

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DEBT COLLECTION

Columbia, SC... ..The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs will present **What Consumers Need To Know About Debt Collection**, as part of its monthly After Hours series. The discussion is designed to inform consumers about debt collection and help protect them against dishonest debt collectors. **The seminar will be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 P.M. on the first floor of the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs located at 3600 Forest Drive in Columbia.**

With consumer debt being at an all time high, debt collectors are targeting more and more consumers. As a result, complaints against debt collectors accounted for more than 25% percent of complaints received by the Federal Trade Commission in 2005, according to the commission's 2006 annual report. Similarly, the number of complaints in South Carolina remains high. "Month after month, year after year, debt collection ranks in the top three types of complaints that the Department receives," said Donna DeMichael, SCDCA Director of Consumer Services.

**What Consumers Need To Know About Debt Collection** will explain the limitations of debt collectors and how to avoid deceptive practices. "These consumers need to know what debt collectors can and cannot do and learn what rights exist under state and federal law to protect consumers," said SCDCA staff attorney Carri Grube.

SCDCA After Hours is a public information seminar held on the third Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact the SCDCA Public Information and Education Division at 803.734.4190 or 803.734.4296, toll-free at 1.800.922.1594 or online at [www.sconsumer.gov](http://www.sconsumer.gov).

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#### About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit [www.sconsumer.gov](http://www.sconsumer.gov).

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