



# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *SCDCA Article Featured on National Website*

**Columbia, SC...** An article contributed by the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is raising awareness on pretexting scams. ***Don't Be Deceived by Imposters on the Phone*** is featured on the Consumer Federation of America's microsite, IDTheftInfo.org.

The posting outlines the most common ruses used by fraudsters to gain access to your personal information and money. The variations scammers can use to trick consumer are endless. One variation that is becoming more commonly reported to SCDCA is a government grant scam.

Fraudsters call consumers saying they qualify for a government grant. The consumers are supposedly eligible because their taxes have been paid on time. However, consumers must supply the caller with bank account or credit card information so the grant can be direct deposited or credited to them. These calls may come from the area code **732** or **202**.

Consumers should remember these tips when fielding any unsolicited phone call:

- Be wary of any caller who claims to be with the government and wants to verify or collect personal information.
- Warn family and friends about scams. Especially elderly loved ones, as these types of scams are often directed towards them.
- Consumers uncomfortable with a call should hang up and dial a number known to be associated with the business or agency the caller claimed to be representing.
- Don't wire money to or share personal identifying information with strangers.
- For more tips like these, view the [article](#).

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SCDCA aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) or call toll-free, 1.800.922.1594.

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