



**NEWS FROM SCDCA**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
*Carri Grube Lybarker, Administrator*



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*SCDCA Celebrates National Consumer Protection Week March 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>*

**Columbia, SC...** The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is kicking off the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) March 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. 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**:

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| <b>Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup></b>    | <i>Spartanburg Expo Center, Spartanburg</i>  |
| <b>Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup></b> | <i>Home Depot (Sandhills area), Columbia</i><br><i>St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Columbia</i> |
| <b>Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup></b>  | <i>Convention Center, North Charleston</i>   |
| <b>Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup></b>    | <i>Legends in Concert, Myrtle Beach</i><br><i>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 6<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup>**. 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 8<sup>th</sup>**. The winner will progress to the National competition to be held on April 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) for educational materials on identity theft, credit reports, debt collection and more! Consumers can also visit [www.ncpw.gov](http://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](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) or call toll-free, 1.800.922.1594.

*Connect with us:*

