

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND  
DELAWARE BSA, LLC,<sup>1</sup>

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 20-10343 (LSS)

Jointly Administered

**Re: D.I. 2293 & 2294**

**OBJECTION TO THE ADEQUACY OF DEBTORS' DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
IN SUPPORT OF AMENDED CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND  
JOINDER**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. On March 1, 2021, the Debtors filed an *Amended Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC* (Dkt. No. 2293) (the “Plan”), and a *Disclosure Statement for the Amended Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC* (the “Disclosure Statement”) (Dkt. No. 2294).

2. Claimants Nos. 171/39460, SA-1173, SA-158/39422, SA-13828/SA-18155, SA-16358, 42480, 33732/38543, SA-20374, SA-71538, 46013/46022, 93829, 54613, SA-69750, and 92711 (collectively, the “Claimants,” and each a “Claimant”) are all survivors of childhood sexual abuse who each filed a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim. As reflected in their individual proofs of claim, the story of each of these survivors is unique, including how they were sexually abused, how the abuse affected them, and the circumstances that led to the abuse. As a group, their proofs of claim reflect abuse that occurred from 1974 through 1989, at ages ranging from approximately eight to seventeen years old. The sexual abuse they suffered includes forcible touching both above the clothes and skin to skin, forced oral copulation, and anal penetration. One female survivor, who was a member of a co-ed Adventurers group, was raped by a Scout leader.

3. Many of the Claimants have claims against non-Debtor entities, including local councils. For example, the Claimants have claims against the GREATER NEW YORK COUNCILS, BROOKLYN COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, as well as the GREATER NEW YORK COUNCILS, SUFFOLK COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. As noted below, many of these non-Debtor entities may have significant assets and their own insurance separate and apart from any insurance maintained by the Debtors.

4. Even without the benefit of discovery, which has been stayed due to the preliminary injunction, some of these claims against non-Debtor entities are strong and compelling. For example, Claimant SA-16358's proof of claim indicates that he provided actual notice to the Scoutmaster concerning sexual abuse by James T. Grace. Nothing was done, and his abuse continued thereafter. Further, in the ensuing years, countless scouts were sexually abused by Grace, including, but not limited to, claimant SA-69750, 54613, SA-71538, SA-20374, 33732, and 39422. Claimant 39422 was sexually abused by Grace between 1977 and 1982 approximately 1,000 times, including forced oral copulation. Claimant SA-20374 was sexually abused by Grace approximately 100 times from 1984 to 1987 at the ages of 12 to 15, including forced anal penetration. Claimant 33732 was sexually abused by Grace approximately 60-75 times between the ages of 11 and 14, from 1982 to 1985 including forced anal penetration. Their scouting unit was part of GREATER NEW YORK COUNCILS, BROOKLYN COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

### **OBJECTION**

The Claimants object to the sufficiency and adequacy of the Disclosure Statement for the following reasons:

**I. Failure to Disclose the Assets and Liabilities of Each Party Receiving a Release**

5. The Claimants object to the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement because it fails to provide them with sufficient information to make an informed decision (a) to vote to accept or reject the Plan, which proposes a release of all local councils and may propose a release of charter organizations, or (b) to raise a “Best Interest of Creditors” objection.

6. The Disclosure Statement does not provide any property-by-property valuation of the real or personal property that the Debtors intend to transfer to a settlement trust, or any property-by-property valuation of the real or personal property that it seeks to retain. The same is true of its other assets, including investments. It is imperative that the Disclosure Statement provide the liquidation value or fair market value for each such property.

7. The Disclosure Statement does not include in its liquidation analysis the properties of the local councils. Under the Debtors’ governance documents, a local council’s property reverts to the Debtors if the local council’s charter is not renewed. In a Chapter 7 liquidation of the Debtors, the Chapter 7 trustee presumably would not renew any local council charters. Since the properties revert to the Debtors, the liquidation analysis must include the liquidation value of all local council real and personal property.

8. The Disclosure Statement and the Plan fail to provide any property valuation information for a creditor to determine if the local council is making a substantial contribution that warrants a release and channeling injunction. Any such valuation must include the liquidation or fair market value of the assets of each local council that will be released, including any justification by a council for asserting that an asset is unavailable to pay creditors (e.g. donor restricted), how many child sexual abuse claims implicate each council, and how much each council is contributing in exchange for a release of such child sexual abuse claims.

9. Based on each local council’s publicly available IRS Form 990 statements, the

local councils have significant assets, including significant unrestricted assets. Even the IRS Form 990 statements undervalue the assets if the local council accounted for its real property using "book value" (*e.g.*, the value it was worth at the time it was acquired) and not its current fair market value.

10. Claimants cannot make an informed decision to vote to accept or reject the Plan because the Disclosure Statement does not contain any information about the number of claims against each local council or charter organization, or any estimate of the value of such claims. To the extent that sexual abuse claims have not been filed against a local council or charter organization, the Debtors should disclose whether they have any indemnification or contribution claims against each local council or charter organization.

11. The Disclosure Statement also fails to adequately explain how any contribution by non-Debtor entities, including local councils, will be utilized, including whether their contribution will be used to pay administrative expenses, to pay trust administrative and legal expenses, or to compensate others who do not have a claim against that entity.

12. The inadequacy of the Disclosure Statement is illustrated by the fact that the Debtors state in the Plan that they are "committed" to ensuring the local councils collectively contribute at least \$300 million, but they fail to disclose how much each council has available to contribute, how much each council is contributing, and how the contributions of each council will be utilized, including whether the contributions of a council will be used to compensate abuse survivors who do not have a claim against that council. This lack of basic information makes it impossible for Creditors a) to determine whether each council is making a substantial contribution; b) to make an informed decision on whether to vote to accept or reject the Plan, which proposes to release each council; and c) to make an informed decision on whether to raise a "best interest of creditors" objection because the Plan fails to award them the liquidated value of their claim against all entities they are releasing.

## **II. Failure to Disclose the Specific Entities to Be Released**

13. Claimants object to the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement and the accompanying solicitation procedures because they fail to notify Claimants as to which local council and/or charter organization is associated with their abuse, whether any such entity will receive a release, and if so, the terms of the release. If the Plan is designed to provide a release to non-debtor third parties, such as the local councils and charter organizations, the Debtors should identify each local council and charter organization and their relationship to each of the Claimants.

14. Most of the Claimants have legal claims against the Debtor(s) and a local council. In their filed proof of claims, Claimants made a good faith effort to identify the local council that may be liable for the child sexual abuse they suffered that is the basis for their claim. However, Claimants were children when they were sexually abused. Due to the passage of time and/or the psychological effects of the abuse, many of them are unsure whether they have identified the correct entities and others were simply too young to recall the correct names today.

15. For those Claimants and other abuse survivors who do not know this information (and between 40,000-60,000 proof of claim forms lacked this information), the information they need is largely within the purview of the Debtor(s) and the local councils, which possess the Scouting unit rosters (e.g., Boy Scout Troop rosters and Cub Scout Pack rosters), camp rosters, and adult volunteer rosters. In prepetition litigation, this disclosure would generally occur through discovery that is currently barred by the preliminary injunction. Prior to the preliminary injunction, Claimants would normally issue discovery that demanded the Debtor(s) and/or the local council produce the roster(s) for the Claimant's Scouting unit and/or camp so the Claimant can find their name on the roster and confirm they have identified the correct local council and charter organization for their Scouting unit. If a Claimant's name did not appear on a roster, which may have happened as a result of human error and/or if the Claimant joined a Scouting unit in-between the annual registration process, the Claimant could review the roster to see if the Claimant

recognized the names of the other children or adults on the roster. If so, the Claimant could contact some of the other members of the Scouting unit to see if they had a memory of the Claimant being a part of their Scouting unit. If not, the Claimant would work with the Debtor(s) and/or the local council to determine whether the Claimant identified the wrong Scouting unit and appeared on the roster of a different Scouting unit. In addition to rosters, the Claimant would also ask the Debtor and/or local council in discovery to produce the charter for the Claimant's Scouting unit so the Claimant could confirm the correct charter organization that chartered the Claimant's Scouting unit, particularly if the Debtor and local council no longer had rosters for the Scouting unit.

16. If the Claimant was unable to obtain records that confirm the Claimant has identified the correct local council and/or charter organization, the Claimant would ask the Debtor and/or the local council for a "person most knowledgeable" deposition about the local council and/or charter organization who was responsible for the Claimant's Scouting unit so that the Claimant could confirm that the Claimant has identified the correct local council for their Scouting unit. If the Claimant believes they may know the correct local council, the Claimant would ask for any documents that organization has about the Claimant's Scouting unit and the Claimant would ask the organization for a "person most knowledgeable" deposition to confirm the Claimant identified the correct local council and/or charter organization.

17. The Claimants have not been able to pursue the above discovery because the preliminary injunction prohibits the Claimants from pursuing any litigation against the Debtor, local councils, and charter organizations. Nothing under the Plan provides a mechanism by which a Claimant can confirm the Claimant has identified the correct local council and/or charter organization before a release is given to those entities.

### **III. Failure to Disclose Insurance Coverage Risks**

18. The Claimants object to the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement because it fails

to explain the likelihood of defeating the insurers' coverage defenses or the insurance companies' ability to pay abuse claims that total billions of dollars. The Disclosure Statement barely makes a passing note that the insurers have asserted coverage defenses and the Debtors make no effort to evaluate those risks. Beyond the coverage risks associated with the Debtor's prepetition conduct, the Debtors fail to discuss any risk associated with the proposed assignment of all of the insurance of the Debtors, the local councils, and participating charter organizations to a trust, including any risk associated with the anti-assignment clauses in such policies. If the Plan's assignment violates the anti-assignment clauses, the insurance coverage could evaporate.

#### **IV. Failure to Disclose How Insurance Policies Will Be Utilized**

19. The Claimants object to the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement because it fails to explain how the proceeds of any insurance policies assigned to the trust will be utilized. The Claimants are entitled to know how the proceeds of any policies will be utilized, including whether the proceeds of a policy that covers a Claimant's claim is being used to pay administrative expenses, to pay trust administrative and legal expenses, or to compensate others who do not have a claim covered under the same policy.

20. For example, if a Claimant has a \$1 million child sexual abuse claim against the Mormon Church, the Mormon Church presumably has sufficient assets to pay the full value of that claim. In an insurance buy-back scenario, the insurers and the insured will insist that the insured receives a release of all current and future claims against the insured, otherwise the insured would be without insurance on those claims, would still be responsible for the defense costs on those claims, and would still be at risk for a judgment on those claims. Claimants are entitled to know whether they will be required to release all of their claims against all insureds in order to effectuate a buy back of a given policy, and if so, how the proceeds of any such buy back will be utilized. In the foregoing example, the hypothetical Claimant is entitled to know whether he will be required to release a claim worth \$1,000,000 against the Mormon Church to effectuate a "buy back" of a policy

that names the Mormon Church as an insured. Moreover, the hypothetical Claimant is entitled to know whether his share of the sale price of the policy could be a small fraction of the value of the claim against that defendant.

21. The Claimants need to know this information to determine whether each non-Debtor who is released is making a substantial contribution and whether the "best interests" test is met by that contribution.

**V. Failure to Disclose the Contribution of Insurers and Their Insureds**

22. The Claimants object to the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement because it fails to explain what contribution the insurers and their non-Debtor insureds will make in order to receive a release.

23. As noted above, almost every Claimant has a legal claim against a local council and/or a charter organization. In addition to the Debtors, a local council was responsible for all Scouting units in its geographic region, including handling and processing complaints against Scout leaders for allegedly sexually abusing children and ensuring that each Scouting unit abided by policies and procedures to protect children from foreseeable harm. These local councils, the “eyes and ears” of the Debtors, were often amongst the parties who neglected to protect the children in their care from foreseeable harm.

24. In turn, a charter organization was responsible for staffing and supervising the adult volunteers of a Scouting unit, like a Boy Scout Troop or Cub Scout Pack, and were also amongst the parties who neglected to protect the child members of a Scouting unit from foreseeable harm. The leaders of the charter organizations, including the Scout leaders who the charter organization appointed to oversee its Scouting unit(s), were often amongst those to receive complaints that another Scout leader was sexually abusing children in the Scouting unit, or saw the “red flags” or warning signs that another Scout leader was sexually abusing children in the Scouting unit, but neglected to take steps to protect the children from that danger.



25. Many of the local councils and charter organizations face significant liability, and many have substantial assets that are available to compensate abuse survivors, including the Claimants who have a claim against them.

26. The Claimants object to the adequacy of the Disclosure Statement because it fails to specify what contribution the local council and/or charter organizations will have to make to receive a release, including a contribution above and beyond their rights under insurance policies. The Claimants need to know this information to determine whether each entity who is receiving a release, including any local council or charter organization, is making a substantial contribution and whether the "best interests" test is met by that contribution.

**VI. The Scope of this Bankruptcy Necessitates Transparency Regarding the Handling of Insurance Policies**

27. As it stands, the Plan would provide each Claimant an average of \$6,000, or less, from the Debtors and the local councils, which they partly justify by the assignment of insurance policies. The average award could be significantly lower, if non-existent, after administrative expenses. Claimants must have sufficient information to evaluate the risks of the Plan if the Claimant is to release multiple non-debtor entities. As filed, the Disclosure Statement falls far short of the Bankruptcy Code's standard for its approval.

**VII. Joinder to the Objection to the Disclosure Statement by the Tort Claimants' Committee**

28. Claimants join the objection to the Disclosure Statement filed by the Tort Claimants' Committee.

## CONCLUSION

29. Based on the foregoing, the approval of the Disclosure Statement should be denied.

Date: March 31, 2021  
Wilmington, Delaware

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