



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Carri Grube Lybarker, Administrator



October 29, 2013

SCDCA Media Contact: Juliana Harris, 803.734.4296

Email: JHarris@scconsumer.gov

Release #13-032

1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeepers Creepers, Protect Those Peepers

Columbia, SC... With Halloween rapidly approaching, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is warning consumers about the dangers of cosmetic contact lenses.

Selling cosmetic contact lenses is illegal in South Carolina, unless prescribed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist. Purchasing these lenses from unauthorized outlets can cause a whole host of medical problems and even blindness. Consumers should be aware of the risks associated with purchasing cosmetic contact lenses:

- **Corneal Ulcers.** Wearing the lenses for an extended period of time can lead to these ulcers. Left untreated, these ulcers can result in blindness and even loss of the eye.
- **Tight Lens Syndrome.** If the lens is not properly fitted, it can fit too tightly and stick a consumer's cornea.
- **Additional problems.** Corneal swelling, allergic reaction, reduction in sight and corneal abrasion.

Consumers should contact the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs at 800-922-1594 if they see someone selling contact lenses without a license. For additional information on this topic, please visit our website at www.consumer.sc.gov and click on *Consumer Information*, then click *Consumer Education*. See also, SCDCA's YouTube video entitled [**DANGER - Illegal cosmetic contact lenses can cause blindness.**](#)

-end-

10/29/13-ajh

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.

Connect with us:

