

TCC Statement on Mental Health Assistance

The Tort Claimant's Committee (TCC), appointed by the US Department of Justice to represent ALL survivors of abuse while involved with the Boy Scouts, has noted that many survivors are struggling with receiving mental health assistance. The TCC encourages anyone who feels they could benefit from mental health assistance to seek it out. Surviving sexual abuse is challenging enough and the bankruptcy process is often added stress. PLEASE, seek assistance if you need it. With that in mind, the TCC has gathered some resources for you to consider. The TCC does NOT endorse any one of these specifically but just provides this list to make it a little easier in finding help.

A first step is to investigate your own health insurance benefits if you have them. Many are employee-provided and you may be hesitant to contact your employer's Human Resources office to discuss this. Instead, you can contact your insurer directly. By law your insurance must cover the cost of mental health assistance at a comparable level to physical health care. <https://www.apa.org/topics/managed-care-insurance/parity-guide> In all cases it's important to ask what that is and if there are limits on the amount of treatment you can receive annually.

If you need free or low-cost assistance, please check these resources:

<https://nami.org/> The National Alliance on Mental Illness is an excellent resource to find assistance in your specific State. Scroll to the bottom of the page, select your State, and you'll find both online resources and assistance available in your State. As well, it has a 24/7 helpline at 800-950-6264.

<https://www.childhelp.org/> Provides a helpline staffed by counselors available to talk through child abuse situations including Survivors of abuse. They will also help research additional resources that may be available to you. <https://childhelphotline.org/>

<https://1in6.org/> This organization focuses on men who have been sexually abused. Please note that while this is an independent organization it has partnered with the Boy Scouts. Info at <https://1in6.org/bsa/>

<https://www.rainn.org/> RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline 800.656.HOPE in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help survivors, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

BSA Survivors Action Group also keeps a list of additional resources for adult Survivors <https://bsasurvivor.org/general-2-2>

Lastly, the TCC has asked what assistance the BSA is currently providing. We have asked the BSA for a description of this and when it is received, and we have reviewed it we will post it here.