



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA Celebrates National Consumer Protection Week March 4th-8th

Columbia, SC... The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is kicking off the 15th Annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) March 4th – 8th. In an effort to increase awareness on topics such as identity theft and financial literacy, SCDCA will sponsor a number of activities and initiatives statewide. In addition to making presentations and releasing new, consumer publications, we will partner with various organizations to offer the following:

Shred Days

SCDCA is partnering with **Shred 360** and **Cintas Document Management** to offer **FREE** shred days in six different locations around the state. We ask that consumers limit their materials to FIVE boxes or less. It is also important to be patient, as these events are very popular. All shred events will be held from **11:00am-2:00pm**:

Monday, March 4th	<i>Spartanburg Expo Center, Spartanburg</i>
Wednesday, March 6th	<i>Home Depot (Sandhills area), Columbia St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Columbia</i>
Thursday, March 7th	<i>Convention Center, North Charleston</i>
Friday, March 8th	<i>Legends in Concert, Myrtle Beach Winthrop Coliseum, Rock Hill</i>

Free ID Theft Seminar and Consultations in Columbia

In conjunction with the South Carolina Bar, the University of South Carolina School of Law and the Federal Trade Commission, SCDCA is offering a **FREE** Identity Theft seminar for consumers in Columbia. The event will start at **12:00pm on March 6th** at the SC Bar Conference Center (1501 Park Street).

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Presentation topics include:

- *Preventing Identity Theft*
- *Security freezes and fraud alerts*
- *Reading a credit report and disputing credit report errors*

This seminar also includes the opportunity to consult with an attorney on your identity theft issue. To register for this event, consumers may call SCDCA at 800-922-1594 or email JHarris@scconsumer.gov. Spaces are limited, so consumers are encouraged to register early.

Tele-Town Hall

SCDCA will participate in a Tele-Town Hall in conjunction with AARP, the US Postal Inspection Service and the Federal Trade Commission on **March 7th**. The call will cover consumer protections available to minimize the effect of a security breach and frequently asked questions on identity theft.

LifeSmarts Competition

To round out the week, Lower Richland High School and FE DuBose Career Center will compete in the State competition of LifeSmarts on **March 8th**. The winner will progress to the National competition to be held on April 20th-23rd in Atlanta, GA. LifeSmarts, the ultimate consumer challenge, is an educational opportunity that develops the consumer and marketplace knowledge and skills of students in a fun way. The program can be used as an activity for classes, groups, clubs, and community organizations and is open to all 6th-12th grade students in the United States.

SCDCA encourages consumers to check out our website www.consumer.sc.gov for educational materials on identity theft, credit reports, debt collection and more! Consumers can also visit www.ncpw.gov to read, view, download and order multiple copies of educational materials provided by nearly 30 organizations.

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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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