

Processing Portal Launched for Initial Claims

We are pleased to announce the Scouting Settlement Trust (“Trust”) on August 4 launched the claims processing portal for the first group of Survivors of childhood sexual abuse during their time in the Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”). This first group includes the approximately 7,000 Claimants who selected the Expedited Distribution (or “quick pay”) liquidated payout when they submitted their ballots on the BSA’s plan of reorganization in March 2022.

Please be assured that we understand this has been a long and frustrating process. We appreciate the patience Survivors have shown throughout. Legal challenges prevented the Trust from beginning its work until April 19. Since then, we have been working diligently to implement a claims processing system to deliver payments as quickly as possible, while ensuring fairness, compassion and respect for everyone involved.

As Trustee, I approach the role with sincerity and solemnity – knowing that while we can never make Survivors “whole,” the Trust and its team will ensure that your stories are heard, that you are recognized, and that a measure of justice will be delivered. I know that we will not move swiftly enough for some but ask for a final stretch of patience as we finally commence this process.

We plan to launch the Trust Claims Questionnaire (non-expedited) for the remaining approximately 75,000 Claimants within the next several weeks. When that launches, Claimants and/or their counsel who are submitting Trust Claims Questionnaires will receive the detailed questionnaire as well as additional instructions and deadlines. This date may vary if unforeseen issues arise during the initial launch of the claims processing portal. Although speed is a priority, we have a duty to treat all claims securely, with a guarantee of fairness and confidentiality.

The Bankruptcy Court and the participants in this process have created a very specific roadmap for how our work must be done. We have determined what information will be needed from Claimants, written a claims questionnaire, and have run regular data security tests to ensure that all information will remain confidential.

Here is what each of you can expect from me as Trustee:

- Open, honest and frequent communication. I intend to post regularly on this website so you can stay informed about this process. Our FAQs will be updated with new information and Town Hall meetings will begin this fall so we can respond to questions in real time and keep Claimants apprised of the process.

- Individual transparency. We want to be as transparent as possible for each of our Claimants. The journey to this point has been long and convoluted. We understand and sympathize with your frustration. We will do our best to keep you informed about how and when you will receive compensation for your allowed claim.
- If you would like to be notified when we have new information, please sign-up on our website at the News and Key Links tab.

Finally, I want you to know that my team and I understand that the experience of Survivors of childhood sexual abuse is heartbreaking, tragic, and life-altering. Every member of this team is committed to working on your behalf to maximize the funds available for compensation and to evaluate every claim with compassion and integrity while ensuring your privacy throughout this process. We cannot undo the harm you suffered, but we are resolute in helping you achieve some measure of justice. If we can do better, please let me know. My contact information is on the Contact Us tab above.

Respectfully,
Hon. Barbara J. Houser (Ret.)
Trustee