



# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
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November 27, 2012

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Release #12-023

1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Scam Alert: Medicare Phone Scam*

**Columbia, SC...** The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is urging consumers to beware of a scam involving Medicare numbers and other sensitive personal information.

Consumers report a cold caller telling them that they will be receiving a new Medicare card in January. Before getting the new card, the consumer must verify their social security number or supply a bank account number. Many of these calls are originating from one phone number, 409-579-1214.

A variation of this scam involves a scammer telling the consumer that they qualify for free medical supplies. The scammer just needs the Medicare card number (which is also the consumer's social security number), insurance information and/or other personal identifying information.

#### ***Follow these tips to keep your information safe:***

- Never give out your SSN, bank account number or other sensitive information to someone you do not know.
- Know who is calling. If you are suspicious about a caller, hang up and call a number that you know belongs to the organization/agency.
- Always be skeptical of anyone calling you regarding Medicare, especially when they're asking for personal information.
- Warn your family and friends about the scam, especially elderly loved ones, as they are often targets of this type of ruse.

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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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