

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA INFORMS CONSUMERS ABOUT “DECEASED DO NOT CONTACT LIST”

Columbia, SC... ...The Deceased Do Not Contact List (DDNC), sponsored by the Direct Marketing Association (DMA), helps consumers avoid solicitations to family members who have passed away. Daily complaints from family members answering telemarketing calls for their deceased loved ones prompted DMA to establish the service in July 2005. DMA’s DDNC list for deceased members and their telephone preference service for living members are both similar to the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) “Do-Not-Call Registry” (DNC), which prevents telemarketers from making calls to persons on the DNC list. The FTC has registered over 107 million consumers on its DNC list since it began in June 2003. The DMA registered about 3,000 consumers on its DDNC list in its first five months. Both services require marketers to comply and have significantly reduced the number of unwanted calls consumers receive.

HOW THE SERVICES DIFFER:

DMA’s Deceased Do Not Contact List

- Registering on the DMA’s DDNC list requires a \$1 credit card verification fee.
- Non-member organizations of the DMA are also provided the DDNC file.
- An updated file is circulated to members and non-members every three months.
- Violators do not face legal action.

FTC’s Do Not Call Registry

- Registering on the FTC’s DNC list is free of charge but does require renewal every 5 years.
- You may remove your number from the FTC’s DNC list at any time.
- The FTC’s DNC list does not prohibit calls from all organizations, including non-profits.
- Violators face legal action.

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.

HOW TO REGISTER:

- For the DMA's Deceased Do Not Contact List, consumers may register online at <https://preference.the-dma.org/cgi/ddnc.php>.
- Registration requires your name, relationship to the deceased, e-mail address and credit card number as well as the following information about the deceased: name, address, birth date, age at time of death.
- For the FTC's Do Not Call Registry, consumers may register online at <https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx> or by phone at 1-888-382-1222.
- Registration requires your e-mail address and up to three phone numbers.

For more information, contact the Public Information & Education Division at 803.734.4190, toll-free at 1.800.922.1594 or online at www.sconsumer.gov.

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