

Letter from the Settlement Trustee (Aug. 17, 2023):

Processing Portal Opened for All Claims

My commitment as Trustee is to provide compensation and a measure of justice to the Survivors of childhood sexual abuse that occurred during their time in the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA"). Every member of the Scouting Settlement Trust ("Trust") team joins me in sharing these goals.

To that end, I am pleased to open the claims processing portal to all Claimants, starting today.

This is the next step toward delivering compensation in accordance with the BSA plan of reorganization approved by the Bankruptcy Court. As you may know, we launched the Claims Processing Portal on August 4 to those Survivors who elected the Expedited Distribution Abuse Claim (or "quick pay") liquidated payout when they submitted their ballots on the BSA's plan of reorganization. About 7,000 people make up that group.

Now an estimated 75,000 Claimants or their counsel will receive credentials to access the Claims Processing Portal. This will allow them to complete their Trust Claims Questionnaire and submit supporting documentation. There currently is no deadline to complete the Trust Claims Questionnaire, but we will notify all Claimants or their counsel when we establish a deadline. Once we make that notification, Claimants will have 120 days to submit their completed claims questionnaires to the Trust.

The Trust will determine the allowed amount of each valid claim as quickly and efficiently as possible, while ensuring fairness, compassion, and respect for everyone involved. As Trustee, I approach the role with sincerity and solemnity. The Trust and its team will ensure that you are heard and that your experience is recognized.

I know that we will not move swiftly enough for some but ask for your understanding of the complexities of administering a claims process as complicated as this one. The Bankruptcy Court and the participants in the underlying bankruptcy cases created a very specific roadmap for how the Trust must conduct its work. In a nutshell, here's what to expect:

- The Trust Claims Questionnaire will ask for information about your experience and will provide an opportunity for you to share additional details and documentation you believe we should consider when evaluating your claim.
- Once your signed Trust Claims Questionnaire has been submitted to the Trust, it will be reviewed in the order received by specially trained independent evaluators who are retained by the Trust and subject to strict confidentiality and non-disclosure rules.
- Generally speaking, if your claim is allowed, you or your counsel will receive a formal offer of compensation from the Trust in accordance with the Claims Matrix approved by the Bankruptcy Court in the plan of reorganization and detailed in the Trust Distribution Procedures for Abuse Claims. Both of these documents are available in the Key Links section of this website. If you accept the offer, the disbursement process will begin. If you disagree with the offer, an option to seek reconsideration will be provided.

Although speed is a priority, we have a duty to treat all claims securely, with a guarantee of fairness and confidentiality. We conduct regular data security tests and will perform audits to ensure consistency across claims. You will be kept apprised of your claim's progress.

Throughout this process, you can count on me to provide open, honest, and frequent communication. I intend to post regularly on this website and the Trust will share important updates with media to ensure our work is transparent and subject to scrutiny. 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. You are the focus of our work and our sole objective is to make this process straightforward, accurate, and equitable.

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. 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