

# NEWS FROM SCDC

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS WARNS ABOUT ENVELOPE STUFFING SCAM

**Columbia, SC.....**The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is warning consumers about an old con game that is making a comeback across the state. SCDCA recently learned about an Arkansas company that is sending out mailings to South Carolina consumers offering them big bucks in return for stuffing envelopes. The company previously targeted Indiana consumers before facing a 2005 lawsuit. Nevertheless, the company maintained their pre-recorded phone messages and operating system. They are now back in business targeting South Carolinians even though an Arkansas court ruled as recently as April 2007, that the company violated the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act 1, 262 times and fined them \$1.3 million.

Envelope stuffing is a something-for-nothing scam. Participants are asked to send in a registration fee. Upon receiving the fee, the company will send the consumer mailers and envelopes to stuff and seal. The individual will be guaranteed a small amount for each stuffed envelope that meets company standards. Not surprisingly, an envelope will rarely, if ever, meet “company standards.” The individual does not get paid, but this does not stop the company from sending out the envelopes. In essence, the company gets consumers to promote their scheme for “free,” and also pockets the initial fee.

For more information, contact the Public Information Division at 803.734.4190, toll free in SC 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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