

Survivors/Advocates FAQs

1. What is the purpose and scope of this investigation?

Specifically, and as directed by the SBC Motion, Guidepost will investigate:

- Allegations of abuse by Executive Committee members
- Mishandling of abuse allegations by Executive Committee members between January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021
- Allegations of mistreatment of sexual abuse victims by Executive Committee members from January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021
- Patterns of intimidation of sexual abuse victims or advocates from January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021
- Resistance to sexual abuse reform initiatives from January 1, 2000, to June 14, 2021

In addition, Guidepost will perform an audit of the procedures and actions of the Credentials Committee after its formation in mid-June 2019, using best standards and practices designed to ensure accountability, transparency, and care for the wellbeing of survivors of sexual abuse.

2. What can I report?

If you are a survivor and/or an advocate and have information relevant to the scope of this investigation, we want to speak with you. We are interested in speaking with you if you have had any interaction related to abuse that pertains to the SBC Executive Committee staff, officers, members, the Credentials Committee, SBC Presidents, or Baptist Press that falls within the relevant time frame of the motion – January 2000 – June 2021. This would include allegations of abuse by Executive Committee staff, officers, members, or SBC Presidents, any mishandling of abuse allegations by Executive Committee staff, officers, members, or SBC Presidents, any mistreatment of survivors by Executive Committee staff, officers, members, or SBC Presidents, any patterns of intimidation by Executive Committee staff, officers, members, or SBC Presidents towards survivors or advocates, or any resistance to sexual abuse prevention initiatives by Executive Committee staff, officers, members, or SBC Presidents.

3. How do I report?

You may reach out to the Guidepost team in several ways.

- You may contact us via email at ECInvestigation@guidepostsolutions.com

- You may contact us via U.S. Mail or carrier service:

Guidepost Solutions
Attn: SBC EC Investigation
1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 520
Washington, DC 20036

4. What about confidentiality?

Pursuant to the SBC motion, Guidepost will not disclose survivor names or other personal identifying information in the final report without permission from the survivor. In addition, pursuant to investigative best practice, the Guidepost team will not disclose to other witnesses who we have spoken with during the course of the investigation. Survivor names and identifying information will not be released to anyone without the survivor's consent. Information regarding the survivors we speak with during the investigation will remain in Guidepost files. In the event of litigation, if there is a subpoena that is successfully executed, Guidepost may be compelled to turn over information relevant to the litigation. Guidepost will attempt to redact any identifying information, and will notify the survivor of the subpoena.

5. Will Guidepost inform law enforcement of my allegations?

Guidepost will make reports to law enforcement as required by law. In the event we are mandated to report, we will let you know when and to whom we will be making the report.

6. If I am a known survivor within the SBC will Guidepost be reaching out to me?

Guidepost recognizes the sensitive nature of this type of investigation. The health and well-being of survivors is very important to us, and for that reason, we will not contact survivors to request an interview. We respect the autonomy of the survivor and believe the choice to interview with us should be made by the individual survivor based upon his/her comfort level, healing journey, and desire to be a part of the investigation.

7. Once I contact Guidepost, what is the next step?

Guidepost will contact you within 48 hours to confirm receipt of your email. In addition, if you wish to schedule an interview, you can let us know what works best for your schedule, and according to your preferences, we will make arrangements for either an in-person or virtual interview.

8. What is the interview process like?

A typical interview usually runs 60-90 minutes; however, depending on the breadth of information that a particular survivor may have, it could be necessary to schedule a half or full day. Our team will work with survivors and/or advocates in order to work out a schedule that works best for the survivor/and or advocate. Interviews can be scheduled virtually or in-person. During the interview, you decide what information you want to share with us. You may share as little or as much as you feel comfortable. You may also request breaks or change your mind about participating at any time.

9. May I bring someone with me?

Yes, you may bring a support person of your choice.

10. Who will I be speaking with?

Your interview will be conducted by two investigators. Our investigators are experienced in conducting investigations that are trauma-informed, compassionate, and thorough.

11. What is the deadline for me to participate in this investigation?

Guidepost is obligated to provide a report to the Southern Baptist Convention for its June 2022 meeting in Anaheim, CA by May 13, 2022. For your information to be part of the investigation process and analysis, we would need to hear from you before that date.

12. Will a full report be released?

Pursuant to the motion, at the conclusion of the investigation, a detailed report will be provided to the Executive Committee and that report will be made public and presented at the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim. The report will include a complete set of factual findings, a comprehensive recommended framework within which the SBC can operate in order to continue to address the concerns raised by the SBC Motion in a transparent, accountable, and scriptural manner that prioritizes survivor support and care and enhances practices for the prevention of sexual abuse, harassment, and violence.

13. What is a third-party independent investigation?

A third-party independent investigation brings in a neutral party that is tasked with finding the truth without bias. As the independent third-party investigator,

Guidepost is independent of the Sexual Abuse Task Force, the SBC, the Executive Committee, and the Credentials Committee. Guidepost controls all aspects of the investigation including who to interview, which documents to request, and what goes into the final report. No SBC entity, committee, or task force has authority to direct the investigation or redact or edit the final report.

14. What if I am not a survivor or advocate, but I have important information to share?

Guidepost would like to speak to anyone who has information that falls within the scope of our work. These FAQs apply equally to witnesses. Please contact us if you have information or documents to share.

15. What are some ways I can participate if I believe I have relevant information?

- Contact Guidepost to ask questions or set up an interview
- Provide a written statement to Guidepost
- Forward relevant documents to Guidepost

*To participate in any of these ways please email us at ECInvestigation@guidepostsolutions.com