

## FAQs for the SBC Hotline

### **What is Guidepost Solutions' (Guidepost's) role as part of the SBC Hotline?**

Guidepost is an independent, third party engaged by the Southern Baptist Convention to collect reports, whether anonymous or attributed, regarding current and historic allegations of sexual abuse within SBC churches and SBC entities. Guidepost has set up the SBC Hotline as a means to gather information from reporters and refer submissions to the SBC Credentials Committee for their consideration and action as the SBC Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force deems appropriate.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, Guidepost has not been authorized by the SBC to investigate the allegations or reports of sexual abuse. Guidepost does, however, provide the collected reports of relevant allegations involving SBC churches to the Credentials Committee so they can determine how best to respond.

### **What happens to my information once I report it to Guidepost?**

Guidepost regularly provides the SBC with reports of allegations of sexual abuse and other inappropriate behavior which falls under the purview of the SBC Credential Committee and/or other SBC entities.

### **Does it matter if I provide information to the Hotline that occurred years ago?**

No. Guidepost welcomes all reports of sexual abuse, whether current or historic. We refer all allegations relevant to SBC churches even if the accused is deceased to the SBC Credentials Committee for their consideration and whatever action they deem appropriate.

### **Can my name be maintained as confidential if I make a report?**

Guidepost will make every effort to keep your identity confidential. If, however, Guidepost receives a subpoena or other lawful process from a law enforcement agency or court, we will be required to comply with the terms of that process, which may include the names of reporters, witnesses, alleged parties and/or survivors.

### **What happens if my information is relative to a minor or child?**

If Guidepost receives an allegation of any abuse by an SBC church affiliated individual, we provide that information to the SBC Credentials Committee, including any current or historical allegation regarding abuse of a minor. Guidepost complies with federal and state mandatory child abuse reporting statutes and regulations. As noted on our website, "If in the event, you are contacting Guidepost to report a current incident involving sexual abuse, child abuse or any other ongoing and potentially violent behavior by someone, please also contact your local law enforcement agency for immediate help. Please dial 911 if you or someone else is in need of immediate assistance."

### **How will I know if anything has happened as a result of my information?**

Currently, Guidepost is serving as an information provider to the SBC. Guidepost is not authorized to independently investigate any reported allegation. Whether or not the Credentials Committee contacts a reporter is solely at the discretion of the Committee. At some point, Guidepost might contact you if

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sataskforce.net/>

further information is needed from you or if there is an initiation of a separate investigation by Guidepost or another entity.

Additionally, the SBC's Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force (ARITF) has been charged with undertaking reforms relative to sexual abuse claims. Additional information relative to the role of the ARITF can be found at <https://www.sataskforce.net/faqs>.

**Does Guidepost also accept non-SBC reports of sexual abuse?**

Guidepost's engagement with the SBC currently allows for the collection of information relative to any allegation of sexual abuse by an SBC church or affiliated individuals associated with an SBC church.