

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SCDCA REFUNDS \$19,000 TO CONSUMERS

**Columbia, SC...** ...The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is aiding The Fieldhouse in refunding \$19,000 to more than 90 consumers. The majority of the refund is being granted to members who have pre-paid contracts with the now closed fitness facility.

The Charleston-area based fitness facility has cooperated fully with SCDCA to ensure consumers are refunded. SCDCA chief enforcement attorney Helen Fennell said owner Gina Gregory responded quickly to the closing. A \$25,000 bond posted by The Fieldhouse will cover refunds now that the facility is closed. "From the beginning, Ms Gregory has worked together with the Department to rectify the situation," Fennell said.

According to the Physical Fitness Services Act, physical fitness facilities offering services that exceed either \$200 or three months are required to maintain a surety bond or letter of credit to cover service contracts. This requirement is designed to protect consumers with pre-paid contracts in the event the business closes. Facilities are also required to notify SCDCA if they plan to discontinue business. In such an event, the business must refund consumers the remainder of their contract. Consumers with questions or concerns regarding physical fitness refunds should contact SCDCA Legal Division at 803.734.4246.

For more information on this and other consumer based topics contact SCDCA Public Information Division at 803.734.4190 or 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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