

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET  
REGISTRATION SERVICE  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Council No. 162 Date 10/18/88

Full name Myron J. Rickman (JAY)

Social Security Number Unknown

Address [REDACTED]

City Marion State IN ZIP Code 46953

Date of Birth 3-68

Approximate age \_\_\_\_\_ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known.)

Religion L.D.S. Nationality U.S. Citizen

Occupation Clerk K-Mart

Education 12th Grade - Graduate

Weight 170 Height 5' 10" Race White

Color of hair Brown Color of eyes Brown

Outstanding characteristics or interests \_\_\_\_\_

Married or single Single Children None  
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Spouse's name None

Scouting connections: Assistant SM Chartered organization Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter Day Saints

Unit No. T-415 City Marion State IN Position ASM Date registered 11/86 Date resigned \_\_\_\_\_

Special recognition None

Suspended or denied registration for following reasons: Report of Child Abuse

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION, INCLUDING HOW THE INFORMATION CAME TO THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION, AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE, OR SPECULATION):

(See attached letters)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council Sagamore #162

CONFIDENTIAL

INDEXED

NOV 3 1988

DEC 29 '88

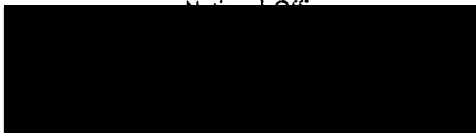
F. STARO

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

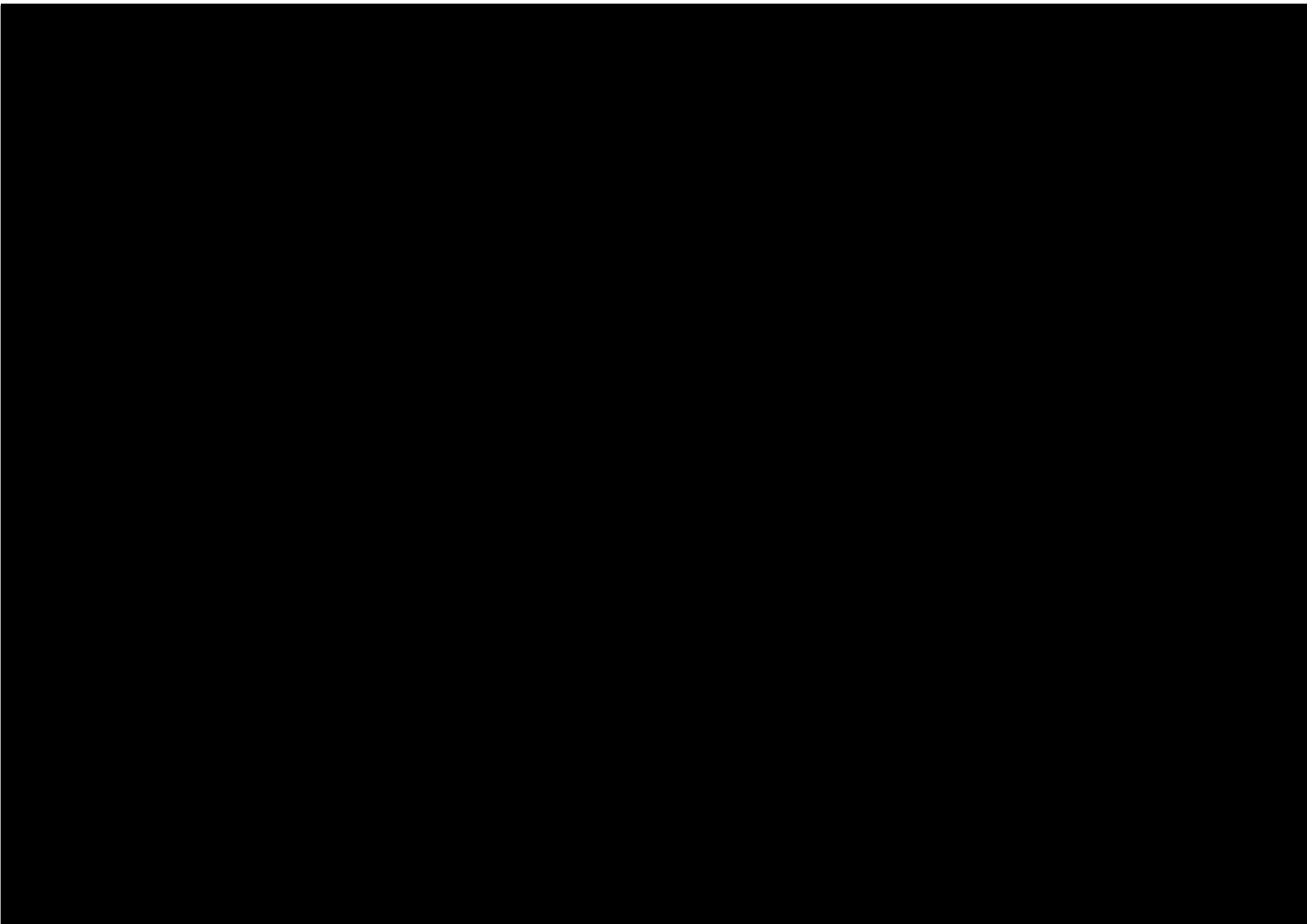
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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

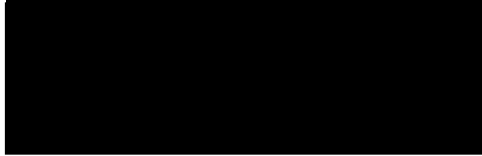


02/10/10





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



November 5, 1990

SUBJECT: MYRON J. RICKMAN  
From: Paul Ernst, S108  
To: Ben H. Love, S400

Attached is the file for Myron J. Rickman. This individual was placed on the Ineligible Volunteer File in 1988. He has been refused registration since that time.

Attached is a letter which recently was sent to Gene Cruse. This relates to a request for a review. You will note Gene's letter to Mr. Rickman indicating that the review had to be processed by the national council.

I believe we can consider this as a request for a national review, and I have enclosed a file so that you can have this case placed on our file for review nationally. No doubt, someone should respond to Mr. Rickman regarding his request.

ag

Attachment

cc: Joe Anglin, S400  
David Park, S400  
Gene Cruse, East Central Region

CONF028235

November 6, 1990



Attachment

cc: Joe Jolly, 8400  
David Vain, 8400  
Gene Bruce, East Central Region

CONF028236

November 6, 1990

SUBJECT: MYRON J. RICKMAN  
From: Paul Ernat, S108  
To: Dan H. Love, S400

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Attached is a letter which recently was sent to Gene Cruse. This relates to a request for a review. You will note Gene's letter to Mr. Rickman indicating that the review had to be processed by the national council.

I believe we can consider this as a request for a national review, and I have enclosed a file so that you can have this case placed on our file for review nationally. No doubt, someone should respond to Mr. Rickman regarding his request.

ag

Attachment

cc: Joe Anglin, S400  
David Park, S400  
Gene Cruse, East Central Region

END TO FILE  
NOV 6 5 1990  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF028237

CALL BACK REQUESTED

COUNCIL # 162

PHONE NO: [REDACTED]

On-Line \_\_\_\_\_

Batch \_\_\_\_\_

CALLER: Joseph Vellmer

POSITION: SE

TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_

VETERANS \_\_\_\_\_

DEBIT \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRAM CODE

& UNIT #

RENEWAL DATE

TRANSMITTAL #

ID #

FILM #

Myron J. Rickman

WANTS BACK IN  
SUGGESTED APPLY FOR NEW  
RENEWAL FELLOW  
Plan J

SOLUTION:

NAME

S Lynn

DATE

10-18-90

TIME

3:10

October 30, 1990

Mr. Byron J. Rickman

Marion, Indiana 46953

Dear Mr. Rickman:

Your letter requesting reinstatement as a registered adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America, arrived today. Requests for reinstatement must be approved by our National Council in Dallas, Texas.

I am forwarding your letter to Mr. Paul Ernst, our National Director of Registration. Any action to reopen this case or to reinstate your registration would have to come from that level of our organization. We will act in accordance with their instructions.

Sincerely yours,

L. Gene Cruse  
Regional Director

/jjs

cc: J. Volmer, Scout Executive  
Kokomo, Indiana

P. Ernst

CONF028239

OO: 22 1990.

East Central Region

Dear Gene Cruse

My name is Myron Jay Rickman, I used to be an Assistant Scout Master for troop 415 Sagamore Council Marion Indiana,

I have been advised by Joseph Vollmer to send my Appeal back to you. Three years ago at the age of 19 I was removed from the scouting program for accusations made by one of the boys within the troop at the time. To refresh your memory, I was on a Scouting campout by my self being the only Scout leader there. Starting out to be 4 boys and myself 3 boys didn't show, camp was already set up so [REDACTED] & I stayed.

For some reason ~~he~~<sup>he</sup> accused me of sexually abusing him. Which he has ~~now~~ confessed to lying about the whole situation situation. At the time of confession there were 3 boys which will testify that was present. I'm not sure exactly what to say or how to say it except being truthful as Scouting taught me:

~~With~~ within 2 months the whole mess was over. I was ~~again~~ in full standards within the church I hold high positions with in the.



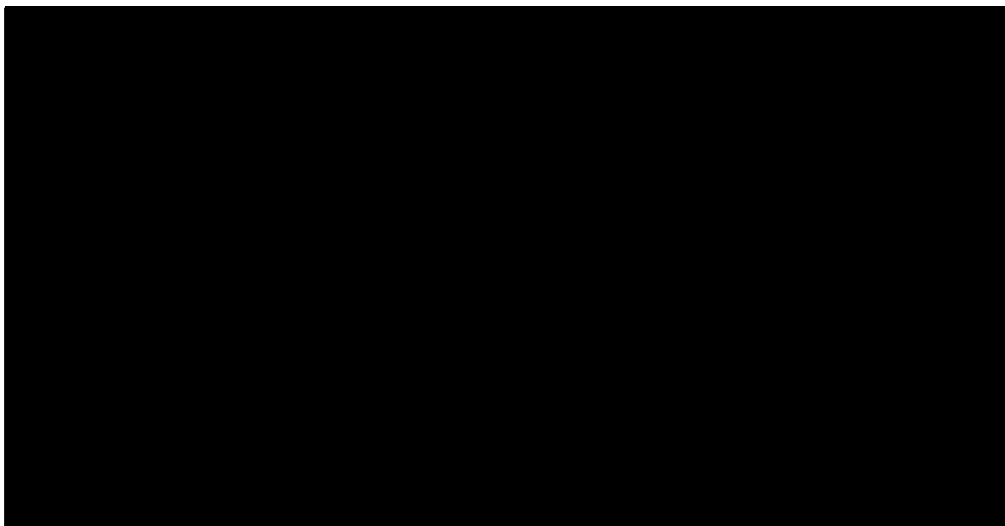
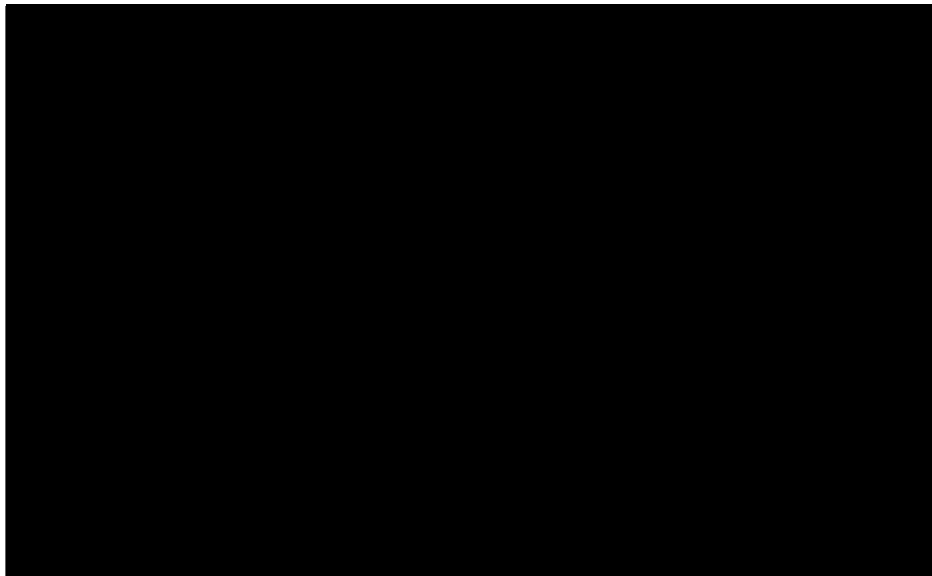


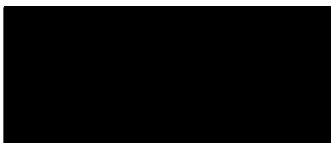
More Information you can reach me at  
[REDACTED] and please see my S, do  
and reanstate me: I promise that I can  
be Trusted.

Thank you for your  
understanding

Myron J. Rickman

Myron J., Rickman





11:37  
4/3

*J. Rickman*



*re: Review on registration*

*Je  
Ho.*

January 3, 1989<sup>89</sup>

Mr. Joseph E. Vollmer  
Scout Executive  
Sagamore Council, No. 162

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Myron J. Rickman

Dear Joe:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

eko

cc: East Central Region

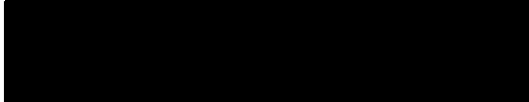
READY TO FILE  
JAN 03 1989  
ERIN O'RILEY



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Sagamore Council, 815 South Lindsay Street.



December 21, 1988

COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
J. Philip McGraw

SECRETARY AND  
CHIEF COUNCIL EXECUTIVE  
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Wayne Schreckengast  
John Norris  
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Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director, Registration Service  
National Council, B.S.A.  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Paul:

Enclosed with this letter you will find additional material pertaining to the registration suspension of Myron J. Rickman. As per our telephone conversation, one item is a hand-written letter from Mr. Rickman with his signature on it.

If there is anything else you need or have any comments for us, please let me know.

Thank you for your help and counsel in this unpleasant matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Vollmer  
Scout Executive

JEV:mc

encl.



PARTICIPATING AGENCY OF YOUR UNITED WAY

CONF028245

RECEIVED  
MAR 13 1989  
DAVID K PARK

East Central Region  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

[REDACTED]

r  
America

[REDACTED]

of Boy Scouts of America Membership

[REDACTED]

January 18, 1989 at 2:00 p.m. at  
for the purpose of reviewing the  
Hickman in the BSA.

[REDACTED]

stant Scoutmaster in Troop #415 of  
Hunts--a church in Marion, Indiana.  
Wagamore Council, #162, Kokomo,  
Council President, J. Phillip

[REDACTED]

Mr. Cruse's letter to you Mr. Cruse, and the  
we determined that the decision of  
is consistent with the BSA Standards of

[REDACTED]

W. M. Douglas, Jr., Ronald J. Jaicomo

CONF028246

Co 162

Joe ~~Bollman~~

Confidential Matter

MYLOR JAY RICKMAN

COUNCIL UPHELD SUSPENSION

RICKMAN APPEALING TO REGION

1-19-89

Print

1/19/89  
TM



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Sagamore Council, [REDACTED]

Kokomo, IN 46901, [REDACTED]

December 20, 1988

Myron J. Rickman  
[REDACTED]

Marion, IL 46953

Dear Mr. Rickman:

After receiving your letter of November 7, 1988, with the request for a review, I appointed a committee to review the situation. The committee met to review your appeal and the findings of the committee are as follows:

"The committee concluded, based upon the facts as stated by Mr. Rickman in his request letter, that Mr. Rickman's actions showed extremely serious lapses of judgement, to the extent that it created the appearance of serious impropriety. The committee concluded further that Mr. Rickman does not possess the moral, educational and emotional qualities necessary to afford positive leadership to youth. This being the central question to be decided, the review committee sustained the action of the Council President in suspending Myron J. Rickman's registration."

If you wish, you now have the option to request a review of the decision by a Regional review committee. This can be accomplished by writing to the Regional Director at the following address within 30 days explaining why you believe this decision is in error.

Mr. M. Gene Cruse  
[REDACTED]

Naperville, IL 60540-1279

I am enclosing another copy of the "Procedure for Requesting Review of Decision Denying Registration" for your information.

Sincerely,

J. Philip McGraw  
President, Sagamore Council

JPM:bsv  
Enc.



PARTICIPATING AGENCY OF YOUR UNITED WAY

CONF028248



BUTTON HILLIS & MENGES



DON P. BUTTON  
WILLIAM C. MENGES, JR.

OF COUNSEL  
ELWOOD H. HILLIS

December 1, 1988

Honorable J. Philip McGraw  
Judge of Jasper County Superior Court  
Jasper County Courthouse  
Rensselaer, IN 47978

RE: Myron J. Rickman

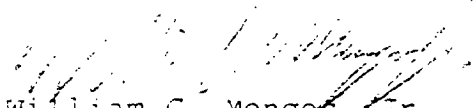
Dear Phil:

Enclosed please find the original Memorandum of Decision of the Council Review Committee setting forth the findings of fact and the decision reached December 1, 1988.

It is my understanding that you will forward appropriate copies to the appropriate people and entities within the Boy Scouts of America.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
William C. Menges, Jr.

WCM:jm

cc: Dave Dellinger  
William Hiatt  
Joseph E. Vollmer

CONF028249



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



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John Norris  
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COUNCIL REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISION

Myron J. Rickman's registration with the Boy Scouts of America was suspended on October 28, 1988. By a letter dated November 7, 1988, he requested a review of the Council President's decision. J. Philip McGraw, Council President, named Executive Board members William Menges, David Dellinger, and William Hiatt to serve as the Council Review Committee. William Menges served as Chairman.

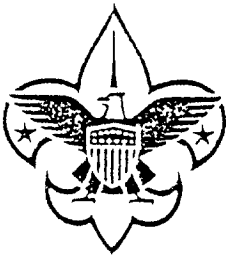
On December 1, 1988, the committee met by telephone conference call and conducted its review. Based upon the letter submitted by Myron J. Rickman, the committee found the following facts to be true:

1. In April, 1988, Myron J. Rickman, an assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 415, went on a camping trip with one (1) Scout registered to the Troop. This was a violation of the Boy Scouts of America's policy requiring the presence of two (2) or more adult leaders at any Scouting activity. In addition, Rickman, who was



PARTICIPATING AGENCY OF YOUR UNITED WAY

CONF028250



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Sagamore Council, 815 South Lindsay Street,

Kokomo, IN 46901, 317-452-8253  
800-382-0537

COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
J. Philo McGraw

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Charles Helley

COUNCIL TREASURER  
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James O. Wells  
Wayne Schreckengast  
Jonn Norris  
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born in March of 1968, was under the age of 21, and thus not considered an adult leader for purposes of the policy.

2. At the activity, Myron J. Rickman challenged the Scout to "run around in the nude in front of me."
3. At the activity, Myron J. Rickman allowed the Scout to "(run) around in the nude." Apparently Mr. Rickman made no effort to stop the behavior while the child was disrobing.
4. That night, Myron J. Rickman, encouraged the Scout to sleep with him in the same sleeping bag.

The committee concluded, based upon the foregoing findings, that Mr. Rickman's actions showed extremely serious lapses of judgment, to the extent that it created the appearance of serious impropriety. The



PARTICIPATING AGENCY OF YOUR UNITED WAY

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



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Charles Hefley

COUNCIL TREASURER  
Robert Hingst

VICE-PRESIDENT  
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Charles Cameron

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VICE-PRESIDENT  
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Roy Miskin

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committee concluded further that Mr. Rickman does not possess the moral, educational and emotional qualities necessary to afford positive leadership to youth. This being the central question to be decided, the review committee sustained the action of the Council President in suspending Myron J. Rickman's registration.

Respectfully Submitted,

William C. Menges, Jr.  
Chairman, Council Review  
Committee



PARTICIPATING AGENCY OF YOUR UNITED WAY

CONF028252

Page 1  
Nov 7 1988

J. Philip McGraw  
Boyscouts of America  
[REDACTED]  
Kokomo, In. 46901

Dear Philip McGraw

After receiving your letter on the date of November 7, 1988, I was disappointed to find that my registration with the Boyscouts of America had been suspended. Therefore by being given the opportunity to plead to the council, I would like to, do so, and ask for a review granted on my behalf.

The Item that I have been accused of is FALSE. This child that accused me of this, is a disturbed child and has been as long as I have known him. This child is what you would call an habitual liar. You never knew if he was telling you the truth or not, he caused an immense amount of trouble and any one scout that knew him within the Troop 415 would testify of this. I did everything I could to figure him out and help, but got know where. Back around June he was admitted into the mental health clinic for this reason, this is where this damaging lie was supposed to have started.

Now I will give my account of what happened the night lets go back to the later part of spring of 1988. I picked up [REDACTED] on a Friday evening and went out to the camping grounds, we went to the front to wait on two other scouts to arrive, they never showed. we found out latter that these parents wouldn't let them due to the weather. so by camp already being set up we stayed. That night we set around

CONF028253

the fire working on the camping merit badge. trying at least, [redacted] kept messing around doing things that I never thought he would do. I made the remark 'you will do anything won't you?' he said yes, so I thought of something I didn't think he would do. I told him that he wouldn't run around in the nude in front of me, Again I didn't think he would or I would not had said it. but he took his clothes off and ran around in the nude, immediately told him to put his clothes back on, he did so, I apologized to him for telling him such a thing, I told him not to do it again it makes you look like a homosexual, he said alright. We sat around the fire a little longer, later went into the tent took everything off but our underwear, crawled down into our sleeping bags. that night it rained [redacted] didn't get the tent shut his sleeping bag got wet and he was cold, so being the caring person I am and by having a dry <sup>and</sup> large sleeping bag I had him crawl into my bag to keep dry & warm, we slept back to back, when morning came, we got up packed and left and went home due to the rain.

Therefore I didn't touch him in anyway that I know of that would give him any reason to accuse me of that disgusting act. There is no way that I would touch [redacted] or any child like that I could not put any child through hell like I went through when I was sexually abused in Texas by another male. I had a lot of trouble for 8 yrs. having nightmares and having trouble participating with others. I wonder if it was even said because, The parents was the woman who contacted [redacted]. There has been no charges filed, If a child tells a psychologist such a thing by law he is to turn it over to the police it was never done, nothing <sup>else</sup> had been said from them since the phone call. If they really thought I done this, they would have persuade it. they haven't. please investigate, I'll help

in any way I can, Because I do NOT want to lose my registration this great program. The scouting program is my life. I enjoy it, I enjoy working and teaching the boys, so they can become Eagle Scouts & good men and leaders. Please find me innocent of this ridiculous lie, and re-enlist me.

Sincerely yours  
Myron J. Krehmer

November 7, 1938

Mr. Joseph E. Vollmer  
Scout Executive  
Sagamore Council, No. 162

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Myron J. Rickman

Dear Joe:

We appreciate the material you previously sent concerning the above named individual. This is most helpful to us and will enable us to refuse registration should it be attempted anywhere in the country. We would like a copy of a paper with Mr. Rickman's signature if you have this available, as this will aid in the identification process.

We would like to know if there is to be any legal action pursued by the parents of the boy who allegedly was abused by Mr. Rickman. If so, we would like to have the outcome of the legal action. Please keep us involved and informed related to this.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

eko

cc: East Central Region

READY TO FILE  
NOV 10 1938  
ERIC OWLEY

CONF028256





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

October 28, 1988



COUNCIL PRESIDENT

J. Philip McGraw

SECRETARY AND CHIEF COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Joseph E. Vollmer

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Charles Herley

COUNCIL TREASURER

Robert Hings

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VICE-PRESIDENT

ADMINISTRATION  
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VICE-PRESIDENT

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Roy Miskin

VICE-PRESIDENT

GRAM  
Gerald W. Murphy

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Major A.W. Beers

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James O. Wells  
Wayne Schreckengast  
John Norris  
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Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director, Registration Service  
National Council, B.S.A.

Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Paul:

Enclosed with this letter you will find all the material pertaining to the suspected child abuse by Myron J. Rickman. As per our telephone conversation I have secured letters from the Troop's Scoutmaster and the Bishop of their church.

I have also enclosed a copy of the suspension letter which was delivered to Mr. Rickman. I do not expect a letter requesting a review of the suspension, but if one does come our Council President and legal counsel both know the procedure for a review.

If there is anything that you could suggest I have overlooked, please let me know.

Thank you for all your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

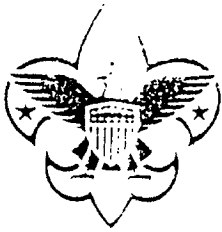
Joseph E. Vollmer  
Scout Executive

JEV-cd  
encls.



PARTICIPATING AGENCY OF YOUR UNITED WAY

CONF028257



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

October 28, 1988



COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
Philip McGraw

Myron J. Rickman

SECRETARY AND  
CHIEF COUNCIL EXECUTIVE  
Joseph E. Houmer

[REDACTED]  
Marion, IN 46953

COUNCIL COMMISSIONER  
Charles Henley

Dear Mr. Rickman:

COUNCIL TREASURER  
Robert Hingsi

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America. A refund of your registration fee is enclosed.

VICE-PRESIDENT  
FINANCE  
Charles Cameron

VICE-PRESIDENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
David L. Ingram

VICE-PRESIDENT  
RELATIONSHIPS  
Roy Mason

VICE-PRESIDENT  
PROGRAM  
Donald W. Murphy

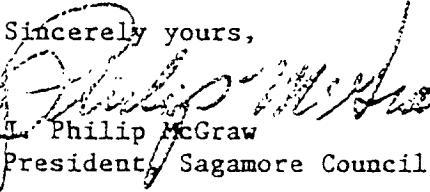
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PAST PRESIDENT  
Robert L. Thomas

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN  
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James O. Wells  
Wayne Schreckengast  
John Harris  
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You should understand that BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not meet the high standards of membership which the BSA seeks to provide for American youth.

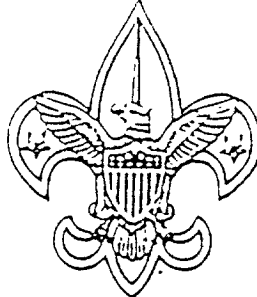
If you wish to have this decision reviewed by a council review committee, please write to me within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be reinstated. The procedures for a review of this decision are attached.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Philip McGraw  
President, Sagamore Council

JPM-cd



PARTICIPATING AGENCY OF YOUR UNITED WAY



October 4, 1988

Dear Joseph Vollmer:

Upon your request I am submitting this account of a report to me from a mother of one of my scouts.

On August 10, 1988, I received a phone call from [REDACTED] in which she reported to me that her son, in a session of family counseling at the [REDACTED] Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, related the following.

In April of this year [REDACTED] and a fellow scout, [REDACTED] were planning to attend an overnight campout (not a planned Scout activity) with Jay Rickman (a registered Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 415). [REDACTED] at the last minute, backed out and Jay and [REDACTED] went together. [REDACTED] accused Jay of sexually abusing him while on this trip.

On the following Sunday, August 14th, I reported to Bishop Dewayne Keplinger, our Institutional Representative, the accusations that had been made. He advised me not to allow Jay to have any one-on-one contact with youth until he could investigate the situation and contact his superior, Stake President Elvis Holt, in Fort Wayne.

On August 16th I talked directly to his doctor, Linda Haber, and was told basically the same account that I received from [REDACTED]. She indicated that she felt, because of his emotions and reluctance to express certain parts of the account, that he was telling the truth. She also stated that she was under obligation to




report this to authorities and would do so.

In the account, the name of another scout came up--  
[REDACTED]--since moved out of town. On August 21st  
I contacted him by phone and he stated that he had had  
no involvement or had any problems in the past with any  
scout leaders, but asked me to talk to his brother,  
[REDACTED]. Upon my asking [REDACTED] if he ever had any  
problems or incidents with any scout leader that was out  
of line or offensive in any way, he stated that he had  
had an experience where an attempt was made toward him  
by Jay Rickman, but he was able to thwart off the attempt.

On August 30th Bishop Keplinger contacted me and  
explained that Jay had been released from all scouting  
responsibilities and was not to be allowed to partici-  
pate at this time in any way.

September 14th I informed Jerry Cook, our District  
Executive, of the problem and he in turn called you.  
I will continue to keep you informed if any changes take  
place or further information becomes available. Thank  
you for your help and assistance in this matter.

Concerned Scoutmaster,



Dennis A. Crook  
Troop 415

CHURCH  
SUSCEPTIBLES  
HERDING  
SAINTS

MARION WARD  
Fort Wayne Indiana Stake

4 OCT 88

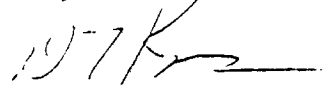
Dear Mr. Vollmer

On August 14th, 1988 I was informed by our scoutmaster Dennis Crook that he had received a report from one of the mothers of our scouts [REDACTED] that he had been sexually abused by one of our assistant Scoutmasters Jay Rickman.

Upon receiving this information I set up an appointment with Jay the following Tuesday (Aug 16) after which time I felt need to ask Jay to no longer have any direct involvement with the boys and also due to the seriousness of the accusation I felt it necessary to inform my superior Stake President Elvis Holt. He in tuen met with Jay and I on the following Sunday to discuss the accusation. Jay denied all accusations but we unitedly decided to release him as our assistant Scoutmaster and informed Jay of this decision on or about the 23rd of August 1988.

Jay has in the past been a valuable volenteer leader and if this accusation proves to be false we will notify you as soon as possible to clear his name. I feel that for the best of the Boy Scouts of America and for Jay that the above decision is the only way to go.

Truely Concerned



Bishop DeWayne Keolinger

CONF028261

WATS CALL FORM

CALL BACK REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL # 162

PHONE NO:

CALLER:

POSITION:

REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_ JOE VOLLMER 9-21-88  
C 162

EXPLORING \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT # DIS

S0415

FILM #

SM CALLED 3/68

11 7/2 OLD SCOUT

MOLESTED BY SA

1 - APRIL 88

CAME OUT IN COUNSELLING

CHARGED BY LES

SA MYRON J. RICKMAN

# 016458

REPORTED TO AUTHORITIES

Deleted from registration files 9/21/88

Added to CF file 9/21/88 cm

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

# SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORTING FORM

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The following information was provided to:

Jerry Cook, District Executive

(Name of person/position)

Marion, IN 46952

(Telephone number/address)

Child's name: [REDACTED] Date of birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Parent's name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Marion, Indiana 46952

Telephone No.: [REDACTED]

Physical indicators observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavioral indicators observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Other indicators observed/known: Related account of abuse to his doctor

at a family counseling session.

Reporter's name and position: Dennis A. Crook, Scoutmaster, Troop 415

Date of report: 10/5/88 Signature: *Dennis A. Crook*