

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Administrator

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SCDCA SPONSORS NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION MONTH

**Columbia, SC ...** The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is sponsoring National Consumer Protection Month during February in coordination with federal, state, and local government agencies and national consumer advocacy organizations.

SCDCA and national consumer protection sponsors are encouraging everyone to *read up and reach out to be an informed consumer*. "The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs is proud to be a part of this year's National Consumer Protection Month campaign," said Department Administrator Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston. "Consumers are our most effective partners in the fight against fraud. We encourage everyone to read up and reach out, learn how to deter fraud and deception in the marketplace – and tell others." SCDCA and other sponsors provide consumers tips on making purchase decisions, avoiding scams, protecting personal information, and filing a complaint against businesses.

SCDCA was established in 1974 to represent the interests of consumers. The Department attempts to resolve complaints and seeks to inform and educate consumers, ultimately making them more aware of their rights and responsibilities in the marketplace. Consumers can learn more about filing complaints with the Department by requesting a copy of "Fast Facts: How To File A Complaint."

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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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In addition to handling consumer complaints against businesses, SCDCA also investigates suspicious business practices, refers consumers to appropriate agencies for help, provides legal action to enforce the SC Consumer Protection Code and prohibit unconscionable conduct, and educates consumers through brochures, newsletters, speaking engagements, workshops, and other media. Organizations, businesses, and schools may contact the Department regarding group visit and education programs.

As part of National Consumer Protection Month, the Department will host an After Hours panel to discuss and inform consumers about predatory lending, payday lending, and title lending on Tuesday, February 20 at 5:45 p.m. The Department has also partnered with AARP, FBI, IRS, Secret Service, Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, and the Direct Selling Education Foundation to present "Scam Jam" for senior healthcare professionals on February 27.

For more information about these events or information on consumer protection issues, contact the Public Information Division at 803.734.4190, toll free in S.C. at 1.800.922.1594 or online at [www.sconsumer.gov](http://www.sconsumer.gov).

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