

Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy Communication

Background

The National Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in February 2020 after numerous individual lawsuits were filed from men who claim that they were sexually abused as Scouts.

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code provides for an organization, like BSA, to propose a plan of reorganization to keep its business going and pay creditors.

Could this impact LCMS congregations or schools?

If your congregation or school hosted or sponsored a BSA troop or event, there is the possibility that your congregation or school may also be named in the lawsuit. This will depend on the state and your relationship with the BSA.

If your congregation or school does not have a charter, never had a charter, and never sponsored a BSA troop or event, you may have no legal exposure.

What action should we take?

Regardless of your experience or lack of experience with the BSA, you may have a claim that needs to be filed in the bankruptcy. It is difficult to anticipate the type of claim that may be filed, and **an attorney should be consulted.**

If you have or have had dealings with the BSA, you should consider filing a General Proof of Claim which is a legal filing representing a right to payment from the BSA should scouting abuse claims be brought against your congregation or school. If a Proof of Claim is not filed, your congregation or school will have no recourse against the BSA if scouting abuse claims are made against you.

Survivors of sexual abuse would file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of claim. Others, including entities that have or have had charters, would file a General Proof of Claim.

If you or someone in your congregation or school has information about abuse in scouting or any other abuse against children, please report this information to law enforcement immediately.

The **deadline for filing a Proof of Claim is November 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm (Eastern Time).** This is a very important date!

As with any legal matter, neither the Synod or LCMS, Inc. represents your congregation or school.

When in any doubt, contact an attorney for advice and guidance.