

# Boy Scout councils under pressure to share abuse costs

DAVID CRARY  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Nine sex abuse lawsuits were filed Tuesday in New York against three Boy Scout local councils, signaling an escalation of efforts to pressure councils nationwide to pay a big share of an eventual settlement in the Scouts' bankruptcy proceedings.

The lawsuits were filed shortly after an easing of coronavirus lockdown rules enabled courts in some parts of New York to resume the handling of civil cases.

One of the lawyers coordinating the filing, Mike Pfau, said his Seattle-based firm expects to file scores more lawsuits in other parts of New York, as well as in New Jersey and California, after full reopening of courts there.

Two other firms, Oregon-based Crew Janci LLP and Chicago-based Hurley McKenna & Mertz, said they had similar plans, indicating there could be hundreds of such lawsuits altogether.

At least through June 8, an injunction issued by the bankruptcy judge, Laurie Selber Silverstein, blocks the lawyers from proceeding with lawsuits against the local councils. But several lawyers said they will press for the injunction to be lifted unless the councils' financial information is fully disclosed and they agree to contribute significantly to a proposed victim compensation fund.

"The local councils are required to make a substantial contribution," said Stephen Crew, of Crew Janci. "If they don't, the plan won't be approved."

The Boy Scouts of America filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in February in hopes of surviving a barrage of lawsuits, many of them made possible by recent changes in state laws to allow people to sue over long-ago sexual abuse.

Proceedings are underway at federal bankruptcy court in Delaware aimed at creating a compensation fund for thousands of men molested as youngsters decades ago by scoutmasters or other leaders.

In its bankruptcy filing, the BSA said the 261 local councils, which have extensive property holdings and other assets, are separate legal entities and should not be included as debtors in the case.

The councils are represented by an ad hoc committee in the proceedings, and negotiations are in progress over disclosure of their assets and records as a step toward determining their contributions to the compensation fund.

Pfau said he was skeptical the councils would agree to contributions large enough to forestall lawsuits against them.

The lawsuits filed Tuesday involve allegations of abuse from men who were Scouts decades ago in local councils in upstate New York that have subsequently merged into the Leath-erstocking Council, the Baden-Powell Council and the Seneca Waterways Council.

Leaders of those three councils declined to comment on the new lawsuits. Two of them referred inquiries to BSA headquarters, which issued a statement reiterating its goal of fairly compensating abuse survivors while preserving the Boy Scouts' mission.

"We are working with and actively encouraging the ad hoc committee, councils, and attorneys representing survivors of abuse to find a solution that will appropriately fund a trust, while also ensuring the future of Scouting," the statement said

Lawyer Tim Kosnoff, whose Abused in Scouting legal team says it's representing 3,200 clients in the bankruptcy case, estimated that the local councils possess roughly 80% of total Boy Scouts assets, compared with about 20% for the Texas-based national office.

Kosnoff said he worries some local councils might try to transfer assets in a way that would put them out of reach of bankruptcy proceedings; he wants Silverstein to prohibit that.

It's not yet known how many claimants there will be in the bankruptcy case. Some lawyers say the number could approach 10,000 by Nov. 16, the deadline that was set Monday for abuse victims to file claims.

More than 12,000 boys have been molested by 7,800 abusers since the 1920s, according to Boy Scout files revealed in court papers. Most of the more recent cases date to the 1960s, '70s and '80s, before the Boy Scouts adopted mandatory criminal background checks and abuse prevention training and protocols for all staff and volunteers.

## Gilbert 2019 Drinking Water Report

### Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: three wells ranging from 87 to 89 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian aquifer.

Gilbert works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Terah Riberson, Lead Operator, at 218-748-2219 or [terahriberson@gilbertmn.org](mailto:terahriberson@gilbertmn.org) if you have questions about Gilbert's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### Gilbert Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2019.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html).

### How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Definitions

- AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- EPA Environmental Protection Agency**
- MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).
- ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- PWSID:** Public water system identification.

### Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

#### LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (09/12/17)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0.61 ppb	0 out of 10	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (09/12/17)	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	0 out of 10	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing

#### CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	16.7 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Halocetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	4.7 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.27 ppm	0.16 - 0.35 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

Total HAA refers to HAAS

#### OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.75 ppm	0.53 - 0.76 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth

#### Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

**Fluoride:** Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

#### Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### Learn More about Your Drinking Water

##### Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources:

- Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Gilbert is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

##### Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Gilbert is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

- Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
  - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>
  - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
- Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
- Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if you're pregnant or if you're a young child or if you're a young child or pregnant woman drink your tap water.
  - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: [Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program \(https://eldos.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam\)](https://eldos.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)
  - The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
- Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
  - Read about water treatment units: [Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.htm\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.htm)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water \(http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead\)](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html\)](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

#### Help Protect Our Most Precious Resource – Water

##### You Can Prevent Pollution

Many of our daily activities contribute to the pollution of Minnesota's surface water and groundwater. You can help protect these drinking water sources by taking the following actions:

- Lawn and property:**
  - Limit use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on your property.
  - Keep soil in place with plants, grass, or rocks.
  - Cover temporary piles of dirt with a tarp or burlap sack.
  - Keep leaves and grass off of streets and sidewalks.
  - Maintain any septic systems, private wells, and storage tanks to prevent leaks. Seal any unused wells.
- Out-of-date medications:** Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or sink. Always take them to a waste disposal or prescription medication drop-off site. More information is available at [Managing unwanted medications \(www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medication\)](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medication)
- Hazardous materials:** Safety store hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals. Dispose of them at a proper waste disposal facility or drop-off event. Do not dump down storm drains, sink or onto your land. Learn more at: [Keep hazardous waste out of the garbage \(http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-garbage\)](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-garbage).
- Pet waste:** Pick up after your pet and put waste in the trash.
- Trash:** Seal trash bags and keep litter out of the street.
- Winter ice removal:** Chemicals used to break up the ice are called deicers or anti-icers. They can be harmful to the environment, corrosive to driveways and sidewalks and harmful to plants, pets and humans. Always shovel first, and then only apply deicers/anti-icers lightly if needed. Learn more at [10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters \(https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters\)](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters)
- Keep an eye out for car and motor fluids:** Seal or repair any fluid leaks that could run off onto streets and into storm drains. Take used motor oil or other fluids to a neighborhood drop-off site.
- Be a water advocate:** Spread the word; get involved. There are many groups and individuals working to protect water across Minnesota.

##### Reduce Backflow at Cross Connections

Bacteria and chemicals can enter the drinking water supply from polluted water sources in a process called backflow. Backflow occurs at connection points between drinking water and non-drinking water supplies (cross connections) due to water pressure differentials.

For example, if a person sprays an herbicide with a garden hose, the herbicide could enter the home's plumbing and then enter the drinking water supply. This could happen if the water pressure in the hose is greater than the water pressure in the home's pipes.

Property owners can help prevent backflow. Pay attention to cross connections, such as garden hoses.

The Minnesota Department of Health and American Water Works Association recommend the following:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Keep the end of hoses clear of possible contaminants.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. Attach these devices to threaded faucets. Such devices are inexpensive and available at hardware stores.
- Use a licensed plumber to install backflow prevention devices.
- Maintain air gaps between hose outlets and liquids. An air gap is a vertical space between the water outlet and the flood level of a fixture (e.g. the space between a wall-mounted faucet and the sink rim). It must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, and at least one inch.
- Commercial property owners should develop a plan for flushing or cleaning water systems to minimize the risk of drawing contaminants into uncontaminated areas.

##### Home Water Treatment

###### The Pros and Cons of Home Water Softening

When considering whether to use a water softener, contact your public water system to find out if you have hard water. Many systems treat for hardness, making water softeners unnecessary.

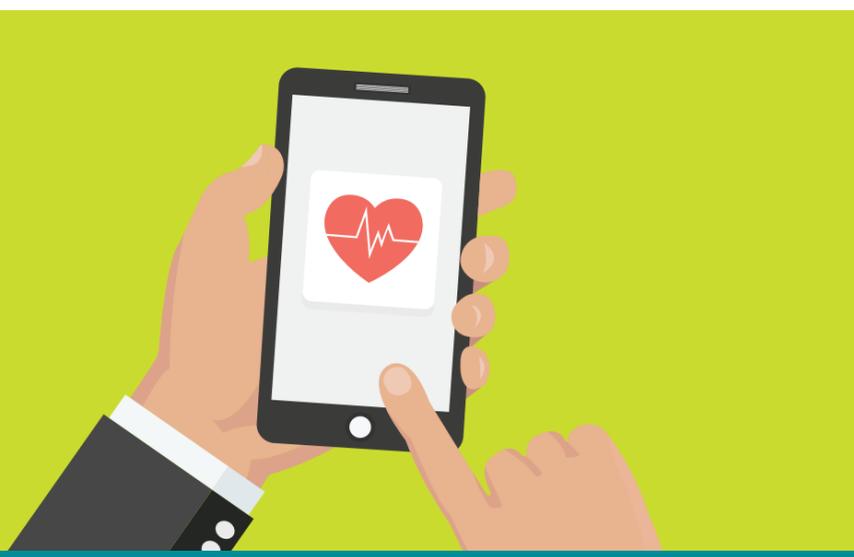
Water softeners are a water treatment device. They remove water hardness (dissolved calcium and magnesium). Water softeners must be installed and maintained properly to be safe and effective. Learn more at [Home Water Softening \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/softening.html).

The benefits of soft water include:

- Increased efficiency for soaps and detergents.
- Reduction in mineral staining on fixtures and in pipes.
- A potential increase in the lifespan of water heaters.

The drawbacks of soft water include:

- Operation and maintenance costs.
- More sodium. People on low-sodium diets should consult a doctor if they plan to regularly consume softened water.
- The production of salt brine as a byproduct. This can have negative effects at wastewater treatment plants and on ecosystems. Reduce the amount of salt brine used or install a salt-free system.



## Connect with us. Whenever. Wherever.

We now offer 4 ways to connect with us without leaving home.

### Video Visit

A two-way, real-time, interactive video and audio appointment with your provider. Call 218-362-6937 to make an appointment.

### E-Visits

Reach your provider online, using Fairview MyChart. Log in anytime.

You'll receive a response within one business day; weekend requests are answered on Mondays.

Visit [Fairview.org/MyChart](https://www.fairview.org/MyChart)

### Telephone Visits

A telephone visit is just that – a phone call with your provider. Call 218-362-6937 to make an appointment.

### OnCare

OnCare is our 24/7 online clinic. Log in, answer questions about your health, and receive a diagnosis and treatment plan within an hour.

Visit [OnCare.org](https://www.fairview.org/OnCare)

Visit [fairview.org/range](https://www.fairview.org/range)

