

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Administrator

February 1, 2007

Release #07-005

SCDCA Media Contact: Public Information and Education Division

1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC)

803.734.4190 or 803.734.4296

Email: scdca@dca.state.sc.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECIAL AFTER HOURS SESSION TO DISCUSS RAPID TAX REFUNDS

Columbia, SC... .. The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) will present a special session of **“Tax Scams: Refund Anticipation Loans and More!”** As part of the monthly “After Hours” series, the seminar is designed to inform consumers about rapid refund or tax refund anticipation loans. **The special session will be held on Tuesday, February 6th from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 5:45-6:45 p.m. on the second floor of SCDCA located at 3600 Forest Drive in Columbia.** Participants attending the afternoon session are invited to bring their lunch.

Some commercial tax preparation firms and banks offer tax refund anticipation loans to people who want to receive their refund early. **“Tax Scams: Refund Anticipation Loans and More!”** will caution consumers about rapid refunds and provide options to avoid unnecessary fees. The seminar will also address tax scams, including scammers who try to convince consumers that a loophole in the Constitution makes tax paying a voluntary act. Consumers should also be aware of dishonest tax preparers who look to steal consumers’ tax returns. “Unfortunately, consumers trying to get their tax returns fast or using a third party to prepare their taxes can become victims of fraud. Consumer should take enough time to read the fine print and think,” said Donna DeMichael, SCDCA Director of Consumer Services & Education.

SCDCA “After Hours” is a monthly public information session held on the third Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact the SCDCA Public Information Division at 803.734.4190, toll-free in SC at 1.800.922.1594 or online at www.sconsumer.gov.

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.
