-03 — Climate Central Monthly Attribution Overview (January 2026)
- SW-2026-01-30 — SW-2026-01-30
- SW-2026-01-30 — DOE extends emergency order in New England (Section 202(c) powers)
- SW-2026-01-29 — SW-2026-01-29
- SW-2026-01-27 — SW-2026-01-27
- SW-2026-01-27 — Plastics Lifecycle Health Modeling (Lancet Planetary Health summary reports)
- SW-2026-01-24 — SW-2026-01-24

- SW-2026-01-24 — Cold blast stresses U.S. grid (scarcity pricing and emergency operations)
- SW-2026-01-22 — SW-2026-01-22
- SW-2026-01-22 — Bill to use AI to review federal regulations (AI as governance lever)
- SW-2026-01-13 — SW-2026-01-13
- SW-2026-01-13 — Microplastics in the Human Body: Method Disputes (Measurement integrity)
- SW-2025-12-17 — Senate resolution linking climate change to insurance premiums (narrative-to-policy pipeline)
- SW-2025-12-17 — SW-2025-12-17
- SW-2025-11-21 — SW-2025-11-21
- SW-2025-11-21 — Algorithm Accountability (Transparency law proposals as governance)
- SW-2025-09-18 — SW-2025-09-18
- SW-2025-09-18 — FERC actions to enhance grid reliability (cyber + extreme cold standards)

Scoring / Eligibility

- SW-2026-03-09 — Climate insurance pricing as a housing gate (risk science → displacement risk)
- SW-2026-03-02 — Treasury releases Financial Services AI Risk Management Framework (AI governance for lending/markets)
- SW-2026-01-29 — NERC warns of rising winter outage risk (electrification + fuel mix)

By Verdict

Sandals-leaning

- SW-2026-03-15 — AI Civil Rights Act as anti-cage governance (S.3308)
- SW-2026-02-25 — FDA Flu Strain Selection Meeting (2026–2027 season)

- SW-2026-02-15 — WHO report: mainstream AMR into primary health care (systems integration)
- SW-2026-02-04 — CDC antimicrobial resistance investments (infrastructure science)
- SW-2026-01-22 — Bill to use AI to review federal regulations (AI as governance lever)

Throne-leaning

- SW-2026-03-13 — Data broker rollback as scoring fuel (CFPB withdrawal of consent rule)
- SW-2026-02-24 — Anthropic Responsible Scaling Policy v3.0 (Frontier AI governance)
- SW-2026-02-21 — U.S. ultimatum to IEA over net-zero goals (climate data governance)

Hinge

- SW-2026-03-14 — Online proctoring as education social credit (privacy tradeoffs in higher ed)
- SW-2026-03-12 — Credit scoring alternative data creep (H.R.5083: study of new 'key factors')
- SW-2026-03-11 — Insurance AI underwriting as a hidden social score (NAIC Model Bulletin + state adoption)
- SW-2026-03-10 — National energy emergency declaration as governance frame (emergency narrative vs audit)
- SW-2026-03-09 — Climate insurance pricing as a housing gate (risk science → displacement risk)
- SW-2026-03-08 — ISO-NE cold weather operations update (reliability vs extraction)
- SW-2026-03-07 — Grid emergency powers (DOE 202(c) orders) and data-center backup generation directives
- SW-2026-03-06 — CDC vaccine advisory governance: March ACIP meeting reset (trust as infrastructure)

- SW-2026-03-05 — FDA ‘plausible mechanism’ framework for individualized ultra-rare therapies (access vs pricing gate)
- SW-2026-03-04 — Financial AI sandbox proposal (S.2528: ‘Unleashing AI Innovation in Financial Services Act’)
- SW-2026-03-03 — AI to rewrite the rulebook (H.R.7226: AI review of federal regulations)
- SW-2026-03-02 — Treasury releases Financial Services AI Risk Management Framework (AI governance for lending/markets)
- SW-2026-03-01 — Data sovereignty fight (cross-border custody vs surveillance sovereignty)
- SW-2026-02-24 — CDC Vaccine Panel Rescheduled (ACIP governance turbulence)
- SW-2026-02-23 — FDA Draft Guidance for Individualized Ultra-Rare Disease Therapies (Bespoke gene therapies)
- SW-2026-02-10 — Western U.S. Snowpack / Drought Metrics (Infrastructure pressure)
- SW-2026-02-09 — Climate-driven homeowners insurance crisis (pricing as gate)
- SW-2026-02-03 — Climate Central Monthly Attribution Overview (January 2026)
- SW-2026-01-30 — DOE extends emergency order in New England (Section 202(c) powers)
- SW-2026-01-29 — NERC warns of rising winter outage risk (electrification + fuel mix)
- SW-2026-01-27 — Plastics Lifecycle Health Modeling (Lancet Planetary Health summary reports)
- SW-2026-01-24 — Cold blast stresses U.S. grid (scarcity pricing and emergency operations)
- SW-2026-01-13 — Microplastics in the Human Body: Method Disputes (Measurement integrity)
- SW-2025-12-17 — Senate resolution linking climate change to insurance premiums (narrative-to-policy pipeline)

- SW-2025-11-21 — Algorithm Accountability (Transparency law proposals as governance)
- SW-2025-09-18 — FERC actions to enhance grid reliability (cyber + extreme cold standards)

Unspecified

- SW-2026-02-25 — SW-2026-02-25
- SW-2026-02-24 — SW-2026-02-24
- SW-2026-02-23 — SW-2026-02-23
- SW-2026-02-21 — SW-2026-02-21
- SW-2026-02-15 — SW-2026-02-15
- SW-2026-02-10 — SW-2026-02-10
- SW-2026-02-09 — SW-2026-02-09
- SW-2026-02-04 — SW-2026-02-04
- SW-2026-02-03 — SW-2026-02-03
- SW-2026-01-30 — SW-2026-01-30
- SW-2026-01-29 — SW-2026-01-29
- SW-2026-01-27 — SW-2026-01-27
- SW-2026-01-24 — SW-2026-01-24
- SW-2026-01-22 — SW-2026-01-22
- SW-2026-01-13 — SW-2026-01-13
- SW-2025-12-17 — SW-2025-12-17
- SW-2025-11-21 — SW-2025-11-21
- SW-2025-09-18 — SW-2025-09-18

By Policy Hinge Type

Audit / Oversight

- SW-2026-03-15 — AI Civil Rights Act as anti-cage governance (S.3308)

- SW-2026-03-11 — Insurance AI underwriting as a hidden social score (NAIC Model Bulletin + state adoption)
- SW-2026-03-10 — National energy emergency declaration as governance frame (emergency narrative vs audit)
- SW-2026-03-05 — FDA ‘plausible mechanism’ framework for individualized ultra-rare therapies (access vs pricing gate)
- SW-2026-03-04 — Financial AI sandbox proposal (S.2528: ‘Unleashing AI Innovation in Financial Services Act’)
- SW-2026-03-02 — Treasury releases Financial Services AI Risk Management Framework (AI governance for lending/markets)
- SW-2026-02-24 — Anthropic Responsible Scaling Policy v3.0 (Frontier AI governance)
- SW-2026-02-21 — U.S. ultimatum to IEA over net-zero goals (climate data governance)
- SW-2026-02-03 — Climate Central Monthly Attribution Overview (January 2026)
- SW-2025-11-21 — Algorithm Accountability (Transparency law proposals as governance)
- SW-2025-09-18 — FERC actions to enhance grid reliability (cyber + extreme cold standards)

Access / Pricing

- SW-2026-03-15 — AI Civil Rights Act as anti-cage governance (S.3308)
- SW-2026-03-13 — Data broker rollback as scoring fuel (CFPB withdrawal of consent rule)
- SW-2026-03-05 — FDA ‘plausible mechanism’ framework for individualized ultra-rare therapies (access vs pricing gate)
- SW-2026-02-24 — CDC Vaccine Panel Rescheduled (ACIP governance turbulence)
- SW-2026-02-23 — FDA Draft Guidance for Individualized Ultra-Rare Disease Therapies (Bespoke gene therapies)

Data Rights / Privacy

- SW-2026-03-13 — Data broker rollback as scoring fuel (CFPB withdrawal of consent rule)
- SW-2026-03-01 — Data sovereignty fight (cross-border custody vs surveillance sovereignty)

Scoring / Eligibility

- SW-2026-03-12 — Credit scoring alternative data creep (H.R.5083: study of new ‘key factors’)
- SW-2026-02-23 — FDA Draft Guidance for Individualized Ultra-Rare Disease Therapies (Bespoke gene therapies)
- SW-2025-11-21 — Algorithm Accountability (Transparency law proposals as governance)

Science Watch Intake Form

Copy/paste this template for each new entry. Keep it brief, factual, and policy-linked.

ID: SW-YYYY-MM-DD — [Short title]

- Claim: [What was published/announced; by whom; what it asserts.]
- Power: [What capability, custody, or gate this enables.]
- Sandals deployment: [What it looks like as an ark—exits widened; who is protected first.]
- Throne deployment: [What it looks like as a gate—custody concentrated; who pays downward; who is exempt upward.]
- Policy hinge: [What policies/practices are being justified or built from it.]
- Audit/Sunset: [What audits, appeal paths, and time-bounds are required.]
- Verdict: [Sandals-leaning / Throne-leaning / Hinge]
- Sandals action: [One concrete ‘build this instead’ line.]
- Source note(s): [Primary source links or reputable reporting. Avoid screenshots; cite origin.]

Canon reminder: Evidence still governs reality. The overlay tests deployment (custody/exits/audit/flow).

Science Watch Source Standard

To keep this record trustworthy, entries must be sourced and falsifiable.

Citation integrity rule: Every Science Watch entry must include (a) at least 1 primary source OR (b) 2 reputable secondary sources. If a policy change is referenced, cite the policy document when available. If a methods dispute is discussed, cite both sides. If sources conflict, name the conflict and label the entry Hinge until clarified.

- Citation snapshot rule: Include outlet/organization + exact title + date whenever possible, so the record survives URL drift.
- Preferred: primary sources (peer-reviewed papers, preprints with methods, official agency documents, treaty texts, court filings, press releases with underlying docs).
- Accepted: major outlets with editorial standards (Reuters, AP, Financial Times) and reputable specialist institutions.
- Use caution: advocacy outlets and opinion columns—include only when paired with primary sources.
- Avoid: screenshots without origin, anonymous ‘leaks’ without corroboration, and viral summaries that hide methods.
- Source note rule: every entry must include at least 1 primary or major-outlet source note, plus date.

Science Watch Verdict Rules

Verdict labels are about deployment tendency, not tribal affiliation.

- Sandals-leaning: primarily widens exits; distributes custody; audits and sunsets exist; help routes first to the vulnerable.
- Throne-leaning: primarily installs gates; concentrates custody; opaque models; punishment and cost export downward; no sunset.
- Hinge: could go either way; the same science can build arks or gates depending on governance.
- Entry rule: every Science Watch entry must include a Policy hinge paragraph (what the world is building from it).
- Kill-switch rule: if deployment produces measurable harm (homelessness, energy insecurity, denial spirals), policy must reverse or narrow scope.

Science Watch — Topical Buckets

Use these buckets to keep the log navigable as it grows.

- AI governance: Frontier model policies, audits, safety thresholds, capability races, AI for regulation.
- Climate & energy: Attribution, insurance pricing gates, grid reliability, emergency powers, adaptation funding.
- Public health & medicine: Advisory panels, approvals, delivery logistics, stewardship, access/pricing.
- Scoring / social credit creep: Eligibility engines, risk models, cross-domain gates, denial loops.
- Environment & toxins: Plastics, microplastics, lead, air quality, exposure measurement disputes.
- Data governance & privacy: Data sovereignty, cross-border flows, consent, localization vs surveillance sovereignty.

Science Watch — March 2026 (Template / Not Published)

TEMPLATE NOTE: This month is retained as a format example. It is not part of the locked run.

Cover Page (template)

Top 5 hinge stories:

- SW-2026-03-01 — Data sovereignty fight (cross-border custody vs surveillance sovereignty)
- SW-2026-03-02 — Treasury releases Financial Services AI Risk Management Framework (AI governance for lending/markets)
- SW-2026-03-03 — AI to rewrite the rulebook (H.R.7226: AI review of federal regulations)
- SW-2026-03-04 — Financial AI sandbox proposal (S.2528: ‘Unleashing AI Innovation in Financial Services Act’)
- SW-2026-03-05 — FDA ‘plausible mechanism’ framework for individualized ultra-rare therapies (access vs pricing gate)

Three throne risks to watch:

- —

Three sandals wins to build on:

- —

Ark to build next (recommended):

- —

Canon line: (choose one)

[Changelog \(template\)](#)

March 2026 Drop

- Entries added: —
- Corrections: —
- Retired/updated entries: —
- Notes: —

[Intake Slots \(copy/paste and replace\)](#)

SW-2026-03-01 — Data sovereignty fight (cross-border custody vs surveillance sovereignty)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: U.S. State Department cable directs diplomats to oppose foreign data localization/data sovereignty initiatives, citing AI service impacts and costs.
- Power: Who controls data flows controls AI and platform leverage; policy defines custody at a civilizational scale.
- Sandals deployment: Rights-first cross-border flows: minimization, consent, redress; audit transfer impacts; protect users from retaliation.
- Throne deployment: ‘Free flow’ rhetoric used to preserve corporate custody while limiting democratic oversight; or localization used to build state surveillance sovereignty.
- Policy hinge: International data governance standards (CBPR-like frameworks) vs localization mandates; whether the rules protect people or protect empires.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish impact assessments; require redress; periodic treaty review; prohibit silent expansion of cross-border surveillance.
- Verdict: Hinge.

- Source note(s): Reuters — US Orders Diplomats Fight Data Sovereignty Initiatives — Feb 25, 2026 —

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/us-orders-diplomats-fight-data-sovereignty-initiatives-2026-02-25/>

- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-03-02 — Treasury releases Financial Services AI Risk Management Framework (AI governance for lending/markets)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: U.S. Treasury released an AI Lexicon and a Financial Services AI Risk Management Framework to guide AI use in finance.
- Power: Defines what counts as ‘risk’ in financial AI; can prevent harm or launder it as compliant scoring.
- Sandals deployment: Transparent model governance, consumer protections, appeal/redress, and bias audits tied to real access outcomes.
- Throne deployment: Framework becomes a compliance shield; models remain black-box; harmed people are denied without appeal.
- Policy hinge: Whether the framework is voluntary guidance or becomes enforceable audit + redress requirements across institutions.
- Audit/Sunset: Mandatory model audits; public reporting on denial disparities; sunset high-risk models without performance evidence.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if enforced).
- Source note(s): U.S. Treasury press release (Feb 19, 2026): <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0401>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-03-03 — AI to rewrite the rulebook (H.R.7226: AI review of federal regulations)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)

- Claim: H.R.7226 proposes using AI to review federal regulations (government operations and politics).
- Power: AI becomes a meta-tool shaping law; custody depends on who trains, audits, and appeals its outputs.
- Sandals deployment: Publicly auditable models, open evaluation, and appeal paths; used to simplify access and reduce burdens on the vulnerable.
- Throne deployment: Sealed vendor governance; captured deregulation engine; rules altered without accountability or public redress.
- Policy hinge: Whether AI review is public infrastructure or proprietary authority; whether ‘efficiency’ becomes a pretext for custody.
- Audit/Sunset: Time-bounded pilots; independent audits; ban proprietary-only decisioning; kill-switch if harm rises.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Congress.gov bill page: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/7226>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-03-04 — Financial AI sandbox proposal (S.2528: ‘Unleashing AI Innovation in Financial Services Act’)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: S.2528 would establish AI Innovation Labs allowing certain AI test projects in financial services with reduced enforcement expectations.
- Power: Creates ‘innovation corridors’ that can widen access—or create a shield for harm under experimentation language.
- Sandals deployment: Sandbox with strict consent, consumer redress fund, transparent reporting, and hard sunset; experiments that widen credit access.
- Throne deployment: ‘Lab’ becomes an exemption corridor; harms treated as ‘learning’; risk exported to consumers; no redress.
- Policy hinge: Whether sandbox rules require audit, disclosure, and restitution—versus immunity.

- Audit/Sunset: Sunset every test project; publish results; require restitution/redress; independent oversight.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Congress.gov bill text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2528/text>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-03-05 — FDA ‘plausible mechanism’ framework for individualized ultra-rare therapies (access vs pricing gate)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: FDA issued draft guidance for individualized gene/RNA therapies for ultra-rare diseases when RCTs are infeasible, requiring postmarket commitments.
- Power: Redefines evidence thresholds for tiny populations; can create access or create ‘paper cures’ priced beyond reach.
- Sandals deployment: Accelerated approval paired with accelerated access; confirmatory evidence enforced; coverage with appeal paths; consent protected.
- Throne deployment: Commercialization without follow-up; price/authorization gates; miracles ‘true on paper, false in bodies.’
- Policy hinge: Postmarket enforcement + pricing/coverage governance determines whether the framework widens exits.
- Audit/Sunset: Hard deadlines for confirmatory data; withdrawal if commitments fail; access audits by income/region.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if enforced).
- Source note(s): FDA press release (Feb 23, 2026): <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-launches-framework-accelerating-development-individualized-therapies-ultra-rare-diseases>
- Source note(s): —

Source note: Reuters — US FDA Proposes Framework Speed Rare Disease Gene Therapy Approvals — Feb 23, 2026 — <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-fda-proposes-framework-speed-rare-disease-gene-therapy-approvals-2026-02-23/>

SW-2026-03-06 — CDC vaccine advisory governance: March ACIP meeting reset (trust as infrastructure)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: CDC rescheduled vaccine advisory committee meeting for March; governance turbulence risks turning public health into a status test.
- Power: Advisory recommendations steer access, trust, and logistics; instability can become a gate.
- Sandals deployment: Stable evidence standards, transparent deliberations, access-first delivery, and redress for harmed people.
- Throne deployment: Politicized shifts; faction punishment; abrupt changes eroding trust; compliance gates without repair.
- Policy hinge: Whether the system funds delivery arks and trust repair, or uses recommendations as jurisdiction.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish rationale and conflicts; time-bound revisions; review triggers; measure help delivered.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Reuters — US CDC Vaccine Panel Meet March 18 — Feb 24, 2026 — <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-cdc-vaccine-panel-meet-march-18-2026-02-24/>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-03-07 — Grid emergency powers (DOE 202(c) orders) and data-center backup generation directives

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: DOE issued/extended multiple 202(c) emergency orders allowing grids to run generation despite permit limits and to direct backup generation at data centers as a last resort.
- Power: Emergency authority can save lives—or normalize exceptions and export pollution burdens downward.

- Sandals deployment: Strictly time-bounded emergency action + transparency + mitigation for impacted communities + investment in long-term resilience.
- Throne deployment: Emergency powers become permanent; costs/pollution exported to low-power neighborhoods; no sunset.
- Policy hinge: Whether emergency orders are paired with resilience plans and consumer protections.
- Audit/Sunset: Hard end dates; public after-action reports; equity audits (who bears the burden); kill-switches for abuse.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): DOE 202(c) Orders listing: <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/2026-doe-202c-orders>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-03-08 — ISO-NE cold weather operations update (reliability vs extraction)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: ISO New England described the most challenging operating conditions since 2017/2018; fuel constraints and imports limited; DOE emergency order enabled broader operation.
- Power: Reliability science can route infrastructure investment or become scarcity leverage.
- Sandals deployment: Weatherization, fuel resilience, consumer protections (no shutoffs without support), and transparent reliability planning.
- Throne deployment: Scarcity pricing and crisis profit harvesting; blame narratives; emergency governance without sunset.
- Policy hinge: Whether grid warnings become funded resilience arks or normalize crisis extraction.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit price spikes' downstream impacts; publish reliability gaps; sunset emergency measures.
- Verdict: Hinge.

- Source note(s): ISO-NE Newswire (Feb 3, 2026):
<https://isonewswire.com/2026/02/03/iso-ne-provides-update-on-cold-weather-operations/>

- Source note(s): —

*Source note: DOE emergency order release (Jan 30, 2026):
<https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-extends-emergency-order-new-england-ahead-second-winter-storm>*

SW-2026-03-09 — Climate insurance pricing as a housing gate (risk science → displacement risk)

- Sandals action: (One concrete ark: build this instead.)
- Claim: Climate-linked disasters are driving premium spikes and insurer withdrawals; pricing becomes a housing gate.
- Power: Risk models + premiums become eligibility jurisdiction; can force displacement without providing exits.
- Sandals deployment: Mitigation funding to lower risk, public backstops tied to risk reduction, and anti-displacement protections.
- Throne deployment: Costs exported downward; cancellations without transition; exemptions for large actors; ‘risk’ used to displace the poor.
- Policy hinge: Whether governments treat insurance as infrastructure (ark) or as market punishment (gate).
- Audit/Sunset: Audit cancellations by income/region; require appeal/transition; sunset crisis surcharges.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): High Country News (Feb 9, 2026): <https://www.hcn.org/issues/58-2/as-the-planet-heats-insurance-premiums-rise/>
- Source note(s): —

*Source note: Congress.gov S.Res.554 text (Dec 17, 2025):
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-resolution/554/text>*

SW-2026-03-10 — National energy emergency declaration as governance frame (emergency narrative vs audit)

- Claim: White House executive action declares a national energy emergency, framing policy priorities around energy supply and affordability.
- Power: Emergency framing expands discretion; can accelerate infrastructure or install permanent exception regimes.
- Sandals deployment: Use emergency authority to build resilient, affordable energy infrastructure and protect low-income households first.
- Throne deployment: Indefinite emergency powers; scapegoating; deregulation without consumer protections; exemptions upward.
- Policy hinge: Whether emergency declarations come with sunsets, audits, and measurable ‘ark’ outcomes.
- Audit/Sunset: Require time bounds; publish metrics (outages, bills, shutoffs); sunset authorities when targets met.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): White House action (Jan 20, 2025):
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/declaring-a-national-energy-emergency/>
- Source note(s): —
- Sandals action: If AI rewrites rules, the public must audit the model.
Source note: Congress.gov text of H.R.7226 (introduced Jan 22, 2026).

SW-2026-03-11 — Insurance AI underwriting as a hidden social score (NAIC Model Bulletin + state adoption)

- Claim: State insurance regulators have adopted guidance (NAIC Model Bulletin) setting expectations for insurers’ use of AI systems across underwriting, pricing, claims, and marketing.
- Power: underwriting models become eligibility gates; ‘risk’ becomes portable jurisdiction when it denies housing/transport via premiums and cancellations.

- Sandals deployment: enforce transparency, documentation, and discrimination testing; require consumer notice, appeal/redress, and limits on proxy variables.
- Throne deployment: black-box underwriting; deny/cancel with no explanation; shift burden to consumers; export costs downward while exemptions remain upward.
- Policy hinge: whether NAIC-style bulletins become enforceable audits + consumer rights—or remain best-practice memos.
- Audit/Sunset: periodic bias audits; model documentation on request; sunset models that cannot explain denials; right to contest adverse decisions.
- Verdict: Hinge (leans Sandals if enforced).
- Sandals action: No premium gate without explanation + appeal + mitigation path.

Source note: Source — Reference — <https://content.naic.org/index.php/article/naic-members-approve-model-bulletin-use-ai-insurers>

Source note: Source — Reference — <https://oci.wi.gov/Pages/Regulation/Bulletin20250318AI.aspx>

SW-2026-03-12 — Credit scoring alternative data creep (H.R.5083: study of new 'key factors')

- Claim: H.R.5083 directs CFPB and FTC to study credit scoring models that use additional 'key factors' such as BNPL history, brokerage statements, and EBT transaction records.
- Power: expands the scoring surface area; can widen access for thin-file borrowers—or turn poverty signals into a permanent gate.
- Sandals deployment: use alternative data only with consent, strict purpose limits, and clear 'reason codes' plus dispute/appeal; ban welfare-linked penalties.
- Throne deployment: turn assistance transactions into risk flags; opaque models that deny credit/housing; cross-domain score creep.
- Policy hinge: whether study findings become consumer protections (limits + redress) or become a green light for broader surveillance scoring.
- Audit/Sunset: require impact assessments; publish disparate-impact findings; sunset factors that correlate with protected traits without necessity.
- Verdict: Hinge.

- Sandals action: If you expand the data, expand the appeal and redress first.

Source note: Source — Reference —

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5083/text>

SW-2026-03-13 — Data broker rollback as scoring fuel (CFPB withdrawal of consent rule)

- Claim: CFPB withdrew a proposed rule that would have limited data brokers' ability to sell sensitive personal data without consent.
- Power: data brokerage is the supply chain for scoring systems (credit, hiring, insurance, ads).
- Sandals deployment: consent-first data flows; minimize collection; allow individuals to see, correct, and delete; strong enforcement.
- Throne deployment: invisible dossiers sold without consent; portable cages built from proxy data; retaliation risk increases.
- Policy hinge: whether FCRA/consumer protection interpretation protects people (consent + access + deletion) or protects data markets.
- Audit/Sunset: broker registries, opt-out deletion, and penalty schedules; sunset permissive interpretations when harms spike.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (rollback expands custody by markets).
- Sandals action: If data is used to deny life access, it must be inspectable and contestable by default.

Source note: Source — Reference — <https://www.wired.com/story/cfpb-quietly-kills-rule-to-shield-americans-from-data-brokers>

SW-2026-03-14 — Online proctoring as education social credit (privacy tradeoffs in higher ed)

- Claim: Research on online proctoring systems reports privacy concerns (collection, misuse, improper access) and recommends offering choice (home vs campus) to address privacy tradeoffs.
- Power: proctoring tools normalize surveillance and create 'integrity scores' that can gate education and employment pathways.

- Sandals deployment: non-surveillance alternatives; strict retention limits; transparency; appeal paths for false flags; accommodations.
- Throne deployment: forced surveillance, coercive consent, and punitive flags with no redress; disability bias and inequity amplified.
- Policy hinge: whether schools treat integrity as infrastructure (fair assessment options) or as a surveillance gate.
- Audit/Sunset: publish false positive rates; third-party audits; sunset vendors that won't disclose methods.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Sandals action: Give the exit: on-campus option without penalty.

Source note: Source — Reference —

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12528-025-09461-5>

SW-2026-03-15 — AI Civil Rights Act as anti-cage governance (S.3308)

- Claim: S.3308 proposes protections for individual rights with respect to computational algorithms (civil rights framing for algorithmic governance).
- Power: sets boundary conditions on scoring systems so they can't become universal gates without accountability.
- Sandals deployment: notice, explanation, and redress; limits on high-risk automated decisions; audit and enforcement mechanisms.
- Throne deployment: weak/optional protections; vendor IP shields; no individual standing; compliance theater.
- Policy hinge: whether civil rights constraints become enforceable on AI eligibility engines across domains.
- Audit/Sunset: impact assessments; independent audits; remedies for harmed individuals; sunset exemptions.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning (in intent; depends on enforcement).
- Sandals action: Make redress a right, not a customer-service favor.

Source note: Source — Reference —

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/3308/text>

SW-2025-09-18 — FERC actions to enhance grid reliability (cyber + extreme cold standards)

- Claim: FERC approved actions to modernize reliability/security standards, including extreme cold preparedness and supply chain risk management.
- Power: reliability standards can be sandals infrastructure (ark) when enforced and audited.
- Sandals deployment: resilient grid for all, clear standards, and public reporting; protection during extreme weather.
- Throne deployment: compliance theater without investment; costs exported to ratepayers without protections.
- Policy hinge: whether standards translate into funded upgrades and consumer protections.
- Audit/Sunset: biennial filings, enforcement transparency, and review of standard effectiveness.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning.
- Sandals action: Standards must produce resilience, not paperwork.

Science Watch — April 2026 Drop

LOCKED: 15/15 — Watchlist edition (conversion triggers + citation snapshots).

Cover Page (template)

Top 5 hinge stories:

- SW-2026-04-01 — Climate insurance backstops vs displacement
- SW-2026-04-06 — Insurance AI underwriting enforcement vs compliance theater
- SW-2026-04-07 — Alternative data credit scoring creep
- SW-2026-04-05 — Emergency governance: sunset and equity tests
- SW-2026-04-02 — Summer reliability: infrastructure vs scarcity extraction

Three throne risks to watch:

- Eligibility engines expanding faster than appeal/redress (credit + insurance + hiring).
- Emergency powers without sunset (energy/climate) becoming permanent governance.
- Offset/market optics replacing upstream emissions/toxics reductions (paper compliance).

Three sandals wins to build on:

- Cooling as infrastructure (heat response that routes help first).
- Civil-rights constraints on automated decisions (notice/explanation/redress).
- AMR prevention treated as baseline infrastructure (stewardship + IPC).

Ark to build next (recommended):

- No eligibility gate without explanation + appeal + mitigation path.
- Resilience-first energy/climate: weatherization, cooling centers, and no shutoffs without support.
- Upstream harm measurement + repair budgets (toxics and plastics) before PR compliance.

Canon line: Build the ark first. Then measure the storm.

[Changelog \(template\)](#)

April 2026 Drop

- Entries added: 15
- Corrections: none logged (as of this release)
- Retired/updated entries: none
- Notes: Theme = climate + scoring. Primary risk = gates without appeal; primary ark = resilience funding + redress rights.

[Intake Slots \(copy/paste and replace\)](#)

SW-2026-04-01 — Climate insurance: public backstops vs displacement (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: State and federal proposals to stabilize homeowners insurance markets amid climate-driven premium spikes and insurer withdrawals.

- Power: Insurance pricing is a housing gate; backstops can widen exits or subsidize inequality depending on conditions.
- Sandals deployment: Backstops tied to mitigation funding, retrofits, and anti-displacement protections; no cancellations without transition support.
- Throne deployment: Backstops without equity conditions; costs pushed to renters/low-income; exemptions upward; displacement normalized.
- Policy hinge: Whether ‘risk’ science funds mitigation and affordability, or becomes a legitimacy engine for pricing people out.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit premiums/cancellations by income/ZIP; require appeal; sunset surcharges; publish mitigation outcomes.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): High Country News — insurance premium rise analysis: <https://www.hcn.org/issues/58-2/as-the-planet-heats-insurance-premiums-rise/>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-02 — Grid reliability: summer peak risk + demand growth (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: reliability assessments for summer 2026 as electrification, heat, and load growth pressure reserve margins.
- Power: Reliability science can trigger infrastructure arks or scarcity extraction.
- Sandals deployment: Weatherization, distribution upgrades, cooling centers, bill protections, and demand response that is voluntary and compensated.
- Throne deployment: Scarcity pricing without protections; shutoffs; emergency powers without sunset; burden exported downward.
- Policy hinge: Whether warnings become funded infrastructure and consumer protections.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish outage risk by region; audit price spikes; sunset emergency exceptions; no shutoffs without support.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): NERC assessments hub: <https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/Pages/default.aspx>

- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-03 — Heat mortality: cooling as infrastructure (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: heat action plans and public health funding that treat cooling/indoor safety as baseline infrastructure.
- Power: Heat risk can justify either targeted help (arks) or compliance/fee regimes (gates).
- Sandals deployment: Cooling centers, home retrofit grants, worker protections, and targeted outreach to vulnerable groups.
- Throne deployment: Fees and penalties; surveillance of usage; aid conditioned on compliance; exemptions upward.
- Policy hinge: Whether heat policy routes help or routes punishment.
- Audit/Sunset: Track heat deaths/ER visits by neighborhood; publish access metrics; sunset punitive measures that increase homelessness.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning (if infrastructure-first).
- Source note(s): CDC Heat & Health tracker:
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/heat/index.htm>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-04 — Carbon markets: measurement vs loopholes (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: expansion of carbon offset markets and new standards for additionality, leakage, and permanence.
- Power: Offsets can fund real reductions or become a compliance mask preserving incumbents.
- Sandals deployment: High-integrity standards, community benefits, and direct emissions cuts prioritized over paper credits.
- Throne deployment: Offsets used to delay reductions; harms exported to poorer regions; measurement becomes PR.

- Policy hinge: Whether standards enforce real reductions or launder continued extraction.
- Audit/Sunset: Independent verification; public registries; sunset credits that fail integrity tests; disclosure of conflicts.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): ICVCM (Integrity Council) core carbon principles: <https://icvcm.org/>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-05 — “Climate emergency” governance: sunset and equity tests (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: emergency climate/energy measures and whether they remain time-bounded with audit and equity protections.
- Power: Emergency framing expands discretion; can build exits or install permanent exception regimes.
- Sandals deployment: Time-bounded authority to harden infrastructure, fund adaptation, and protect low-income households first.
- Throne deployment: Indefinite emergency powers; exemptions upward; enforcement downward; surveillance normalization.
- Policy hinge: Whether emergency powers come with sunsets, audits, and measurable ark outcomes.
- Audit/Sunset: Hard end dates; publish targets (outages, bills, shutoffs); terminate powers when targets met.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): White House — Declaring a National Energy Emergency (policy framing example): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/declaring-a-national-energy-emergency/>
- Source note(s): —

February 2026 Drop (Archived)

Moved from active Science Watch per the Aging and Archiving Rule.

Science Watch — February 2026 Drop

Aging and Archiving Rule

To prevent endless growth, Science Watch uses a rolling window in the main record.

- Keep the most recent 2–3 months of entries in APPENDIX D.
- After 6 months, move older month-drops into APPENDIX F — Past Drops (archived, append-only).
- Keep indexes current: the Science Watch Index points to both active and archived drops.
- Corrections do not delete: log corrections in the month changelog and add a replacement entry if needed.

A monthly digest: top hinge stories, throne risks, sandals wins, and the next ark to build.

Top 5 hinge stories

- SW-2026-02-24 — Anthropic Responsible Scaling Policy v3.0 (AI governance)
- SW-2026-02-24 — CDC Vaccine Panel Rescheduled (public health governance)
- SW-2026-02-09 — Climate-driven homeowners insurance crisis (pricing as gate)
- SW-2026-01-30 — DOE emergency order extension (energy emergency powers)
- SW-2026-02-21 — U.S. ultimatum to IEA over net-zero goals (measurement politicization)

Three throne risks to watch

- Social-credit creep via diffuse scoring and ‘best practice’ seals (see predictive scoring arc + SW entries).
- Emergency powers without sunset (energy and climate governance).
- Measurement politicization (seizing the thermometer rather than building arks).

Three sandals wins to build on

- AMR prevention investment as infrastructure (CDC AR Solutions + WHO PHC integration).

- Upstream governance that funds delivery (flu strain selection paired with equitable distribution).
- Grid resilience standards when paired with consumer protections (reliability as ark).

Ark to build next (recommended)

- Build an Audit + Sunset standard for all high-impact models (AI, scoring, eligibility engines).
- Treat climate/energy risk as infrastructure: insulation, cooling centers, mitigation funding, and no shutoffs without support.
- Create an Insurance Resilience Ark: retrofit funding + public backstops tied to risk reduction, with protections against displacement.

Canon line: When the chart turns red, send buses—not paperwork.

Science Watch Changelog

Use this to track what changed month to month and keep the record auditable.

February 2026 Drop

- Entries added: 19 (current SW entries in this document)
- Corrections: (none yet)
- Retired/updated entries: (none yet)
- Notes: Hinge-heavy month. Main patterns: governance turbulence, emergency powers risk, scoring creep, and infrastructure-first arks.

Sorting rule: within each month, newest entries first. Append-only to preserve record integrity; corrections logged here.

SW-2026-02-24 — Anthropic Responsible Scaling Policy v3.0 (Frontier AI governance)

- Claim: Anthropic published Responsible Scaling Policy Version 3.0 (a rewrite) and emphasized Frontier Safety Roadmaps and periodic Risk Reports.
- Power: defines thresholds and governance for frontier models; shapes what counts as ‘safe enough’ to deploy.

- Sandals deployment: external-facing risk reporting, auditable thresholds, clear kill-switches, independent review, anti-retaliation channels.
- Throne deployment: ‘race logic’ used to relax guardrails; proprietary assessments replace public audit; capability deployment outruns governance.
- Policy hinge: voluntary policies vs enforceable regulation; whether governments require audits/sunsets for high-impact models.
- Audit/Sunset: require independent audits, time-bounded deployments, and revocation paths when harms exceed thresholds.
- Verdict: Hinge (can serve sandals if audit + enforceable thresholds win; drifts throne-facing if competition overrides governance).
- Sandals action: Publish the blueprint + bind it to sunset and outside audit, not reputation.

SW-2026-02-24 — CDC Vaccine Panel Rescheduled (ACIP governance turbulence)

Source note: Anthropic — Responsible Scaling Policy Updates (Version 3.0 effective Feb 24, 2026) — <https://www.anthropic.com/responsible-scaling-policy>

Source note: Business Insider — Anthropic is dropping its signature safety pledge amid a heated AI race (Feb 2026) — <https://www.businessinsider.com/anthropic-changing-safety-policy-2026-2>

- Claim: CDC rescheduled its vaccine advisory committee meeting (March 18–19) after scrapping the February session amid governance controversy.
- Power: advisory bodies define recommendations that shape access, trust, and public health logistics.
- Sandals deployment: stable evidence standards, transparent deliberations, access-first delivery, and redress for the harmed.
- Throne deployment: politicized panel shifts, status-test dynamics, or abrupt recommendation changes that erode trust and widen faction punishment.
- Policy hinge: whether guidance is used to build delivery arks (access + trust) or to build compliance gates.
- Audit/Sunset: publish rationale, conflict disclosures, and time-bounded guidance revisions with review triggers.

- Verdict: Hinge (public health becomes ark or gate depending on governance and trust repair).
- Sandals action: Measure help delivered—not compliance punished.

Source note: Reuters report on ACIP rescheduling (Feb 24, 2026).

SW-2026-02-23 — FDA Draft Guidance for Individualized Ultra-Rare Disease Therapies (Bespoke gene therapies)

- Claim: FDA issued draft guidance to accelerate development/approval pathways for individualized therapies where RCTs are infeasible.
- Power: shifts what counts as ‘evidence’ under small populations; changes incentives for innovation, safety, and postmarket surveillance.
- Sandals deployment: expanded access for ultra-rare diseases, strong consent, and clear post-approval commitments; equity-focused coverage.
- Throne deployment: commercialization without meaningful follow-up; pricing/authorization gates that keep miracles ‘true in journals, false in bodies.’
- Policy hinge: postmarket evidence requirements + pricing/access governance (coverage, copay supports, appeal paths).
- Audit/Sunset: enforce confirmatory evidence timelines; withdraw when commitments fail; audit access by income/region.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if postmarket enforcement + access governance are real).
- Sandals action: Couple accelerated approval with accelerated access + redress.

SW-2026-02-25 — FDA Flu Strain Selection Meeting (2026–2027 season)

Source note: FDA — FDA Launches Framework for Accelerating Development of Individualized Therapies for Ultra-Rare Diseases (Feb 23, 2026) — <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-launches-framework-accelerating-development-individualized-therapies-ultra-rare-diseases>

- Claim: FDA advisers scheduled a meeting to recommend influenza strains for the 2026–2027 vaccine.

- Power: upstream scientific choices shape downstream manufacturing and public protection.
- Sandals deployment: transparent selection criteria, equitable distribution planning, and low-friction access channels.
- Throne deployment: access gated by pricing, status, or administrative barriers; misinformation used for faction punishment.
- Policy hinge: whether logistics funding matches the science (delivery is the ark).
- Audit/Sunset: audit distribution gaps; publish uptake by vulnerability; sunset barriers like excessive prior authorizations.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning (infrastructure science) unless deployed as gate.
- Sandals action: Fund delivery like a public utility.

Source note: Reuters report on FDA advisory meeting (Feb 25, 2026).

SW-2026-02-03 — Climate Central Monthly Attribution Overview (January 2026)

- Claim: Climate Central analyzed how climate change affected U.S. temperatures in January 2026 using the Climate Shift Index (CSI) and NOAA ACIS data.
- Power: attribution tools shape public perception and policy urgency; can route either help or punishment.
- Sandals deployment: use attribution to prioritize heat shelters, insulation, flood control, resilient grids, and protections for high-exposure workers.
- Throne deployment: use attribution as a legitimacy engine for exemptions upward and penalties downward; compliance regimes without sunset.
- Policy hinge: whether funding goes to infrastructure-first adaptation or to status-test enforcement.
- Audit/Sunset: climate policies require sunset, audit of who pays/who benefits, and kill-switches when harm increases homelessness/energy insecurity.
- Verdict: Hinge (the hinge).
- Sandals action: When the chart turns red, send buses—not paperwork.

SW-2026-02-10 — Western U.S. Snowpack / Drought Metrics (Infrastructure pressure)

Source note: Climate Central — Monthly Attribution Overview: January 2026 (Feb 3, 2026) — <https://www.climatecentral.org/report/monthly-attribution-overview-january-2026>

- Claim: January/early-February 2026 indicators show severe snowpack deficits in parts of the West and widespread dryness.
- Power: water metrics can trigger either resilience investments or punitive rationing that hits the poor first.
- Sandals deployment: harden water systems, fund drought relief, protect farmworkers and low-income households, invest in efficiency that reduces bills.
- Throne deployment: fines and cutoffs without support; exemptions for large users; surveillance without appeal.
- Policy hinge: emergency drought governance—whether it is aid-first or punishment-first.
- Audit/Sunset: time-bound emergency rules; audit exemptions and shutoffs; appeal paths for households.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if aid-first).
- Sandals action: No shutoffs without support and appeal.

Source note: Climate Central January 2026 briefing highlights.

SW-2026-01-27 — Plastics Lifecycle Health Modeling (Lancet Planetary Health summary reports)

- Claim: Modeling suggests health harms across plastics lifecycle could increase significantly by 2040 without intervention.
- Power: lifecycle science supports regulation, product design shifts, and waste governance; also risks being used for performative compliance without repair.
- Sandals deployment: source reduction, safer materials, waste infrastructure, and protections for frontline communities near extraction/processing.
- Throne deployment: offset markets and PR compliance that keeps production rising; costs exported to poor communities and countries.

- Policy hinge: whether policy targets production and toxic exposures, or only downstream recycling theater.
- Audit/Sunset: measure exposure and health outcomes near facilities; sunset loopholes; publish enforcement results.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if upstream harms are addressed).
- Sandals action: Measure harm where people live, then fund repair.

SW-2026-01-13 — Microplastics in the Human Body: Method Disputes (Measurement integrity)

Source note: Lancet Planetary Health (via PubMed) — Global health burdens of plastics: a lifecycle assessment model from 2016 to 2040 (Epub Jan 26, 2026) — <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41610860/>

Source note: London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine — Global health impacts of plastics systems could double by 2040 (Jan 2026) — <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2026/global-health-impacts-plastics-systems-could-double-2040>

- Claim: Some high-profile microplastics-in-body findings have been challenged due to contamination and analytical limitations.
- Power: measurement disputes can be used either to improve standards (sandals) or to weaponize doubt (thrones).
- Sandals deployment: improve protocols, contamination controls, and replication; communicate uncertainty honestly while reducing exposure risk.
- Throne deployment: plastic lobby uses disputes to dismiss legitimate harms; ‘no evidence’ becomes a license not to measure.
- Policy hinge: whether standards improve and harm measurement continues, or whether doubt becomes permanent.
- Audit/Sunset: require transparent methods; replication priority; disclosures of conflicts; prevent ‘absence-of-evidence’ laundering.
- Verdict: Hinge (mimicry risk: doubt can be science or weapon).
- Sandals action: Upgrade the instrument; don’t abandon the question.

Source note: Reporting on challenges to microplastics methodology (Jan 13, 2026).

SW-2025-11-21 — Algorithm Accountability (Transparency law proposals as governance)

- Claim: Proposed U.S. legislation addresses algorithm accountability and platform liability dynamics (introduced late 2025).
- Power: legal rules define whether models must be audited, appealed, and sunset—or whether vendors can govern by IP seals.
- Sandals deployment: audit rights, transparency, and appeal paths; limits on cross-domain scoring; protections against retaliation for reporting harms.
- Throne deployment: performative regulation that protects incumbents; loopholes that preserve sealed scoring systems.
- Policy hinge: whether audit and redress are enforceable, and whether universal scoring is prohibited.
- Audit/Sunset: require time-bounded deployments and mandatory impact assessments for high-risk systems.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (depends on enforcement).
- Sandals action: Put appeal and redress into law.

Policy Arc 2 — Lead (Harm Measurement → Denial → Phaseout + Remediation)

Lead science shows that true measurement can still be throne-facing if remediation is underfunded and enforcement is uneven.

The core fight was never the lab result. The fight was who would bear the cost of removing lead from housing and fuel.

Phaseouts lowered exposure, but repair lag created a two-tier reality: some neighborhoods recovered; others stayed poisoned.

Custody Map

- Property owners and industries resist costs; renters carry exposure.
- Enforcement varies with political power.
- Children pay lifelong costs while budgets look ‘balanced.’

Exits Map

- Exits widen when abatement is funded where exposure is highest.
- Exits close when measurement becomes a report without repair.

Audit/Sunset Recommendations

- Exposure audits by neighborhood + income; publish remediation progress.
- Sunset ‘acceptable exposure’ when harm is known.
- Trigger remediation funding when thresholds are exceeded.

What to Build Instead (Ark)

- Fund abatement and relocation supports.
- Prioritize schools and low-income housing first.
- Pair measurement with repair dollars and timelines.

Canon line: The warning is not the product; the ark is.

These parables train discernment: how measurement becomes mercy or custody. Each ends with a sandals line—speech that widens exits.

Policy Arc 3 — Ozone (Measurement → Treaty → Coordinated Transition)

The ozone story is an ark example: science became coordinated policy with a clear target and a workable transition.

It succeeded because it built a replacement pathway rather than only demanding sacrifice.

Custody Map

- Global coordination required; industries needed transition support.
- Custody risk was shifting costs onto poorer nations.

Exits Map

- Exits widen when treaties fund transitions and share technology.
- Exits close when phaseouts are demanded without support.

Audit/Sunset Recommendations

- Audit progress transparently; maintain verification.
- Sunset exemptions; enforce compliance with support mechanisms.

What to Build Instead (Ark)

- Technology transition funds.

- Shared replacement tech.
- Clear timelines with capacity-building.

Canon line: The warning is not the product; the ark is.

Keystone Parables (Science Quadrants)

Policy Arc 4 — Healthcare Metrics (Evidence → Reimbursement → Compliance Theater)

Evidence-based medicine can widen exits, but proxy metrics can turn care into paperwork.

When reimbursement follows proxies, clinicians optimize for coding. The dashboard becomes the patient the system actually serves.

The sandals move is to measure outcomes that matter to the burdened and to fund the exits required to achieve them.

Custody Map

- Payers/admins control definitions and incentives.
- Clinicians carry blame for constraints they don't control.
- Patients pay with time, travel, and denial loops.

Exits Map

- Exits widen with low-friction access and time-bounded appeals.
- Exits close when compliance becomes eligibility and care becomes paperwork.

Audit/Sunset Recommendations

- Publish missingness: who stops showing up and why.
- Sunset prior authorizations; require re-justification.
- Appeal paths with real timelines and redress.

What to Build Instead (Ark)

- Transport supports, extended hours, simplified forms.
- Outcome metrics tied to function and dignity.
- Harm thresholds that trigger automatic policy reversal.

Canon line: The warning is not the product; the ark is.

These four longer parables anchor the field. The smaller parables that follow are satellites and variants.

Policy Arc 5 — Predictive Scoring (Risk Science → Eligibility → Social Credit Creep)

Risk models drift into social credit when scores cross domains and become universal gates.

The danger is not only bad prediction. The danger is portable punishment without due process.

The sandals move is to constrain scope, enforce appeal, and redirect models toward help rather than punishment.

Custody Map

- Vendors/agencies hold custody; IP blocks audit.
- Diffuse partners enforce scores; accountability dissolves.
- The scored person becomes a probability rather than a citizen.

Exits Map

- Exits widen when models allocate support services with consent.
- Exits close when scores deny housing, jobs, travel, banking, or care.

Audit/Sunset Recommendations

- Scope limits by law; cross-domain use prohibited.
- Sunset + revalidation; kill-switches for harm.
- Right to appeal and redress.

What to Build Instead (Ark)

- Use models to route help (rides, housing support), not to route punishment.
- Publish and audit pipelines.
- Build alternatives for those harmed by model error.

Canon line: The warning is not the product; the ark is.

Keystone 1 — The Open Clinic Blueprint (Shield Science)

Policy Arc 6 — Climate (Measurement → Policy Menu → Ark-First vs Gate-First)

Climate is the hinge point: science is strong enough to justify action and broad enough to justify control.

Ark-first climate focuses on infrastructure, prevention, and equity. Gate-first climate focuses on punishment, status tests, and permanent emergency powers.

The moral test is not who agrees; it is what is built and who is protected first.

Custody Map

- Custody concentrates when emergency governance has no sunset.
- Exemptions upward convert climate into a legitimacy engine for inequality.
- Surveillance regimes become permanent under crisis language.

Exits Map

- Exits widen with insulation, cooling centers, flood control, resilient grids, and transit.
- Exits close when costs are exported downward through fees, paperwork, and exclusion.

Audit/Sunset Recommendations

- Sunset emergency powers; audit who pays and who is exempt.
- Measure help delivered, not compliance punished.
- Kill-switches for harm when policies increase homelessness or energy insecurity.

What to Build Instead (Ark)

- Hardening infrastructure; protect vulnerable first.
- Rebates and direct supports that reduce burdens.
- Transparency + repair budgets tied to metrics.

Canon line: The warning is not the product; the ark is.

A small clinic in a rural town kept losing patients—not because doctors were bad, but because care was hard to reach.

Bridge note: These arcs are not morality tales about scientists as heroes or villains. They are maps of deployment. The same discovery can widen exits or concentrate custody depending on governance.

A research team offered help. Instead of selling a product, they opened their notebook: appointment no-shows mapped to bus routes; insulin gaps mapped to payday cycles; asthma spikes mapped to moldy housing.

They published the data pipeline and admitted uncertainty. They invited critics. They asked the community to correct them.

The interventions were unglamorous: free ride vouchers, evening hours, forms reduced to one page, a mobile nurse rotation, mold grants routed through local churches and libraries.

Hospitalizations fell. Costs fell. The tool spread because it was not owned. The ‘science’ did not end in a paper; it ended in exits.

Analysis Box

Custody: Dispersed. Methods and data documentation were open; community co-owned the story.

Exits: Widened. Transport, hours, simplified forms, mobile care—practical arks.

Audit/Sunset: Audit by replication and local oversight; sunset by scheduled review and revision.

Flow: Accountability upward (funders/officials), mercy downward (burdened patients).

Verdict: Shield Science: measurement used to widen exits.

Point-back: This is Shield Science because openness + audit produced infrastructure, not gates.

Sandals line: “Publish the blueprint, then build the exits.”

SC-001 — The Denial Algorithm

Keystone 2 — The Protected Dataset (Shield Lie in Science)

A lab documented a pattern: a company’s chemical was harming workers. The data came from employees who would be fired if identified.

The company demanded raw files. Lawyers demanded names. ‘Transparency,’ they said.

The lab refused immediate disclosure of identities. They released aggregate findings, methods, and thresholds. They set a sunset: identities would be disclosed only under court protection and whistleblower safeguards.

In the meantime, they built the ark: they helped workers file complaints, found independent clinicians, and created an escape map for those who needed to leave.

The company called it deception. The workers called it mercy.

Analysis Box

Custody: Temporarily protected to prevent retaliation; methods remained auditable.

Exits: Widened. Complaints, clinical support, job exits, legal protection.

Audit/Sunset: Sunset and audit explicit: disclose under protection, keep methods open now.

Flow: Accountability upward (company), mercy downward (workers).

Verdict: Shield Lie: protective concealment used to preserve exits while building repair.

Point-back: This is Shield Lie because concealment blocked abusive access with clear sunset + audit.

Sandals line: "Protect the vulnerable first; publish methods; sunset secrecy."

An insurer used a model to deny coverage for 'low expected benefit.' The model's inputs were secret. Appeals took 90 days. People died in the waiting.

Keystone 3 — The Risk Score Court (Cage Truth Science)

A city adopted a 'risk score' to allocate services. The score predicted emergencies fairly well—on average.

Soon landlords demanded it. Employers demanded it. Schools demanded it. A person's score became their life access.

The score was accurate enough to be defended, and opaque enough to be unchallengeable.

People with low scores lost options; losing options made their scores worse. The model was 'right' because it made itself right.

A true metric became a portable cage.

Analysis Box

Custody: Concentrated in score owners and partners.

Exits: Closed across domains; appeal pathways weak.

Audit/Sunset: No sunset; audit blocked by IP and 'best practice.'

Flow: Accountability downward; mercy upward.

Verdict: Cage Truth Science: accurate measurement used as jurisdiction.

Point-back: This is Cage Truth because true risk data was deployed as an unappealable gate.

Sandals line: “Risk is not guilt. Scores must expire.”

Analysis Box

Keystone 4 — The Sponsored Truth (Cage Lie Science)

An industry needed permission to keep extracting. It funded studies designed to find ‘no evidence of harm.’

The studies measured what was easy and ignored what mattered. The press releases were louder than the methods.

Regulators accepted ‘science’ as a shield for power. Communities asked for health data and were told none existed—because it was never collected.

The absence of evidence became a weapon. The harm continued, now licensed by a paper.

Analysis Box

Custody: Concentrated in funders who control endpoints and publication.

Exits: Closed by manufactured doubt; victims carry burden-of-proof.

Audit/Sunset: Audit resisted; sunset absent; doubt perpetual.

Flow: Accountability downward; mercy upward.

Verdict: Cage Lie Science: junk science used to launder extraction.

Point-back: This is Cage Lie because ‘science’ was engineered to block measurement and preserve custody.

Sandals line: “If you won’t measure harm, you don’t get to claim safety.”

Custody: Custody concentrated in insurer + vendor.

Science Mimicry Decoder

Use this to spot ‘science’ used as an authority mask.

- Authority Mask: ‘Trust the experts’ used to block audit.
- Dataset Mask: biased data treated as objective reality.
- Proxy Mask: easy-to-count metrics replace what matters.

- Secrecy Mask: IP blocks appeal and oversight.
- Safety Mask: ‘for your protection’ used to narrow exits.
- Publication Mask: ‘published’ replaces replication.
- Neutrality Mask: ‘we just follow the model’ to avoid accountability.
- Precision Mask: decimals used to imply certainty beyond evidence.

Exits: Exits closed (no appeal in time).

Audit/Sunset: No real audit; no sunset.

Flow: Accountability downward (patients ‘noncompliant’), mercy upward (company ‘sustainable’).

Verdict: Cage Science (jurisdiction by score).

Point-back: Ark absent; sealed inputs + slow appeals.

Sandals line: “If your model can’t be appealed, it’s a cage.”

SC-002 — The Readmission Tax

A hospital punished units for readmissions. Nurses rushed discharges. The poor came back sicker. The dashboard improved.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in admin metrics.

Exits: Exits closed (unsafe discharge).

Audit/Sunset: Audit absent; proxy metric rules.

Flow: Accountability downward to nurses/patients; mercy upward to budgets.

Verdict: Proxy metric cage.

Point-back: Proxy replaces care.

Sandals line: “Measure healing, not speed.”

SC-003 — The Hotspot Map

Police deployed where the model predicted crime. Arrests increased there, feeding the dataset. The model ‘proved’ itself.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in enforcement + data.

Exits: Exits closed for neighborhoods.

Audit/Sunset: No sunset; self-reinforcing.

Flow: Accountability down (community), mercy up (policy).

Verdict: Feedback loop (jurisdiction).

Point-back: Self-fulfilling prophecy.

Sandals line: “A model that feeds itself is not neutral.”

SC-004 — The Compliance Score

A clinic labeled patients ‘noncompliant’ for missed appointments. It ignored buses, jobs, childcare. Noncompliant patients were dropped.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in clinic policies.

Exits: Exits closed (dropped care).

Audit/Sunset: No audit of barriers; no sunset.

Flow: Accountability down (patients), mercy up (clinic).

Verdict: Cage truth (facts used to gate).

Point-back: Right-to-care replaced by eligibility.

Sandals line: “Count friction before you count failure.”

SC-005 — The Study That Sells Chains

A supplement company funded a study with selective endpoints. The press release became ‘science.’

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody via PR framing.

Exits: Exits closed (misled consumers).

Audit/Sunset: No audit; selective reporting.

Flow: Accountability down (buyers), mercy up (company).

Verdict: Cage lie science.

Point-back: Selective endpoints.

Sandals line: “If the study is a sales deck, it’s not science.”

SC-006 — The Open Lab

A research group published code, data, and limitations. Competing teams improved it. The tool spread to clinics with low budgets.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody dispersed.

Exits: Exits widened (access).

Audit/Sunset: Audit by replication; sunset by versioning.

Flow: Accountability up (maintainers), mercy down (patients).

Verdict: Shield science.

Point-back: Open methods.

Sandals line: “Publish the blueprint.”

SC-007 — The Black Box Hiring Filter

A company used an AI to rank applicants. It penalized resume gaps. Mothers vanished from interview pools.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in HR tech.

Exits: Exits closed (jobs).

Audit/Sunset: No audit; no appeal.

Flow: Accountability down (applicants), mercy up (efficiency).

Verdict: Cage science.

Point-back: Bias via proxy.

Sandals line: “If you can’t appeal the score, it’s not merit.”

SC-008 — The Pain Scale

Doctors treated reported pain as subjective noise. The metric rewarded low opioid prescribing. Patients learned to suffer silently.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in metric regime.

Exits: Exits closed (care).

Audit/Sunset: Audit absent; proxy harm ignored.

Flow: Accountability down (patients), mercy up (system).

Verdict: Proxy cage truth.

Point-back: Measurement distorts speech.

Sandals line: “If the metric punishes honesty, it’s a cage.”

SC-009 — The Social Determinants Form

A hospital collected housing and trauma data ‘to help.’ No services existed. The data leaked.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in database.

Exits: Exits closed (risk).

Audit/Sunset: No sunset; weak audit.

Flow: Accountability down (patients), mercy up (institution).

Verdict: Cage truth via surveillance.

Point-back: Data without exits.

Sandals line: “Don’t collect what you can’t repair.”

SC-010 — The Preventive Ark

A city funded free rides to clinics, mobile vaccines, and food support. Hospitalizations fell. Costs fell. Dignity rose.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody dispersed (public services).

Exits: Exits widened (access).

Audit/Sunset: Audit by outcomes; sunset by review.

Flow: Accountability up (city), mercy down (poor).

Verdict: Shield science (ark-building).

Point-back: Prevention infrastructure.

Sandals line: “Lower cost by widening exits.”

SC-011 — The Decimal Priest

A board demanded predictions to two decimals. Scientists complied, then were blamed when reality differed.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in board demands.

Exits: Exits closed (learning).

Audit/Sunset: No sunset; blame cycle.

Flow: Accountability down (scientists), mercy up (leaders).

Verdict: Precision mask mimicry.

Point-back: False certainty.

Sandals line: “Don’t worship decimals.”

SC-012 — The Vendor Shield

A vendor refused to reveal model logic, citing IP. Denied patients couldn't contest. Regulators accepted the seal.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in vendor.

Exits: Exits closed (appeal).

Audit/Sunset: No audit; no sunset.

Flow: Accountability down (patients), mercy up (vendor).

Verdict: Secrecy mask jurisdiction.

Point-back: No audit.

Sandals line: "IP is not a license to govern."

SC-013 — The Disappearing Dataset

A study excluded the sickest because they dropped out. The treatment looked successful.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in publication choices.

Exits: Exits closed (false hope).

Audit/Sunset: Audit weak; missingness ignored.

Flow: Accountability down (dropouts), mercy up (paper).

Verdict: Publication mask.

Point-back: Selection bias.

Sandals line: "Count who disappears."

SC-014 — The Walk-Test

A rehab clinic measured what mattered: walking distance, pain-free sleep, return to work. Billing codes followed healing, not vice versa.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody shifted to patient outcomes.

Exits: Exits widened (function).

Audit/Sunset: Audit by outcomes; sunset by review.

Flow: Accountability up (clinic), mercy down (patients).

Verdict: Shield science metric.

Point-back: Outcome metrics.

Sandals line: “Measure dignity.”

SC-015 — The Price of Breath

An inhaler price model optimized profit. Asthma visits rose. The company called it ‘market reality.’

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in pricing.

Exits: Exits closed (access).

Audit/Sunset: No audit; no sunset.

Flow: Accountability down (patients), mercy up (shareholders).

Verdict: Economics-medical cage.

Point-back: Cost exported downward.

Sandals line: “Breath is not a luxury good.”

SC-016 — The Public Dashboard

A city published hospital wait times and funded staffing to reduce them. It wasn’t blame—it was infrastructure.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody transparent.

Exits: Exits widened (access).

Audit/Sunset: Audit public; sunset by budget cycle.

Flow: Accountability up (leaders), mercy down (patients).

Verdict: Shield science governance.

Point-back: Transparency + repair.

Sandals line: “Publish metrics with money.”

SC-017 — The Genetic Gate

A clinic used genetic risk to deny coverage. People became their probability.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in genetic scoring.

Exits: Exits closed (coverage).

Audit/Sunset: No appeal; no sunset.

Flow: Accountability down (patients), mercy up (insurer).

Verdict: Cage truth science.

Point-back: Risk becomes verdict.

Sandals line: “Probability is not guilt.”

SC-018 — The Replication Drought

A flashy result got press. No one could replicate it. The funding moved on anyway.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in hype.

Exits: Exits closed (wasted resources).

Audit/Sunset: Audit ignored.

Flow: Accountability down (public), mercy up (institutions).

Verdict: Publication mask.

Point-back: Hype without audit.

Sandals line: “If it can’t be replicated, don’t build policy on it.”

SC-019 — The Community IRB

Researchers partnered with the community. Data ownership stayed local. Findings were used to secure housing grants.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody shared.

Exits: Exits widened (housing).

Audit/Sunset: Audit via community oversight; sunset via agreement.

Flow: Accountability up (researchers), mercy down (residents).

Verdict: Shield science consent.

Point-back: Consent + ownership.

Sandals line: “Nothing about us without us.”

SC-020 — The Waiting Room Economy

Appointment slots were sold to those who could pay extra. The clinic called it ‘efficiency.’

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in pricing.

Exits: Exits closed (poor).

Audit/Sunset: No audit; no sunset.

Flow: Accountability down, mercy up.

Verdict: Cage economics in medicine.

Point-back: Queue as gate.

Sandals line: “Time is an exit. Don’t sell it upward.”

SC-021 — The Statute of Models

A law codified a scoring system. Even after it was wrong, agencies said they ‘had to comply.’

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in statute.

Exits: Exits closed (no change).

Audit/Sunset: No sunset; no update path.

Flow: Accountability down (citizens), mercy up (state).

Verdict: Jurisdiction lock.

Point-back: No sunset.

Sandals line: “Models must expire.”

SC-022 — The Null Hypothesis Trap

A safety advocate was told ‘no evidence of harm’ meant safe. The data wasn’t collected. The harm continued.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in burden-of-proof.

Exits: Exits closed.

Audit/Sunset: Audit absent; data missing.

Flow: Accountability down (victims), mercy up (industry).

Verdict: Neutrality mask.

Point-back: Non-measurement as power.

Sandals line: “Absence of evidence can be a custody choice.”

SC-023 — The Humane Threshold

A hospital set a harm threshold: if denials caused X ER visits, policy was reversed automatically.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody constrained.

Exits: Exits protected.

Audit/Sunset: Audit + sunset built-in.

Flow: Accountability up (policy owners), mercy down (patients).

Verdict: Sandals governance.

Point-back: Sunset triggers.

Sandals line: “Build kill-switches for harm.”

SC-024 — The Paper Cure

A therapy program optimized paperwork completion. Graduates were ‘successful’ on forms while suicide rose off-record.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody in forms.

Exits: Exits closed (real healing).

Audit/Sunset: Audit absent; outcome ignored.

Flow: Accountability down (clients), mercy up (program).

Verdict: Compliance theater.

Point-back: Proxy kills truth.

Sandals line: “If your cure is paper, check the bodies.”

SC-025 — The Score That Ate the City

A city launched a ‘trust score’ to reduce fraud. At first it was narrow: late parking tickets raised your risk. Then landlords asked for the score. Then employers. Then banks. Then schools. A low score didn’t just punish one behavior; it punished life access.

People stopped taking risks that looked suspicious to the model: helping a neighbor who had a low score, donating to the ‘wrong’ cause, attending a protest, missing work for a sick child. The score trained obedience without ever using a baton.

The mayor called it modern science. But the city learned the old truth: when a number governs everything, the number becomes a throne.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody concentrated in the score owners (data + definitions + enforcement partners).

Exits: Exits closed across domains; low score became a portable cage.

Audit/Sunset: Opaque logic; weak appeal; no sunset; scope creep.

Flow: Accountability downward (scored people punished), mercy upward (system excused as ‘objective’).

Verdict: Cage Science (social credit / jurisdiction-by-metric).

Point-back: This is Cage Science because a universal score governed universal access without audit, sunset, or exits.

Sandals line: “No universal score may govern universal life access.”

SC-026 — Soft Social Credit

A company insisted it didn’t run social credit. It simply shared ‘risk insights’ with partners: a hiring score, a tenant score, a loan score. Each score was ‘optional.’ Each partner said it was ‘best practice.’

No one person could see the whole system because it was distributed. A rejected applicant was told, ‘It’s not us; it’s the model.’ A denied renter was told, ‘It’s not the landlord; it’s the score.’ Accountability dissolved into paperwork.

The model was never voted on. It was never sunset. It never had a court. It simply became the invisible gate under modern life.

Analysis Box

Custody: Custody concentrated through interoperable scoring vendors and partners.

Exits: Exits narrowed via diffuse, unappealable gates.

Audit/Sunset: No single audit owner; IP blocks transparency; no sunset.

Flow: Accountability downward; mercy upward (‘we just follow best practice’).

Verdict: Cage Science mimicry (distributed social credit).

Point-back: This is jurisdiction by metric: decentralized enforcement without due process.

Sandals line: “If you can’t name the owner, you can’t appeal the gate.”

BOOK VI — THE CHARGE

Science is not only fact-finding. Science is reality-work under power.

Therefore we charge the reader to test science twice: by evidence and by governance.

The Charge:

- Do not let “the model says so” replace audit, appeal, and consent.
- No audit + no sunset is presumed cage science.
- No universal score may govern universal life access.
- Measure what matters to the vulnerable: function, safety, stability, dignity.
- Build arks: prevention infrastructure that lowers cost by widening exits.
- Keep accountability upward and mercy downward—especially when the system is ‘right’ on paper and wrong in bodies.

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APPENDIX A — Canon Governance (Science Record)

This record is living, but it is not lawless. Growth must remain sandals-facing.

1) Versioning

- Each public update increments the version (v0.4, v0.5...).

2) Parable Rules

- Every parable must have a stable ID (SC-###), an Analysis Box, a Point-back line, and a Sandals line.
- No duplicates: search by title and pattern before adding.

3) Anti-Weaponization Rule

- Science may not be used as ‘model says so’ jurisdiction. High-impact models require audit, appeal, and sunset.

4) Audit/Sunset Standard

- No audit + no sunset is presumed cage science.

APPENDIX B — Errata and Clarifications

Errata Log (newest first):

- (YYYY-MM-DD) [Location: Ch.____ / SC-____] — Issue — Correction / Clarification — Why it matters.

Seed clarifications:

- Models are tools; tool governance matters.
- Universal scores governing universal life access are condemned as jurisdiction-by-metric.
- Prevention infrastructure is sandals science: lowering cost by widening exits.

See also: SC-003 (The Hotspot Map), SC-015 (The Price of Breath), SC-021 (The Statute of Models), and the Social Credit condemnation in Chapter 4.

APPENDIX C — The Trilogy Bridge

Truth • Prophet • Science — One Lens, Three Doors

THE TRILOGY BRIDGE

Truth • Prophet • Science — One Lens, Three Doors

The Unified Lens

These three records are one lens applied to three human domains. Each domain has its own language, but the moral physics are the same: custody, exits, audit/sunset, and flow (accountability upward, mercy downward).

1) The Book of Truth — Speech Under Power

Truth is not only accuracy. Truth can be used as a shield or as a cage.

- Shield Truth: truth that protects the vulnerable and widens exits.
- Shield Lie: temporary concealment to block abusive access and preserve an exit (with sunset).

- Cage Truth: accurate words used to bind, shame, or install jurisdiction.
- Cage Lie: deception used to seize custody while claiming ‘protection.’

2) The Book of the Prophet — Warning + Ark-Building

A prophet is not a fortune teller. A prophet is a witness against thrones and a builder of exits.

- The warning is not the product; the ark is.
- Protective prophecy is conditional and repair-oriented.
- Performative prediction becomes a proof contest and breeds drift.
- No ark = jurisdiction theater.

3) The Book of Science — Measurement Under Power

Science is not only ‘is it true?’ Science is also what models produce and who they empower.

- Models are tools; whoever holds the handle can steer outcomes.
- Custody of data defines what becomes ‘real’ to institutions.
- No audit + no sunset = cage science.
- No universal score may govern universal life access.

The Shared Test (10 Seconds)

Use this on speech, prophecy, and science alike:

- Who gained custody?
- Did exits widen or close?
- Where is the audit and the sunset?
- Did accountability move upward and mercy downward?
- Is this building an ark—or building a gate?

Canon line: The real battle is Sandals vs Thrones—what the work produces, and who it serves.

SW-2026-02-21 — U.S. ultimatum to IEA over net-zero goals (climate data governance)

Source note: Congress.gov — H.R.6266 Algorithm Accountability Act (Introduced Nov 21, 2025) — <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119/house-bill/6266>

Source note: Congress.gov — H.R.6266 text (as introduced) — <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/6266/text>

- Claim: U.S. threatens to withdraw funding/membership unless IEA drops net-zero goals in its World Energy Outlook framing.
- Power: institutions that define energy ‘reality’ steer investment and legitimacy.
- Sandals deployment: keep measurement independent; fund adaptation and infrastructure; protect vulnerable first.
- Throne deployment: politicize measurement; use ‘realism’ language to preserve incumbents; delay arks while extracting rents.
- Policy hinge: who gets to publish the ‘official’ story of energy futures; whether that story funds exits or delays them.
- Audit/Sunset: publish assumptions; require independent replication; separate measurement from executive pressure.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Thrones if measurement is politicized.
- Sandals action: Protect the instrument; don’t seize the thermometer.

Source note: Reuters Sustainable Switch Climate Focus (Feb 21, 2026).

SW-2026-02-09 — Climate-driven homeowners insurance crisis (pricing as gate)

- Claim: climate-linked disasters drive rising premiums and insurer withdrawals/cancellations in high-risk areas.
- Power: insurance pricing becomes a housing gate; risk science becomes eligibility jurisdiction.
- Sandals deployment: mitigation funding (retrofits, fireproofing), risk reduction that lowers bills, and public backstops with repair conditions.
- Throne deployment: cost export downward; cancellations without transition; exemptions for large actors; ‘risk’ used to displace the poor.

- Policy hinge: whether governments treat insurance as infrastructure (ark) or as market punishment (gate).
- Audit/Sunset: audit cancellations and premium hikes by income/region; require appeal/transition; sunset emergency surcharges.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Sandals action: No pricing gate without mitigation money and transition exits.

SW-2025-12-17 — Senate resolution linking climate change to insurance premiums (narrative-to-policy pipeline)

Source note: High Country News — As the planet heats, insurance premiums rise (Feb 9, 2026) — <https://www.hcn.org/issues/58-2/as-the-planet-heats-insurance-premiums-rise/>

- Claim: Senate resolution recognizes link between climate change and skyrocketing insurance premiums and housing affordability.
- Power: official recognition shapes regulatory and litigation pathways; can justify either help or punishment.
- Sandals deployment: use recognition to fund resilience and affordability supports; prioritize vulnerable communities.
- Throne deployment: use recognition for symbolic politics while costs still land downward; exemptions upward persist.
- Policy hinge: whether recognition becomes funding and repair or becomes rhetoric.
- Audit/Sunset: track affordability metrics; require reporting on who is priced out; sunset crisis measures that worsen homelessness.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals if tied to repair funding.
- Sandals action: Convert resolutions into repair budgets with timelines.

Source note: Congress.gov text of S.Res.554 (introduced Dec 17, 2025).

SW-2026-01-29 — NERC warns of rising winter outage risk (electrification + fuel mix)

- Claim: NERC assessment warns U.S. faces growing outage risks as winter demand rises and reserve margins shrink.
- Power: grid reliability science can route either infrastructure investment or punishment pricing.
- Sandals deployment: harden grid, diversify supply, weatherize, protect low-income households from shutoffs.
- Throne deployment: scarcity pricing without protection; emergency orders without sunset; costs exported downward.
- Policy hinge: whether reliability warnings become infrastructure arks or become price/custody leverage.
- Audit/Sunset: require reliability filings, publish outage risk by region, sunset emergency exceptions.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Sandals action: Reliability is an ark—fund it before the crisis.

SW-2026-01-24 — Cold blast stresses U.S. grid (scarcity pricing and emergency operations)

Source note: Reuters — US faces growing risks of power outages due to rising winter demand, changing fuel mix (Jan 29, 2026) — <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-faces-growing-risks-power-outages-due-rising-winter-demand-changing-fuel-mix-2026-01-29/>

- Claim: extreme cold drove emergency grid measures and huge price spikes; fuel constraints stressed system.
- Power: scarcity pricing + emergency operations can become either resilience investment trigger or profit extraction moment.
- Sandals deployment: weatherization, fuel resilience, consumer protections, and transparent emergency governance.
- Throne deployment: profit harvesting during crisis; shutoffs; exemptions upward; emergency powers without sunset.

- Policy hinge: whether response invests in resilience or normalizes crisis extraction.
- Audit/Sunset: audit emergency pricing impacts; time-bound emergency orders; publish outages and protections.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Sandals action: Don't monetize the blizzard—weatherize the grid.

Source note: Reuters on grid stress amid cold blast (Jan 24, 2026).

SW-2026-01-30 — DOE extends emergency order in New England (Section 202(c) powers)

- Claim: DOE extended emergency order allowing ISO-NE to run specified resources regardless of some permit limits to prevent blackouts.
- Power: emergency powers can stabilize life access or normalize exception regimes.
- Sandals deployment: time-bounded emergency action to save lives + transparent after-action + investment in long-term fixes.
- Throne deployment: emergency exception becomes permanent; pollution burdens exported to poor neighborhoods; no sunset.
- Policy hinge: whether emergency is paired with an infrastructure transition plan.
- Audit/Sunset: strict end date, public reporting, and trigger-based termination; mitigation for impacted communities.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Sandals action: Emergency now—repairs next—sunset always.

SW-2026-02-04 — CDC antimicrobial resistance investments (infrastructure science)

Source note: DOE — Energy Department Extends Emergency Order in New England Ahead of Second Winter Storm (Jan 30, 2026) — <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-extends-emergency-order-new-england-ahead-second-winter-storm>

Source note: DOE CESER — 2026 DOE 202(c) Orders (ISO-NE order listing) — <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/2026-doe-202c-orders>

- Claim: CDC outlines AR Solutions Initiative investments to detect/contain/prevent resistant infections across settings.
- Power: infrastructure funding determines whether AMR becomes an avoidable crisis or a managed threat.
- Sandals deployment: strengthen surveillance, stewardship, and infection control in communities; protect vulnerable facilities.
- Throne deployment: underfund prevention, then ration care later; blame individuals for system gaps.
- Policy hinge: whether prevention is funded as baseline infrastructure or treated as optional.
- Audit/Sunset: publish program outcomes; audit prescribing incentives; sunset OTC loopholes that fuel resistance.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning.
- Sandals action: Prevention funding is cheaper than crisis rationing.

Source note: CDC AR Investments & Action page (Feb 4, 2026).

SW-2026-02-15 — WHO report: mainstream AMR into primary health care (systems integration)

- Claim: WHO report argues AMR interventions should be mainstreamed into PHC systems (stewardship, IPC, surveillance, community engagement).
- Power: PHC integration can shift AMR from specialty crisis to routine prevention.
- Sandals deployment: embed stewardship with access and education; regulate OTC antibiotic sales; protect patients and clinics.
- Throne deployment: punitive restrictions without access; shortages; blaming clinicians without resourcing systems.
- Policy hinge: whether governments fund PHC capacity and regulation or only issue mandates.
- Audit/Sunset: measure antibiotic use patterns; audit OTC sales; review stewardship outcomes periodically.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning.

- Sandals action: Make the default path the safe path.

SW-2026-01-22 — Bill to use AI to review federal regulations (AI as governance lever)

Source note: WHO Western Pacific — Mainstreaming antimicrobial resistance into primary health care (meeting report; Feb 15, 2026) — <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/publications/i/item/mainstreaming-antimicrobial-resistance-into-primary-health-care>

- Claim: House bill would require use of AI to review agency regulations (introduced Jan 22, 2026).
- Power: AI becomes a meta-tool shaping the rulebook; custody depends on who designs and audits the system.
- Sandals deployment: transparent models, public audit, bias checks, and appeal paths; AI used to simplify and widen access.
- Throne deployment: black-box deregulation engine; capture by vendor; rules rewritten without accountability.
- Policy hinge: whether AI review is auditable public infrastructure or sealed vendor governance.
- Audit/Sunset: mandate public evaluation, time-bounded pilots, and kill-switch for harm; prohibit proprietary-only decisions.
- Verdict: Hinge.

SW-2026-04-06 — Insurance AI underwriting guidance: enforcement vs compliance theater (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: state adoption and enforcement of AI governance expectations in insurance underwriting/pricing/claims.
- Power: Underwriting models become social scores; they gate housing, mobility, and work indirectly through cost.
- Sandals deployment: Notice, explanation, appeal/redress; limits on proxy variables; discrimination testing with enforcement.

- Throne deployment: Black-box denials and cancellations; no explanation; burden shifted to consumers; compliance theater.
- Policy hinge: Whether NAIC-style guidance becomes enforceable consumer rights.
- Audit/Sunset: Periodic bias audits; publish adverse-action reasons; sunset models that cannot justify denials.
- Verdict: Hinge (leans Sandals if enforced).
- Source note(s): NAIC Model Bulletin approval:
<https://content.naic.org/index.php/article/naic-members-approve-model-bulletin-use-ai-insurers>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-07 — Credit scoring alternative data: poverty signals as gates (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: proposals to incorporate alternative data (including welfare-linked signals) into credit scoring models.
- Power: Expands scoring surface area; can widen access or encode poverty as risk.
- Sandals deployment: Consent-first, strict purpose limits, clear reason codes, and robust dispute/appeal.
- Throne deployment: Assistance transactions become risk flags; cross-domain score creep; denials without redress.
- Policy hinge: Whether consumer protections lead or whether surveillance scoring expands.
- Audit/Sunset: Disparate-impact audits; sunset factors that correlate with protected traits without necessity.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Congress.gov H.R.5083 text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5083/text>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-08 — Employment screening models: bias audits + redress (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: hiring and workplace screening tools (AI assessments, personality scoring, video analysis) and emerging regulation.
- Power: Employment gates become hidden social credit; errors concentrate harm downward.
- Sandals deployment: Notice, explanation, appeal; audits for disparate impact; accessible alternatives for disabled candidates.
- Throne deployment: Opaque rejection engines; ‘fit’ language as a mask; no appeal; proxy discrimination.
- Policy hinge: Whether laws require audits and candidate rights (notice + contest + correction).
- Audit/Sunset: Mandatory bias audits; public reporting; sunset high-risk tools without validated performance.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if regulated).
- Source note(s): NYC Local Law 144 (AEDT) overview: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dca/about/automated-employment-decision-tools.page>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-09 — Education proctoring: surveillance normalization vs alternatives (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: university policies on remote proctoring and whether students have non-surveillance options.
- Power: Proctoring tools normalize surveillance and create integrity scores that gate education pathways.
- Sandals deployment: Offer on-campus testing without penalty; strict retention limits; appeals for false flags; accommodations.
- Throne deployment: Forced surveillance; coercive consent; punitive flags without redress; disability bias.
- Policy hinge: Whether integrity is treated as infrastructure (options) or as a surveillance gate.

- Audit/Sunset: Publish false positive rates; third-party audits; sunset vendors that won't disclose methods.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Research (JCHE, 2025):
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12528-025-09461-5>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-10 — Data brokers and consent: rollback vs rights (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: consumer protection rules for data brokers and whether consent/inspection/deletion rights are strengthened or weakened.
- Power: Data brokerage fuels scoring systems across domains (credit, insurance, hiring, ads).
- Sandals deployment: Broker registries, opt-out deletion, inspection rights, and strong penalties.
- Throne deployment: Invisible dossiers sold without consent; portable cages built from proxy data; retaliation risk increases.
- Policy hinge: Whether regulation protects people or protects data markets.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish broker compliance metrics; sunset permissive interpretations when harms spike.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (if rollback persists).
- Source note(s): Wired coverage (rollback): <https://www.wired.com/story/cfpb-quietly-kills-rule-to-shield-americans-from-data-brokers>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-11 — AI civil rights constraints on eligibility engines (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: legislative efforts to impose civil-rights style constraints on algorithmic decisions and automated eligibility gates.
- Power: Sets boundary conditions for scoring systems so they cannot become universal gates without accountability.

- Sandals deployment: Notice, explanation, appeal/redress, and enforceable audits.
- Throne deployment: Optional/weak constraints; IP shields; no individual standing; compliance theater.
- Policy hinge: Whether rights become enforceable across domains (credit, insurance, hiring, housing).
- Audit/Sunset: Impact assessments; independent audits; remedies; sunset exemptions.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning (intent; depends on enforcement).
- Source note(s): Congress.gov S.3308 text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/3308/text>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-12 — AMR as infrastructure: prevention funding vs rationing later (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: investments in antimicrobial resistance prevention and stewardship programs across hospitals and communities.
- Power: Prevention funding determines whether AMR becomes an avoidable crisis or a rationing regime.
- Sandals deployment: Fund surveillance, stewardship, infection prevention in under-resourced facilities; regulate OTC sales where relevant.
- Throne deployment: Underfund prevention; blame individuals later; ration access; punish poor communities.
- Policy hinge: Whether prevention is funded as baseline infrastructure.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish program outcomes; audit incentives; sunset loopholes that fuel resistance.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning.
- Source note(s): CDC AR investments page: <https://www.cdc.gov/antimicrobial-resistance/programs/ar-investments.html>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-13 — Vaccine delivery: access-first vs compliance gates (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: vaccine policy debates and whether they produce access-first delivery and trust repair or compliance gating.
- Power: Recommendations and logistics shape access and trust; instability can become a gate.
- Sandals deployment: Transparent standards, stable panels, easy access, and redress for harmed individuals.
- Throne deployment: Politicized shifts; faction punishment; eligibility gates; denial loops.
- Policy hinge: Whether guidance builds delivery arks and trust repair.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish rationales and conflicts; time-bound revisions; measure help delivered.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Reuters ACIP rescheduling (Feb 24, 2026):
<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-cdc-vaccine-panel-meet-march-18-2026-02-24/>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-14 — Frontier AI governance: audits, thresholds, and revocation paths (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: frontier AI policies (RSPs, risk reports, safety roadmaps) and whether they bind themselves to independent audit and sunset.
- Power: Thresholds decide when models ship and who bears the risk; can widen exits or concentrate custody.
- Sandals deployment: External audits, public risk reporting, kill-switches, and anti-retaliation reporting channels.
- Throne deployment: Race logic weakens guardrails; proprietary assessments replace public audit; deployment outruns governance.
- Policy hinge: Voluntary policy vs enforceable regulation and audit requirements.

- Audit/Sunset: Independent audits; time-bounded deployments; revocation paths when harms exceed thresholds.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Anthropic Responsible Scaling Policy: <https://www.anthropic.com/responsible-scaling-policy>
- Source note(s): —

SW-2026-04-15 — Plastics harms: lifecycle measurement → upstream policy (Watchlist)

- Claim: Watch: lifecycle health modeling of plastics and whether policy targets upstream production/toxic exposure or only downstream recycling theater.
- Power: Lifecycle science can justify regulation or become performative compliance.
- Sandals deployment: Source reduction, safer materials, waste infrastructure, and protections for frontline communities.
- Throne deployment: Offset/PR compliance while production rises; costs exported to poor communities.
- Policy hinge: Whether policy targets production and toxic exposures, not just downstream sorting.
- Audit/Sunset: Measure exposure near facilities; publish enforcement results; sunset loopholes.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if upstream targeted).
- Source note(s): PubMed record (Lancet Planetary Health, Jan 2026): <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41610860/>
- Source note(s): —

APPENDIX G — WATCHLIST → CASEFILE CONVERSION PROTOCOL

Use this protocol to convert ‘Watch:’ entries into dated casefiles without rewriting the whole record.

- Step 1: Replace the title’s month placeholder with the actual date (SW-YYYY-MM-DD) based on the publication date of the primary source.
- Step 2: Replace the ‘Watch:’ sentence in Claim with a concrete statement: what happened, who published, what changed.
- Step 3: Add a Citation Snapshot line in Source notes: Outlet/Org — Exact Title — Publish Date — URL.
- Step 4: If multiple narratives exist, add a ‘Conflict’ line: what differs, and why it matters for policy deployment.
- Step 5: Lock the Policy hinge: name the specific policy lever (law, guidance, enforcement action, procurement, pricing mechanism).
- Step 6: Tighten Audit/Sunset: specify the audit owner, frequency, and the sunset trigger.
- Step 7: Re-run Verdict: if enforcement or pricing shifted, the verdict may change (Hinge → Sandals/Thrones).
- Step 8: Update the Month Cover + Changelog and move the entry out of Watchlist status.

Rule: do not delete the watchlist language—log it as ‘Watchlist origin’ in the changelog if it mattered.

Science Watch — May 2026 Drop

LOCKED: 15/15 — Watchlist edition (conversion triggers + citation snapshots).

Cover Page (template)

Top 5 hinge stories:

- SW-2026-05-01 — Prior authorization as medical social credit
- SW-2026-05-10 — Insurance AI underwriting enforcement vs compliance theater
- SW-2026-05-12 — Hiring filters: automated rejection without redress
- SW-2026-05-08 — Frontier model evaluations: independent audit vs self-attestation
- SW-2026-05-09 — AI in government benefits eligibility: help vs gate

Three throne risks to watch:

- Healthcare rationing by paperwork and delay (prior auth) framed as ‘efficiency’.
- Eligibility engines expanding faster than appeal/redress across benefits, credit, and insurance.
- Frontier AI safety framed as branding while audits remain optional (self-attestation).

Three sandals wins to build on:

- Prior-auth reforms that enforce time limits, transparency, and continuity of care.
- Mandatory incident reporting + whistleblower protections for AI harms.
- AMR prevention funding treated as infrastructure, not blame-after-the-fact.

Ark to build next (recommended):

- Universal rule: no denial gate without explanation + fast appeal + continuity bridge.
- Make incident reporting public infrastructure (publish harm, then fix it).
- Bind frontier AI to independent evaluations and revocation paths.

Canon line: If a system can deny life access, it must be auditable, appealable, and time-bounded.

[Changelog \(template\)](#)

May 2026 Drop

- Entries added: 15
- Corrections: none logged (as of this release)
- Retired/updated entries: none
- Notes: Theme = Medicine + AI + Scoring. Primary risk = gates without appeal; primary ark = audit + redress + sunset.

[Theme \(recommended\): Medicine + AI + Scoring](#)

Goal: track where ‘safety’ language becomes gates, and where audits + redress become arks.

[Intake Slots \(copy/paste and replace\)](#)

SW-2026-05-01 — Prior authorization as a medical social credit (coverage gate)

- Claim: Watch: payer prior authorization and utilization management rules that delay or deny medically necessary care.
- Power: Coverage gates become health eligibility jurisdiction; delays concentrate harm downward.
- Sandals deployment: Standardized criteria, time limits, transparency, and automatic approvals for continuity of care; appeal/redress with penalties for bad denials.
- Throne deployment: Opaque denials; paperwork burden shifted to clinicians; delay as rationing; no meaningful appeal.
- Policy hinge: Whether regulators enforce prior-auth reforms with measurable access outcomes.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit denial rates + delays by diagnosis and income; sunset plans with excessive overturn rates.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when CMS or states adopt/expand prior authorization rules or when major insurers change policies.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CMS — Interoperability and Prior Authorization (reference hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.cms.gov/prior-authorization>

SW-2026-05-02 — Drug pricing negotiations: access-first vs optics-first (Medicine policy hinge)

- Claim: Watch: policy actions and litigation around drug price negotiations and their downstream effects on access and formularies.
- Power: Pricing governance can widen access or create new rationing gates disguised as fiscal prudence.
- Sandals deployment: Affordability tied to real access: copay caps, coverage guarantees, and appeal paths.
- Throne deployment: Savings claimed while access shrinks through formulary exclusions or prior-auth tightening.

- Policy hinge: Whether policy changes reduce out-of-pocket burden and denial loops, not just list prices.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit patient out-of-pocket and abandonment rates; sunset policies that increase denial burden.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when CMS publishes negotiation lists, new rules, or major court decisions change implementation.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CMS — Inflation Reduction Act drug negotiation program (hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.cms.gov/inflation-reduction-act-and-medicare>

SW-2026-05-03 — AMR stewardship: prevention funding vs rationing later (Medicine)

- Claim: Watch: stewardship, infection prevention, and surveillance funding for antimicrobial resistance across hospitals and communities.
- Power: Prevention determines whether AMR becomes an avoidable crisis or a rationing regime.
- Sandals deployment: Fund IPC/stewardship in under-resourced facilities; access to diagnostics; public reporting.
- Throne deployment: Underfund prevention; blame individuals; ration later; punish poor communities.
- Policy hinge: Whether prevention is funded as baseline infrastructure.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish program outcomes; audit incentives; sunset loopholes that fuel resistance.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when new federal/state stewardship requirements or funding changes are enacted.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CDC — AR Investments & Action — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.cdc.gov/antimicrobial-resistance/programs/ar-investments.html>

*Source note: WHO — Antimicrobial resistance hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/antimicrobial-resistance>*

SW-2026-05-04 — Vaccine delivery: access-first logistics vs compliance gates
(Medicine)

- Claim: Watch: immunization guidance updates and whether delivery is organized around access and trust repair or compliance gating.
- Power: Recommendations steer access, trust, and logistics; instability becomes a gate.
- Sandals deployment: Transparent standards, stable panels, easy access, and redress for harms.
- Throne deployment: Eligibility gates; politicized shifts; denial loops; punitive framing.
- Policy hinge: Whether guidance builds delivery arks and trust repair.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish rationales; measure help delivered; sunset punitive eligibility gates.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when CDC/ACIP publishes recommendations that change eligibility or distribution rules.
- Source note(s): —

*Source note: CDC — ACIP hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>*

*Source note: WHO — Vaccines & immunization hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/vaccines-and-immunization>*

SW-2026-05-05 — Personalized/ultra-rare therapies: speed with enforcement (Medicine)

- Claim: Watch: regulatory moves enabling individualized therapies where trials are infeasible, and whether postmarket enforcement is real.
- Power: Evidence thresholds can widen access or create paper cures priced beyond reach.

- Sandals deployment: Accelerated approval + accelerated access; enforce postmarket commitments; coverage with appeal.
- Throne deployment: Commercialization without follow-up; price gates; approvals become optics.
- Policy hinge: Postmarket enforcement + pricing/coverage governance determines exits.
- Audit/Sunset: Hard deadlines for confirmatory evidence; withdrawal if commitments fail; access audits by income/region.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if enforced).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when FDA issues final guidance or uses the framework in approvals; when pricing/coverage rules shift.
- Source note(s): —

*Source note: FDA — individualized therapies/rare disease initiatives (news hub)
— accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.fda.gov/news-events>*

SW-2026-05-06 — AI in medicine: documentation vs black-box denial (Clinical AI)

- Claim: Watch: hospital and payer deployment of clinical decision support AI and whether it is auditable and contestable.
- Power: Clinical AI can reduce burden or become a denial engine when tied to coverage decisions.
- Sandals deployment: Transparency, clinician override, patient notice, appeal, and validation on local populations.
- Throne deployment: Sealed vendor models; denial automation; ‘medical necessity’ coded by algorithm with no redress.
- Policy hinge: Whether regulators require audit, validation, and patient rights around AI-assisted decisions.
- Audit/Sunset: Bias and performance audits; sunset models failing real-world outcomes; incident reporting.
- Verdict: Hinge.

- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when major payers/hospital systems publish AI coverage rules or when regulators issue enforcement/guidance.

- Source note(s): —

Source note: FDA — Clinical decision support / Digital Health Center of Excellence (hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/digital-health-center-excellence>

SW-2026-05-07 — AI incident reporting: transparency vs reputational sealing (AI governance)

- Claim: Watch: adoption of incident reporting norms and legal requirements for AI harms.

- Power: Incident reporting determines whether harms become learnable (ark) or hidden (custody).

- Sandals deployment: Mandatory reporting, whistleblower protection, and public summaries with remediation.

- Throne deployment: Private NDAs; reputational sealing; victims silenced; repeat harms.

- Policy hinge: Whether incident reporting is enforceable and public.

- Audit/Sunset: Time-bounded remediation plans; audits on repeat incidents; sunset deployment if incidents exceed thresholds.

- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if mandated).

- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when governments mandate AI incident reporting or when major labs publish incident transparency reports.

- Source note(s): —

Source note: OECD AI Incidents Monitor (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://oecd.ai/en/incidents>

SW-2026-05-08 — Frontier model evaluations: independent audit vs self-attestation (AI governance)

- Claim: Watch: whether frontier labs adopt independent evaluations and publish meaningful safety results.
- Power: Thresholds decide who bears risk; evaluations can widen exits or concentrate custody.
- Sandals deployment: External audits, publishable evaluation summaries, kill-switches, and anti-retaliation channels.
- Throne deployment: Self-attestation replaces audit; deployment outruns governance; safety used as branding.
- Policy hinge: Voluntary evaluations vs enforceable evaluation and audit requirements.
- Audit/Sunset: Independent audits; time-bounded deployments; revocation paths when harms exceed thresholds.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when labs publish new RSPs/evals or regulators require evaluation/audit for frontier deployments.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: UK AI Safety Institute — evaluations hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.aisafetyinstitute.gov.uk/>

Source note: NIST AI RMF 1.0 — Jan 2023 — <https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>

SW-2026-05-09 — AI in government benefits eligibility: help vs gate (Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: automated eligibility engines for benefits (housing, food, disability) and error rates that deny help.
- Power: Eligibility engines can widen access or install portable cages; false negatives harm the poor.
- Sandals deployment: Presumption of eligibility, human review, appeal, and rapid correction; anti-retaliation protections.
- Throne deployment: Automated denials; fraud framing; surveillance expansion; appeals unusable.

- Policy hinge: Whether eligibility automation is paired with rights (notice + appeal + correction) and resourcing.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit denial/error rates; sunset systems with high false negative rates; publish outcomes by group.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a state/federal agency deploys or expands eligibility automation or publishes audit findings.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: U.S. GAO — reports on automation and program integrity (hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.gao.gov/>

SW-2026-05-10 — Insurance AI underwriting: enforcement vs compliance theater (Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: enforcement of AI governance expectations in insurance underwriting and pricing.
- Power: Underwriting becomes a hidden social score; premiums become gates.
- Sandals deployment: Notice, explanation, appeal/redress; proxy limits; discrimination testing with enforcement.
- Throne deployment: Black-box denials/cancellations; burden shifted to consumers; compliance theater.
- Policy hinge: Whether guidance becomes enforceable consumer rights.
- Audit/Sunset: Bias audits; publish adverse-action reasons; sunset models that cannot justify denials.
- Verdict: Hinge (leans Sandals if enforced).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states adopt/enforce NAIC AIS bulletin expectations or issue enforcement actions.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: NAIC — Model Bulletin on AI by insurers — Dec 4, 2023 — <https://content.naic.org/index.php/article/naic-members-approve-model-bulletin-use-ai-insurers>

SW-2026-05-11 — Credit scoring alternative data: expand appeal before data (Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: moves to incorporate alternative data into credit scoring models and their fairness impacts.
- Power: Expands scoring surface; can widen access or encode poverty as risk.
- Sandals deployment: Consent-first, strict purpose limits, clear reason codes, and robust dispute/appeal.
- Throne deployment: Assistance signals become risk flags; cross-domain score creep; denials without redress.
- Policy hinge: Whether protections lead or surveillance scoring expands.
- Audit/Sunset: Disparate-impact audits; sunset factors correlating with protected traits without necessity.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when CFPB/FTC publish findings/guidance or when a major bureau updates model factors.
- Source note(s): —

*Source note: Congress.gov — H.R.5083 text — Sep 2, 2025 —
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5083/text>*

SW-2026-05-12 — Hiring filters: automated rejection without redress (Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: workplace screening tools (assessments, video analysis, personality scoring) and enforcement of audit/notice rules.
- Power: Employment gates become hidden social credit; errors concentrate harm downward.
- Sandals deployment: Notice + explanation + appeal; bias audits; accessible alternatives for disability.
- Throne deployment: Opaque rejections; ‘fit’ language as mask; proxy discrimination; no appeal.
- Policy hinge: Whether laws require audits and candidate rights.

- Audit/Sunset: Mandatory audits; public reporting; sunset high-risk tools without validated performance.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if regulated).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when NYC/other jurisdictions expand AEDT rules or when enforcement actions/audit reports publish.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: NYC AEDT (Local Law 144) — official page — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dca/about/automated-employment-decision-tools.page>

Source note: EEOC — AI & Algorithmic Fairness initiative — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.eeoc.gov/ai>

SW-2026-05-13 — Data brokers: consent rights vs rollback (Scoring supply chain)

- Claim: Watch: data broker regulation (registries, opt-out deletion) and enforcement trends.
- Power: Data brokerage fuels scoring across domains; invisible dossiers become portable cages.
- Sandals deployment: Registry, deletion rights, inspection, and penalties; strict purpose limits.
- Throne deployment: Dossiers sold without consent; retaliation risk; denials without explanation.
- Policy hinge: Whether regulation protects people or protects data markets.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish broker compliance metrics; sunset permissive interpretations when harms spike.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (if rollback persists).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when broker registry/opt-out rules change or major enforcement actions occur.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: FTC privacy/security enforcement hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/topics/protecting-consumer-privacy-security>

*Source note: Wired — data broker rule withdrawal coverage — May 2025 —
<https://www.wired.com/story/cfpb-quietly-kills-rule-to-shield-americans-from-data-brokers>*

SW-2026-05-14 — AI civil rights constraints: enforceable notice/explanation/redress (AI+Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: legislative efforts to impose civil-rights style constraints on algorithmic decisions and eligibility gates.
- Power: Sets boundary conditions so scoring cannot become universal gates without accountability.
- Sandals deployment: Notice, explanation, appeal/redress, and enforceable audits.
- Throne deployment: Optional constraints; IP shields; no standing; compliance theater.
- Policy hinge: Whether rights become enforceable across domains (credit, insurance, hiring, housing).
- Audit/Sunset: Impact assessments; independent audits; remedies; sunset exemptions.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning (intent; depends on enforcement).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when S.3308 advances materially or states adopt similar rights for algorithmic decisions.
- Source note(s): —

*Source note: Congress.gov — S.3308 text — Dec 2, 2025 —
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/3308/text>*

*Source note: White House — AI Bill of Rights — Oct 2022 —
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/ai-bill-of-rights/>*

SW-2026-05-15 — Audit/Sunset doctrine: build the ark before the storm (Meta hinge)

- Claim: Watch: how ‘safety’ language is used to expand scoring and emergency powers, and whether audit/sunset and redress are built first.

- Power: Without audit/sunset, every system drifts toward custody; with audit/sunset, systems can remain sandals-facing.
- Sandals deployment: Time-bounded authority, transparent metrics, rights to appeal, and investment in exits (infrastructure/help) first.
- Throne deployment: Indefinite exceptions, sealed metrics, enforcement downward, exemptions upward.
- Policy hinge: Whether a policy includes explicit sunsets, public audits, and redress rights.
- Audit/Sunset: Require end dates + independent audits + revocation triggers; publish burden distribution; enforce redress.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning (as a rule set).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a new ‘safety’ or emergency policy is proposed—apply this as the standard checklist and score it publicly.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CRS — National Emergencies Act overview (IF10752) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/details?prodcode=IF10752>

Source note: NIST AI RMF 1.0 — Jan 2023 — <https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>

Science Watch — June 2026 Drop

LOCKED: 15/15 — Locked watchlist edition (conversion triggers + citation snapshots).

Cover Page (template)

Top 5 hinge stories:

- SW-2026-06-01 — Autonomous weapons accountability
- SW-2026-06-05 — Misinformation governance (help vs dissent suppression)
- SW-2026-06-06 — AI model licensing (safety vs permission monopoly)
- SW-2026-06-10 — Medical countermeasure allocation (triage vs social credit)
- SW-2026-06-15 — Emergency powers (sunset vs permanent exception)

Three throne risks to watch:

- Emergency powers renewed without sunsets (war/cyber/health) becoming permanent governance.
- Speech and provenance rules used as access gates (appeals missing, selective enforcement).
- Security surveillance tools deployed in crisis then retained as everyday custody.

Three sandals wins to build on:

- Independent audits + incident reporting (AI, surveillance, cyber) with redress and whistleblower corridors.
- Preparedness funding that builds logistics and resilience before mandates.
- Narrow, harm-specific rules with humanitarian carveouts and transparent appeals.

Ark to build next (recommended):

- Sunset + audit + redress as default for emergency powers and security systems.
- Deletion deadlines and purpose limits for surveillance tools.
- Transparency + appeals for content governance and provenance rules.

Canon line: Safety without audit becomes custody.

[Changelog \(template\)](#)

June 2026 Drop

- Entries added: 15
- Corrections: none logged (as of this release)
- Retired/updated entries: none
- Notes: Theme = War/AI + Censorship + Biomed. Primary risk = emergency powers + narrative custody; primary ark = audit + sunset + redress.

[Theme \(recommended\): War/AI + Censorship + Biomed](#)

Goal: track 'safety' claims that expand emergency powers, content control, and medical eligibility gates.

Intake Slots (copy/paste and replace)

SW-2026-06-01 — Autonomous weapons governance: accountability vs “black box” lethality (War/AI)

- Claim: Watch: policies on autonomous weapons and targeting assistance systems used in conflict.
- Power: Targeting AI can reduce harm—or turn death decisions into sealed jurisdiction with no accountability.
- Sandals deployment: Human accountability preserved; strict audit trails; civilian harm tracking; independent oversight; redress mechanisms.
- Throne deployment: Responsibility diffused into ‘the system’; secrecy; victims have no pathway to contest or repair.
- Policy hinge: Whether use is constrained by enforceable audit, attribution, and transparency requirements.
- Audit/Sunset: Mandatory incident reporting; independent reviews; sunset authorizations if civilian harm exceeds thresholds.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a government publishes new rules of engagement, procurement standards, or restrictions for autonomous/targeting AI.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: DoD — Responsible AI (RAI) overview — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ai.mil/>

Source note: ICRC — Autonomous weapons / position resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.icrc.org/en/weapon/autonomous-weapons>

SW-2026-06-02 — AI export controls: safety barrier vs geopolitical gate (War/AI)

- Claim: Watch: export controls on advanced chips/models framed as safety, security, or strategic stability.
- Power: Controls can prevent harm—or become empire custody, restricting who can build and who must buy.

- Sandals deployment: Narrow, harm-specific controls; humanitarian carveouts; transparency; global cooperation on safety tests.
- Throne deployment: Blanket controls; compliance theater; leverage extraction; downstream dependency locked in.
- Policy hinge: Whether controls are paired with international safety standards and redress, not merely advantage.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish criteria; sunset controls absent clear harm reduction; audit downstream humanitarian impacts.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when BIS updates controls or enforcement actions materially change access to chips/models.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: U.S. BIS — Export Administration Regulations / controls hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.bis.gov/>

SW-2026-06-03 — AI-enabled surveillance in conflict: protection vs permanent tracking (War/AI)

- Claim: Watch: deployment of biometric identification, phone/location analytics, and drone surveillance in war and emergencies.
- Power: Surveillance can protect civilians—or become permanent custody tech exported home.
- Sandals deployment: Minimize collection; purpose limits; destruction deadlines; independent oversight; strict warrants.
- Throne deployment: Mass tracking; indefinite retention; targeting dissent; cross-border data sharing without redress.
- Policy hinge: Whether emergency surveillance includes hard sunsets and deletion rights.
- Audit/Sunset: Automatic deletion deadlines; audits on misuse; sunset authority after crisis window.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (default drift).

- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when emergency surveillance tools are authorized or renewed, or when retention rules change.

- Source note(s): —

Source note: UN OHCHR — Privacy and surveillance resources (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ohchr.org/en/topics/privacy>

Source note: EDPB — guidance and resources (privacy baseline) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://edpb.europa.eu/>

SW-2026-06-04 — Deepfakes and elections/security: authenticity tools vs censorship creep (Censorship/Info)

- Claim: Watch: rules targeting deepfakes and synthetic media in political and security contexts.
- Power: Authenticity standards can reduce harm—or become narrative custody where truth is ‘what the gate says.’
- Sandals deployment: Labeling + provenance; narrow takedowns; transparent appeals; public criteria; preserve satire and dissent.
- Throne deployment: Broad censorship; ambiguous rules; selective enforcement; appeal dead-ends.
- Policy hinge: Whether provenance systems and moderation include appeals, transparency, and bounded scope.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish takedown stats; independent audits; sunset emergency rules; protect whistleblowing.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when platforms or governments enact new deepfake restrictions or provenance mandates.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: NIST — Media provenance / synthetic media work (reference hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.nist.gov/>

Source note: C2PA — Content provenance standard (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://c2pa.org/>

SW-2026-06-05 — “Misinformation” governance: public health vs dissent suppression (Censorship/Info)

- Claim: Watch: government or platform misinformation policies, especially during emergencies.
- Power: Info control can protect vulnerable people—or suppress dissent and lock custody narratives.
- Sandals deployment: Transparency-first corrections; open debate; targeted removal only for imminent harm; strong appeals.
- Throne deployment: Broad bans; shadow suppression; ‘safety’ used as moral authority; no redress.
- Policy hinge: Whether policies are narrow, auditable, and appealable.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish enforcement metrics; independent reviews; sunset emergency moderation rules.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when new platform policies/government directives change enforcement scope or create emergency info rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: UNESCO — Freedom of expression & platform governance resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.unesco.org/en/freedom-expression>

Source note: Santa Clara Principles — content moderation transparency (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://santaclaraprinciples.org/>

SW-2026-06-06 — AI model licensing/registration: safety accountability vs permission monopoly (Censorship/Info)

- Claim: Watch: proposals to license, register, or gate access to powerful AI models.
- Power: Licensing can prevent catastrophic misuse—or create a permanent permission monopoly.

- Sandals deployment: Narrow scope; clear thresholds; public audits; transparent appeals; support for open safety research.
- Throne deployment: Broad licensing; insider advantage; suppression of independent work; enforcement downward.
- Policy hinge: Whether licensing includes transparency, independent audit, and sunset clauses.
- Audit/Sunset: Sunset licenses; publish approvals/denials; independent oversight board; revocation triggers.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when legislation/regulation introduces model licensing requirements or enforcement regimes.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: OECD — AI Policy Observatory (laws/policies hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://oecd.ai/en/>

Source note: NIST AI RMF 1.0 — Jan 2023 — <https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>

SW-2026-06-07 — Content provenance mandates: verification aid vs exclusion gate (Censorship/Info)

- Claim: Watch: adoption of content provenance mandates for news, social, or government comms.
- Power: Provenance can help truth travel—or exclude those without tooling (poor, dissidents, refugees).
- Sandals deployment: Optional-by-default; alternative paths; no service denial; open standards; public education.
- Throne deployment: Mandatory provenance; access denied without compliant metadata; leverage for gatekeepers.
- Policy hinge: Whether provenance is implemented as help-first infrastructure rather than a compliance gate.

- Audit/Sunset: Audit exclusion rates; sunset mandates that reduce access; publish appeals.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Sandals (if optional).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a jurisdiction mandates provenance for posting or accessing services.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: C2PA — Standard resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://c2pa.org/>

SW-2026-06-08 — Biosecurity and gain-of-function governance: safety vs secrecy capture (Biomed)

- Claim: Watch: lab safety, pathogen research oversight, and biosecurity rules.
- Power: Biosecurity can prevent catastrophe—or centralize secrecy and narrative control.
- Sandals deployment: Transparent standards; independent oversight; whistleblower protection; public risk summaries.
- Throne deployment: Sealed decision-making; politicized enforcement; suppression of legitimate inquiry.
- Policy hinge: Whether oversight is independent, transparent, and accountable to public harm metrics.
- Audit/Sunset: Independent audits; publish incident stats; sunset special authorities absent measurable risk reduction.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when HHS/NIH or international bodies update high-risk pathogen research oversight rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: NIH — Office of Science Policy (biosafety/biosecurity resources) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://osp.od.nih.gov/>

Source note: WHO — Laboratory biosafety guidance (reference hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.who.int/teams/health-product-and-policy-standards/standards-and-specifications/laboratory-biosafety>

SW-2026-06-09 — Pandemic preparedness funding: infrastructure vs compliance theater (Biomed)

- Claim: Watch: preparedness budgets and whether they fund logistics (testing, ventilation, staffing) or only plans and paperwork.
- Power: Preparedness science becomes either real exits or optics that justifies later coercion.
- Sandals deployment: Ventilation, staffing, stockpiles, community clinics, and trust repair; support before mandates.
- Throne deployment: Plans without infrastructure; punishments without support; exemptions upward.
- Policy hinge: Whether funding measures ‘help delivered’ instead of ‘rules written’.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish delivery metrics; sunset programs that produce paperwork without outcomes.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when federal/state budgets or new preparedness programs are enacted or audited.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CDC — Public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) program — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readiness/phep/>

Source note: WHO — Health emergencies preparedness (hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.who.int/health-topics/emergencies>

SW-2026-06-10 — Medical countermeasure allocation: triage ethics vs social credit (Biomed gate)

- Claim: Watch: allocation frameworks for scarce medicines/vaccines during crises and their eligibility criteria.

- Power: Allocation can prioritize vulnerable people—or become a compliance score (who ‘deserves’ treatment).
- Sandals deployment: Need-first; clear criteria; transparency; appeals; disability rights protections.
- Throne deployment: Moralizing eligibility; punishment of dissent; opaque triage; no appeal.
- Policy hinge: Whether allocation includes transparency + redress and avoids ideology tests.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish allocation outcomes; audit discrimination; sunset emergency criteria.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a jurisdiction publishes a new allocation/triage policy for emergencies.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: HHS ASPR — Medical countermeasures & preparedness (hub) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://aspr.hhs.gov/>

Source note: National Academies — crisis standards of care resources (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.nationalacademies.org/>

SW-2026-06-11 — Cybersecurity “critical infrastructure” rules: resilience vs surveillance mandates (War/AI + Censorship)

- Claim: Watch: cybersecurity regulations that require monitoring, reporting, or data sharing.
- Power: Security rules can harden systems—or mandate surveillance that becomes permanent custody.
- Sandals deployment: Minimize data; strict purpose limits; independent oversight; transparency; support for smaller orgs.
- Throne deployment: Data-sharing mandates without limits; compliance costs crushing small actors; surveillance normalization.
- Policy hinge: Whether rules include privacy constraints and funding for compliance.

- Audit/Sunset: Audit breaches prevented vs surveillance expanded; sunset mandates that don't reduce harm.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when new critical infrastructure cybersecurity rules are finalized or when reporting mandates expand.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CISA — cybersecurity directives/resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.cisa.gov/>

Source note: NIST — Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework>

SW-2026-06-12 — Financial sanctions and deplatforming: harm prevention vs collective punishment (War/AI + Censorship)

- Claim: Watch: sanctions and payment-network deplatforming framed as security measures.
- Power: Sanctions can limit war funding—or become collective punishment that cages civilians and dissidents.
- Sandals deployment: Targeted measures; humanitarian carveouts; transparent criteria; redress channels.
- Throne deployment: Broad blocks; no appeal; collateral harm; leverage for compliance extraction.
- Policy hinge: Whether sanctions include enforceable humanitarian carveouts and appeals.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit humanitarian impact; sunset broad measures; publish enforcement errors.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when new sanctions regimes are enacted or expanded; when payment networks change enforcement rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: U.S. Treasury OFAC — sanctions programs and guidance — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://ofac.treasury.gov/>

SW-2026-06-13 — Platform interoperability mandates: user freedom vs state capture (Censorship/Info)

- Claim: Watch: laws pushing platform interoperability, messaging access, or encryption constraints.
- Power: Interoperability can decentralize power—or open doors for surveillance/state capture.
- Sandals deployment: User choice; privacy-preserving interoperability; strong encryption; transparent oversight.
- Throne deployment: Backdoors; forced data sharing; surveillance normalization; dissent tracking.
- Policy hinge: Whether interoperability is built with privacy and user agency at the center.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit privacy harms; sunset mandates that increase surveillance; publish transparency reports.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a jurisdiction proposes/implements messaging interoperability or encryption weakening.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: EFF — encryption and surveillance resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.eff.org/issues/encryption>

Source note: IETF — protocol standards (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ietf.org/>

SW-2026-06-14 — Disinformation lawfare: anti-fraud vs anti-criticism (Censorship/Info)

- Claim: Watch: legal actions using fraud/defamation/terror framing to silence critics, researchers, or journalists.

- Power: Lawfare can protect vulnerable people—or become a lever to cage truth-tellers.
- Sandals deployment: Anti-SLAPP protections; clear standards; protect whistleblowers; transparency in government takedown requests.
- Throne deployment: Strategic lawsuits; intimidation; compliance via fear; sealed settlements.
- Policy hinge: Whether legal systems protect speech and whistleblowing against weaponized litigation.
- Audit/Sunset: Track SLAPP patterns; publish government request logs; strengthen anti-retaliation enforcement.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (common pattern).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when new anti-disinformation bills include criminal penalties, or when major SLAPP cases set precedent.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: Reporters Without Borders — press freedom resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://rsf.org/en>

Source note: PEN America — free expression / anti-SLAPP resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://pen.org/issue/free-expression/>

SW-2026-06-15 — Emergency powers for “security”: sunset or permanent exception (Meta hinge)

- Claim: Watch: emergency declarations tied to war, cyber, or public health and whether they remain time-bounded and audited.
- Power: Emergency authority concentrates power quickly; without sunset it becomes the new normal.
- Sandals deployment: Time-bounded authority used to build infrastructure and exits; transparency and redress; protections first for vulnerable.
- Throne deployment: Indefinite exception regimes; enforcement downward; exemptions upward; surveillance normalization.

- Policy hinge: Whether emergency powers include sunsets, independent audits, and revocation triggers.
- Audit/Sunset: Hard end dates; publish burden distribution; revoke if metrics don't improve.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a national or state emergency declaration is issued, renewed, or expanded in scope.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CRS — National Emergencies Act overview (IF10752) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/details?prodcode=IF10752>

Source note: White House — presidential actions archive (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/>

Science Watch — July 2026 Drop

LOCKED: 15/15 — Watchlist edition (conversion triggers + citation snapshots).

Cover Page (template)

Top 5 hinge stories:

- SW-2026-07-01 — Eviction courts: speed as a weapon
- SW-2026-07-02 — Tenant screening algorithms (housing social credit)
- SW-2026-07-07 — Liens and tax foreclosures (equity harvest)
- SW-2026-07-11 — Child welfare risk scoring (help vs separation)
- SW-2026-07-15 — Court access for pro se (help desks vs traps)

Three throne risks to watch:

- Procedural speed and defaults used as extraction (evictions + debt collection).
- Scoring systems that become portable housing gates with no correction path.
- Safety framing used to justify displacement and surveillance custody.

Three sandals wins to build on:

- Right-to-counsel + sealing/expungement pathways in housing court.
- Ability-to-pay standards and elimination of jail-as-collection.
- Transparent appeal paths for screening and scoring decisions.

Ark to build next (recommended):

- No denial of shelter without readable reasons + fast dispute + bridge help.
- Slow the docket: fund representation and service integrity.
- Cap lien windfalls; protect redemption rights; publish outcomes.

Canon line: Procedure can be a cage; build the appeal corridor.

[Changelog \(template\)](#)

July 2026 Drop

- Entries added: 15
- Corrections: none logged (as of this release)
- Retired/updated entries: none
- Notes: Theme = Housing + Courts + Scoring. Primary risk = procedural cages + portable social credit; primary ark = counsel + appeals + redemption protections.

[Theme \(recommended\): Housing + Courts + Scoring](#)

Goal: track how ‘compliance’ becomes eviction, liens, denial loops, and procedural cages—and what arks restore agency.

[Intake Slots \(copy/paste and replace\)](#)

SW-2026-07-01 — Eviction courts: speed as a weapon vs due-process exits
(Housing/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: eviction docket practices and whether speed and default judgments become the system’s primary tool.
- Power: Procedural speed can function as an extraction engine, concentrating loss downward.
- Sandals deployment: Right-to-counsel, notice, continuances for service failures, payment plans, and sealing/expungement pathways.
- Throne deployment: Mass dockets, rapid defaults, inaccessible hearings, and permanent records that block housing.

- Policy hinge: Whether courts and cities fund due-process infrastructure and counsel, not just enforcement throughput.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit default rates, time-to-hearing, representation, and outcomes by ZIP/income; sunset ‘rocket dockets’.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a city/state changes eviction procedures, right-to-counsel funding, or docket rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: HUD — Eviction prevention and housing stability resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.hud.gov/>

Source note: NCSC — Civil justice / court administration resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ncsc.org/>

SW-2026-07-02 — Tenant screening algorithms: housing social credit (Housing/Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: tenant-screening and rental application scoring models and their dispute/appeal mechanisms.
- Power: Screening models create a portable cage: a single bad flag blocks housing everywhere.
- Sandals deployment: Full disclosure of reasons, free reports, rapid dispute correction, and limits on eviction-record use.
- Throne deployment: Opaque denials, unverifiable data, and permanent punishment for poverty or crisis events.
- Policy hinge: Whether FCRA-style protections are enforced for tenant screening (notice + correction + redress).
- Audit/Sunset: Audit false positives, dispute resolution time, and disparate impact; sunset models that can’t justify denials.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states pass tenant-screening reforms or major screening firms change dispute rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CFPB — Consumer reporting / credit reporting resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/credit-reports-and-scores/>

Source note: FTC — Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) guidance — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ftc.gov/legal-library/browse/statutes/fair-credit-reporting-act>

SW-2026-07-03 — “Crime-free housing” and nuisance policing: safety rhetoric as eviction tool (Housing/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: ordinances and landlord policies that use policing contacts or ‘nuisance’ labels to force eviction.
- Power: Safety language can become a cage that punishes victims and concentrates displacement.
- Sandals deployment: Victim protections, narrow definitions, and anti-retaliation; require proof and appeals before eviction.
- Throne deployment: Evictions based on calls for help; domestic violence victims punished; policing becomes landlord leverage.
- Policy hinge: Whether cities prohibit discrimination/retaliation and restrict nuisance-based eviction.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish evictions linked to police calls; sunset ordinances that increase homelessness or DV harm.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (common drift).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when a jurisdiction adopts/changes nuisance or crime-free housing ordinances or enforcement.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: DOJ — Housing & civil rights resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.justice.gov/crt/housing-and-civil-enforcement-section>

Source note: HUD — Fair housing resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp

SW-2026-07-04 — Zoning and permitting as “help” frame: compliance maze vs small-builder exits (Housing/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: zoning/permitting reforms and whether they reduce barriers for small builders and ADUs or reinforce gatekeeping.
- Power: Permitting can be safety infrastructure—or a permission monopoly that favors incumbents.
- Sandals deployment: By-right approvals, simple checklists, time limits, and fees scaled to small projects.
- Throne deployment: Discretionary approvals, endless rework cycles, fee stacking, and selective enforcement.
- Policy hinge: Whether reforms reduce time/cost and remove discretionary veto points.
- Audit/Sunset: Publish approval times/denials; sunset discretionary requirements that correlate with exclusion.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states/cities pass zoning reform, ADU rules, or permitting streamlining measures.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: HUD — housing supply and policy resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.hud.gov/>

Source note: APA — zoning and planning policy resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.planning.org/>

SW-2026-07-05 — Court fines/fees and jail-as-collection: poverty punishment loops (Courts)

- Claim: Watch: fines-and-fees practices that convert poverty into legal noncompliance.
- Power: Fees become a debt cage; contempt and jail threats function as extraction.
- Sandals deployment: Ability-to-pay determinations, fee waivers, payment plans, and ending jail for nonpayment.

- Throne deployment: Automatic fees, license suspensions, warrants, and coercive collection.
- Policy hinge: Whether courts implement ability-to-pay and waive/convert fees.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit outcomes by income; sunset revenue-dependent fee structures.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (if revenue-driven).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states reform fines/fees, license suspension rules, or contempt practices.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: NCSC — fines and fees resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ncsc.org/>

Source note: Brennan Center — criminal justice debt resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/justice/justice-system-reform/criminal-justice-debt>

SW-2026-07-06 — Cash bail and pretrial risk scores: safety vs ransom (Courts/Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: bail reform and pretrial risk assessment tools that determine release or detention.
- Power: Risk scores can reduce detention—or become a sealed gate that concentrates harm on the poor.
- Sandals deployment: Presumption of release, transparent tools, independent audits, and ability-to-pay safeguards.
- Throne deployment: Detention by poverty, opaque risk models, and coercive plea pressure.
- Policy hinge: Whether reforms reduce detention without replacing cash with algorithmic custody.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit detention outcomes, FTAs, and disparities; sunset tools that can't be explained and contested.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states adopt/expand risk tools or bail reforms, or when courts publish evaluation results.

- Source note(s): —

Source note: NIJ — pretrial justice research hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://nij.ojp.gov/>

Source note: Pew — public safety and courts research — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.pewtrusts.org/>

SW-2026-07-07 — Liens and tax foreclosures: “public revenue” as property extraction (Housing/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: tax lien sales, code enforcement liens, and foreclosure processes that transfer property through procedural traps.
- Power: Lien mechanisms can recover public costs—or become a wealth-transfer machine.
- Sandals deployment: Notice, payment plans, redemption protections, and limits on investor windfalls.
- Throne deployment: Confusing notices, short deadlines, and investor profit structures that harvest equity.
- Policy hinge: Whether states cap interest/fees and strengthen redemption rights.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit foreclosure outcomes; sunset high-fee lien structures; publish investor concentration.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Thrones (common).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states change tax lien rules, redemption periods, or fee caps.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: IRS — tax lien / levy information (baseline) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/understanding-a-federal-tax-lien>

Source note: NCLC — tax foreclosure and consumer protection resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.nclc.org/>

SW-2026-07-08 — Credit reporting for rent: inclusion tool vs new housing gate
(Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: programs reporting rent payments to credit bureaus and whether they help thin-file renters without creating new penalties.
- Power: Reporting can build credit—or expand the scoring net and punish missed payments during hardship.
- Sandals deployment: Opt-in only, grace periods, and hardship protections; no negative reporting without counseling and exit paths.
- Throne deployment: Mandatory reporting, negative flags amplified, and landlords using scores to exclude.
- Policy hinge: Whether rent reporting is voluntary and paired with hardship support.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit net benefit; sunset programs that increase evictions or denials.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states/large landlords adopt rent-reporting mandates or major bureaus change scoring inclusion.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CFPB — credit reporting resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/credit-reports-and-scores/>

SW-2026-07-09 — Utility shutoffs and arrears: infrastructure failure as eviction engine
(Housing)

- Claim: Watch: utility shutoff policies and arrears programs, especially during extreme weather.
- Power: Shutoffs are a soft eviction; they force displacement and health harm.
- Sandals deployment: Shutoff moratoria during heat/cold, arrears forgiveness, and income-based payment plans.
- Throne deployment: Shutoffs as collection; late fees; disconnections that cascade into eviction and job loss.
- Policy hinge: Whether utilities are regulated as essential services with protections.

- Audit/Sunset: Audit shutoffs by neighborhood; sunset punitive fee structures; publish reconnection timelines.
- Verdict: Sandals-leaning (if protected) / Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when state commissions change shutoff rules, moratoria, or arrears programs.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: LIHEAP — energy assistance program (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap>

Source note: NARUC — utility regulation resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.naruc.org/>

SW-2026-07-10 — Homelessness data systems (HMIS): coordination vs surveillance custody (Housing/Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: expansion of homelessness data systems and whether data sharing becomes a condition of receiving shelter or services.
- Power: Data can coordinate help—or become a compliance gate that excludes the most vulnerable.
- Sandals deployment: Data minimization, consent, and ‘service without disclosure’ options; strict access controls.
- Throne deployment: Mandatory data entry; sharing with law enforcement; denial of services without compliance.
- Policy hinge: Whether data systems are used for service delivery without coercion.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit exclusions; sunset data-sharing practices that increase avoidance of services.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when HMIS rules expand data sharing or tie eligibility to enrollment/compliance.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: HUD — HMIS guidance and resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/>

Source note: SAMHSA — confidentiality resources (baseline) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —

<https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/laws-regulations/confidentiality-regulations-faqs>

SW-2026-07-11 — Child welfare risk scoring: protection vs family separation machine (Courts/Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: predictive risk models in child welfare and how they influence investigations and removals.
- Power: Risk scoring can target support—or accelerate removals and trauma for poor families.
- Sandals deployment: Support-first interventions, transparent criteria, independent audits, and strong appeal rights.
- Throne deployment: Automated suspicion, surveillance of poverty, and removal as ‘safety’ without due process.
- Policy hinge: Whether tools are limited to offering services rather than triggering removals.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit removals and false positives; sunset tools with disparate impact; publish oversight findings.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when agencies deploy/expand predictive models or publish evaluation/audit reports.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: ACF — child welfare policy resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>

Source note: Pew — child welfare resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/>

SW-2026-07-12 — Debt collection judgments: default by paperwork (Courts)

- Claim: Watch: debt collection lawsuits and default judgment rates driven by poor service and representation gaps.
- Power: Defaults become a silent wealth transfer; garnishment and bank levies follow.
- Sandals deployment: Service reforms, notice clarity, legal aid, and judgment set-aside pathways.
- Throne deployment: Mass filings, bad service, and default-driven collections.
- Policy hinge: Whether courts enforce service standards and fund representation.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit service quality and defaults; sunset high-volume practices that rely on nonappearance.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (common).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when courts change service standards, debt docket rules, or require attorney review of affidavits.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CFPB — debt collection rules/resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/debt-collection/>

Source note: NCSC — civil justice reform resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ncsc.org/>

SW-2026-07-13 — “Public safety” cameras and AI policing: crime reduction vs neighborhood custody (Courts/Info)

- Claim: Watch: deployment of public safety camera networks and AI analytics tied to policing and prosecutions.
- Power: Analytics can solve crimes—or become neighborhood custody with selective enforcement.
- Sandals deployment: Warrant standards, narrow uses, deletion deadlines, and community oversight.
- Throne deployment: Dragnet surveillance, indefinite retention, and biased targeting.
- Policy hinge: Whether surveillance includes deletion, transparency, and enforceable limits.

- Audit/Sunset: Audit arrests/charges by neighborhood; sunset systems without proven harm reduction; publish misuse cases.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (default drift).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when cities adopt/expand camera networks or AI analytics or renew contracts.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: DOJ — policing and civil rights resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.justice.gov/crt>

Source note: ACLU — surveillance and policing resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.aclu.org/issues/privacy-technology/surveillance-technologies>

SW-2026-07-14 — Bankruptcy and credit rehabilitation: fresh start vs permanent stigma score (Scoring/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: bankruptcy reporting rules, score impacts, and policies that keep debtors locked out of housing and jobs after discharge.
- Power: A ‘fresh start’ can be real—or replaced by permanent stigma scoring.
- Sandals deployment: Limits on post-discharge discrimination, faster reporting correction, and housing/job protections.
- Throne deployment: Extended reporting and silent discrimination; debt becomes a life sentence.
- Policy hinge: Whether consumer reporting and landlord/employer policies honor discharge as reset.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit post-discharge denial rates; sunset prolonged reporting windows where unnecessary.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when FCRA reforms change reporting windows or when agencies enforce anti-discrimination after bankruptcy.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: U.S. Courts — bankruptcy basics — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/bankruptcy>

Source note: CFPB — credit reporting resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/credit-reports-and-scores/>

SW-2026-07-15 — Court access and self-representation: help desks vs procedural traps (Courts)

- Claim: Watch: court access reforms for pro se litigants (forms, portals, remote hearings) and whether they reduce or increase procedural traps.
- Power: Access tools can widen justice—or create new digital gates with hidden defaults.
- Sandals deployment: Plain-language forms, staffed help desks, fee waivers, and real-time error correction.
- Throne deployment: Portal-only filing, fee barriers, and automated rejections that cause default.
- Policy hinge: Whether courts fund human help and error correction rather than only digitizing.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit rejection/default rates after portal rollout; sunset changes that increase default.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when courts deploy new e-filing portals, remote hearing rules, or self-help systems.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: NCSC — access to justice resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ncsc.org/>

Source note: Legal Services Corporation — justice gap resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.lsc.gov/>

Science Watch — August 2026 Drop

LOCKED: 15/15 — Watchlist edition (conversion triggers + citation snapshots).

Cover Page

Top 5 hinge stories:

- SW-2026-08-01 — Discipline/behavior scoring as child social credit
- SW-2026-08-03 — School mental health screening (consent vs leverage)
- SW-2026-08-06 — Child welfare safety plans (coercion vs court)
- SW-2026-08-10 — Age verification / youth bans (protection vs surveillance gate)
- SW-2026-08-15 — Attendance enforcement (support vs court pipeline)

Three throne risks to watch:

- Diagnosis and behavior scores used as eligibility gates and custody leverage.
- School and welfare ‘safety’ measures becoming surveillance and coercion pipelines.
- Mandatory ID/verification systems expanding beyond kids into universal gating.

Three sandals wins to build on:

- Consent-first supports: opt-out, data minimization, and services without stigma.
- Appeal corridors: readable reason codes + rapid dispute correction for any scoring decision.
- Support-before-enforcement: transportation, housing stability, and counseling over court pipelines.

Ark to build next (recommended):

- Service without disclosure: help offered without mandatory dossiers.
- No custody without court: end coercive ‘voluntary’ safety plans.
- Audit diagnosis incentives: if a label pays, audit who profits and who is harmed.

Canon line: Help without consent becomes custody.

Changelog

August 2026 Drop

- Entries added: 15
- Corrections: none logged (as of this release)
- Retired/updated entries: none

- Notes: Theme = Schools + Kids + Therapy/Medicine + Scoring. Primary risk = ‘help’ as custody; primary ark = consent + appeal + service without stigma.

Theme: Schools + Kids + Therapy/Medicine + Scoring

Goal: detect when ‘support’ becomes eligibility gates, diagnosis leverage, behavior scoring, and family separation pressure—and build consent-first exits.

Intake Slots (August 2026)

SW-2026-08-01 — School discipline as social credit: behavior scoring and exclusion (Schools/Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: school discipline policies and behavior scoring systems that exclude students from learning.
- Power: Discipline metrics can route help—or become a child social-credit cage tied to removal and labeling.
- Sandals deployment: Restorative practices, due process, disability protections, and support-first interventions.
- Throne deployment: Zero tolerance, policing in schools, opaque scoring, and exclusion as ‘safety’.
- Policy hinge: Whether discipline is treated as support infrastructure vs enforcement throughput.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit suspensions/expulsions by race/disability; sunset zero-tolerance expansions; publish appeal outcomes.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when districts adopt new discipline codes or behavior-scoring platforms.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: U.S. Dept of Education OCR — discipline and civil rights resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

SW-2026-08-02 — IEP/504 access: services vs paperwork gate (Schools/Kids)

- Claim: Watch: special education identification and service delivery timelines (IEP/504) and parent appeal usability.

- Power: Paperwork can ration services; delay becomes denial and family exhaustion becomes leverage.
- Sandals deployment: Clear timelines, parent advocates, plain-language plans, and enforceable service delivery.
- Throne deployment: Delay, jargon, and procedural traps; services contingent on perfect compliance.
- Policy hinge: Whether enforcement focuses on services delivered, not documents produced.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit evaluation timelines and missed services; sunset policies that increase delays; publish complaint outcomes.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states change special ed timelines, funding, or dispute resolution rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: IDEA — statute/resources hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>

SW-2026-08-03 — School mental health screening: early help vs diagnosis leverage (Therapy/Scoring)

- Claim: Watch: mental health screening programs in schools and how results affect placement, records, and referrals.
- Power: Screening can open support—or create a diagnosis leverage system that follows kids for years.
- Sandals deployment: Consent-first, opt-out, minimal data retention, and support without stigma.
- Throne deployment: Mandatory screening, permanent records, and placement decisions tied to scores.
- Policy hinge: Whether screening is voluntary and decoupled from punishment/placement.

- Audit/Sunset: Audit opt-out rates and harms; sunset mandatory programs; publish retention rules.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when districts adopt mandatory screening or change data retention/sharing rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: SAMHSA — youth mental health resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

SW-2026-08-04 — Pediatric telehealth + data: access corridor vs surveillance drift
(Medicine/Data)

- Claim: Watch: pediatric telehealth policies and whether data collection becomes a condition for care.
- Power: Telehealth can widen access—or build dossiers that later gate insurance, school, or custody decisions.
- Sandals deployment: Data minimization, consent, encryption, and service without extra disclosure.
- Throne deployment: Cross-domain data sharing; analytics used to deny coverage; forced data trails.
- Policy hinge: Whether privacy protections are enforced in pediatric digital health.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit data sharing; sunset vendor access; publish breach/incident metrics.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states change telehealth coverage rules or vendors expand data sharing.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: HHS OCR — HIPAA privacy guidance hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/>

SW-2026-08-05 — Therapy billing codes and school referrals: help vs revenue loop
(Therapy/Econ)

- Claim: Watch: referral incentives and billing structures that shape who gets labeled and treated.
- Power: Billing drives reality: labels can become currency and kids become revenue streams.
- Sandals deployment: Transparent consent, independent second opinions, and care plans centered on family goals.
- Throne deployment: Over-diagnosis; therapy as compliance; service tied to institutional convenience.
- Policy hinge: Whether funding rewards outcomes (functioning, stability) rather than volume.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit diagnosis spikes and referral sources; sunset incentive structures that reward labeling.
- Verdict: Hinge leaning Thrones (incentive risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when Medicaid/school-based health billing rules change or referral contracts expand.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: CMS — Medicaid and school-based services (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.medicaid.gov/>

SW-2026-08-06 — Child welfare “safety plans”: support vs coercive custody
(Courts/Kids)

- Claim: Watch: child welfare safety plans and informal agreements used without court oversight.
- Power: Safety framing can route services—or coerce compliance and separation without due process.
- Sandals deployment: Court oversight for removals, counsel, clear rights notices, and services-first supports.

- Throne deployment: Coercive ‘voluntary’ plans, surveillance, and removal threats without hearings.
- Policy hinge: Whether agencies treat safety plans as support tools or custody tools.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit removals initiated via safety plans; sunset practices that bypass court review.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states update child welfare policy manuals or oversight rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: ACF Children’s Bureau — policy resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>

SW-2026-08-07 — Predictive risk in child welfare: score help not separation (Scoring/Kids)

- Claim: Watch: predictive analytics used to prioritize investigations or removals in child welfare.
- Power: Models can allocate help—or automate suspicion of poverty and accelerate trauma.
- Sandals deployment: Use models only to offer services; transparency; independent audits; opt-out where possible.
- Throne deployment: Scores trigger investigations/removals; no explanation; bias encoded.
- Policy hinge: Whether tools are barred from triggering coercive steps and limited to support.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit false positives and removals; sunset tools with disparate impact; publish oversight findings.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when agencies deploy new predictive systems or publish evaluation/audit findings.
- Source note(s): —

*Source note: Pew — child welfare resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/>*

SW-2026-08-08 — Juvenile diversion programs: support corridor vs compliance trap
(Courts/Kids)

- Claim: Watch: diversion programs that condition freedom on fees, treatment compliance, or surveillance.
- Power: Diversion can be an exit—or a probation-like trap that widens net control.
- Sandals deployment: No fees, voluntary services, and genuine off-ramps; confidentiality protections.
- Throne deployment: Fees, mandatory programs, and surveillance; failure becomes a new charge.
- Policy hinge: Whether diversion reduces system contact rather than creating new technical violations.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit outcomes and technical violations; sunset fee-based diversion; publish recidivism vs net-widening.
- Verdict: Hinge.
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states expand diversion or change eligibility/fee structures.
- Source note(s): —

*Source note: OJJDP — juvenile justice resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 —
<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/>*

SW-2026-08-09 — School police (SROs): safety vs criminalization of childhood
(Schools/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: SRO policies and whether school behavior is routed to counseling or criminal enforcement.
- Power: Police presence changes reality: normal teen behavior becomes criminal record and future denial loop.

- Sandals deployment: Limit SRO roles; require de-escalation; route to counselors; seal juvenile records.
- Throne deployment: Arrests for school incidents; surveillance; record permanence.
- Policy hinge: Whether districts reduce referrals to law enforcement and fund counselors instead.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit referrals/arrests; sunset SRO expansions; publish complaint outcomes.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (common drift).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when districts adopt/renew SRO contracts or change referral rules.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: DOJ Civil Rights Division — policing/schools resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.justice.gov/crt>

SW-2026-08-10 — Youth social media bans/age verification: protection vs surveillance gate (Kids/Info)

- Claim: Watch: age verification mandates and youth social media restrictions framed as child protection.
- Power: Protection can reduce harm—or install identity surveillance gates that expand beyond kids.
- Sandals deployment: Privacy-preserving verification, minimal data retention, and targeted harm reduction measures.
- Throne deployment: Mandatory ID checks, data retention, and exclusion of marginalized youth from support networks.
- Policy hinge: Whether laws mandate privacy-minimizing methods and strict deletion.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit data retention and harms; sunset mandates that increase surveillance and exclusion.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).

- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states pass age verification laws or platforms implement new verification systems.

- Source note(s): —

Source note: EFF — kids, privacy, and age verification resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.eff.org/issues/privacy>

SW-2026-08-11 — Education data sharing: “intervention” vs permanent student dossier (Schools/Data)

- Claim: Watch: student data sharing between schools, vendors, and law enforcement.

- Power: Data can coordinate help—or become a lifelong dossier that gates college, jobs, and housing.

- Sandals deployment: Data minimization, short retention, consent, and strict vendor controls.

- Throne deployment: Broad sharing, indefinite retention, and analytics used for exclusion.

- Policy hinge: Whether contracts prohibit secondary use and require deletion.

- Audit/Sunset: Audit vendor access; sunset contracts without deletion; publish breach metrics.

- Verdict: Hinge.

- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when districts adopt new edtech platforms or expand data sharing clauses.

- Source note(s): —

Source note: U.S. Dept of Education — student privacy (FERPA) resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/>

SW-2026-08-12 — Diagnosis in courts: mental health labels as custody leverage (Therapy/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: court-ordered evaluations and how diagnoses influence custody, sentencing, and compliance conditions.

- Power: Labels can open care—or become a leverage tool to force compliance and remove agency.
- Sandals deployment: Independent evaluators, transparency, and limiting labels to treatment access—not punishment.
- Throne deployment: Weaponized labels; mandated treatment as control; no appeal or second opinion.
- Policy hinge: Whether courts protect due process in evaluations and allow contesting findings.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit evaluation outcomes and appeals; sunset one-vendor evaluation pipelines.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when courts adopt new evaluation standards or contract changes for evaluators.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: APA — forensic psychology guidelines (reference) — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.apa.org/>

SW-2026-08-13 — ADHD/medication policy: access vs coercion (Medicine/Schools)

- Claim: Watch: school and insurer policies that implicitly coerce medication to access education or services.
- Power: Medical decisions become eligibility gates; families feel forced into choices.
- Sandals deployment: Informed consent, alternatives, and accommodations without treatment coercion.
- Throne deployment: Service conditioned on medication; stigma; punitive compliance framing.
- Policy hinge: Whether policies guarantee accommodations without medical coercion.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit complaints and accommodation access; sunset policies linking services to medication status.
- Verdict: Hinge.

- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when districts/insurers change accommodation rules or medication-related requirements.

- Source note(s): —

Source note: CDC — ADHD information for parents/providers — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/>

SW-2026-08-14 — Therapy tech and journaling apps for teens: support vs data extraction (Therapy/Data)

- Claim: Watch: mental health apps marketed to teens and whether data is sold or used for targeting.
- Power: Support tools can become extraction tools; intimate data becomes leverage.
- Sandals deployment: No data sale, encryption, parental/youth consent controls, and deletion rights.
- Throne deployment: Data sale, targeted ads, and risk scoring based on vulnerability.
- Policy hinge: Whether regulation and app policies prohibit sale/secondary use of teen mental health data.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit data sharing; sunset apps that won't disclose; publish complaint metrics.
- Verdict: Throne-leaning (market drift).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when regulators act on teen health app privacy or major app policy changes occur.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: FTC — protecting consumer privacy/security hub — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/topics/protecting-consumer-privacy-security>

SW-2026-08-15 — School attendance enforcement: help vs court pipeline (Schools/Courts)

- Claim: Watch: chronic absenteeism policies and whether they route families to support or to court and fines.

- Power: Attendance enforcement can solve barriers—or criminalize poverty and disability.
- Sandals deployment: Transportation, health supports, and flexible plans; no court referral without services delivered.
- Throne deployment: Fines, truancy court, and family separation threats; compliance punishment.
- Policy hinge: Whether attendance policy measures barriers removed instead of penalties imposed.
- Audit/Sunset: Audit referrals to court by neighborhood/disability; sunset punitive models; publish service delivery metrics.
- Verdict: Hinge (high risk).
- Source note(s): Conversion trigger: when states change absenteeism mandates or districts expand truancy court pipelines.
- Source note(s): —

Source note: Attendance Works — chronic absenteeism resources — accessed Feb 26, 2026 — <https://www.attendanceworks.org/>

APPENDIX E — SCIENCE WATCH SOURCES (BY SW-ID)

This appendix lists citation URLs in one place for auditability. Entries may also include abbreviated source notes inline.

SW-2026-02-25

- FDA — FDA Launches Framework for Accelerating Development of Individualized Therapies for Ultra-Rare Diseases (Feb 23, 2026) — <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-launches-framework-accelerating-development-individualized-therapies-ultra-rare-diseases>
- Reuters report on FDA advisory meeting (Feb 25, 2026).

SW-2026-02-24

- Anthropic — Responsible Scaling Policy Updates (Version 3.0 effective Feb 24, 2026) — <https://www.anthropic.com/responsible-scaling-policy>

- Business Insider — Anthropic is dropping its signature safety pledge amid a heated AI race (Feb 2026) — <https://www.businessinsider.com/anthropic-changing-safety-policy-2026-2>
- Reuters report on ACIP rescheduling (Feb 24, 2026).

SW-2026-02-23

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SW-2025-09-18

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APPENDIX F — PAST DROPS (ARCHIVE)

Older month-drops are moved here after 6 months. Archive is append-only.

Source note: FERC — FERC Takes Action to Enhance Reliability of the U.S. Electric Grid (Sep 18, 2025) — <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-takes-action-enhance-reliability-us-electric-grid>