

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GAFFNEY SATELLITE VISIT TO ADDRESS TAX SCAMS

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 visit to Gaffney. The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs makes its monthly visit to Gaffney on Thursday, March 22, 2007. Department staff will be available to take complaints from 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. at the Cherokee County Public Library located at 300 East Rutledge Avenue in Gaffney. Consumers that have problems with a business should come and bring documentation with them regarding their particular situation.

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.

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.

The Department staff will make visits to Gaffney on the fourth Thursday of each month. This effort has been made possible through a collaborative effort with Cherokee County Administrator Ben Cleary and Cherokee County Librarian Cindy Harry.

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