



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What You Need to Know Before Joining a Gym

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is warning consumers to be cautious when signing up for a new gym membership. Many consumers resolve to get in better shape in the New Year, often taking advantage of new member promotions to do so. Before signing on the dotted line, consider the following:

- 1. Read before you sign.** Be sure to read the entire contract before signing, so you know the terms and conditions of your membership. Double-check the fine print for hidden automatic renewal clauses.
- 2. Can you cancel?** Know the penalties of cancellation before you sign! In S.C., you can cancel your contract without penalty under four conditions: within three days of signing, if you move at least 50 miles away, if you develop a physical disability or if you pass away.
- 3. What if it closes?** If your gym closes while you are a member, do not assume your contract is cancelled. Cancel in writing and make sure the payments are no longer being drafted if you signed up for auto-pay. If you pre-paid, you are entitled to a pro-rated refund.

For more information on gyms, visit www.consumer.sc.gov and click on Consumer Education. If your gym refuses to follow the rules listed above, file a complaint with SCDCA by visiting the website above and clicking FILE A COMPLAINT.

About SCDCA

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs 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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