



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sweepstakes/Lottery Scams #1 Reported Scam

Columbia, SC... Between July 2012 and June 2013, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) received nearly **1,000** calls from consumers reporting scams. *Sweepstakes/ Lottery* scams were the most commonly reported scams for the previous fiscal year accounting for **24%** of the calls, followed by *Phishing/Pretexting* scams (**18%**), and *Imposter* scams (**6%**). All of these scams share the common element of trying to separate a consumer from their money or compromise their personal information. To avoid becoming a victim, consumers should keep these simple tips in mind:

- **Never** wire money to a stranger.
- **Never** release any of your personal identifying information to someone you do not know.
- When in doubt, hang up!
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

The scam line allows SCDCA to track scam trends and better inform the public on how to detect and avoid them. Last year, SCDCA issued seven “Scam Alerts,” with topics ranging from “free” medical devices to phony government grants. Five of the alerts were based on calls made to the agency’s scam line.

Consumers are encouraged to report suspicious calls, e-mails or texts by calling SCDCA at 1-800-922-1594. To view the most recent and archived scam alerts, consumers can also visit www.consumer.sc.gov.

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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 or call toll-free, 1.800.922.1594.

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