

NEWS FROM SCDC

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Administrator

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SCDCA Media Contact: Maria Audas, 803.734.4296
1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC)
Email: scdca@scconsumer.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSUMER AFFAIRS SUPPORTS NEW ID THEFT LAW WITH SHRED DAY

Columbia, SC.....South Carolina's Financial Identity Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Act (FIFITPA) is one of the best in the nation. Because of the strict requirements for organizations and third party document security companies, the safe disposal of consumers' sensitive information will be taken seriously.

According to the law, organizations must dispose of any sensitive information in a way that renders the material "unreadable or undecipherable." The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) may fine or sue organizations that do not shred their materials appropriately. This portion of the law goes into effect July 1, 2009.

FIFITPA is part of South Carolina's effort to decrease the number of identity theft complaints across the state. In 2007, the state rank 30th in reported identity theft cases. Because of the state's large senior population, military bases, and tourism attractions, the state is a potential hot spot for identity theft. The law encourages organizations to be especially aware of these threats.

Consumers, however, should not rely solely on an organization to protect their identity. They should take precautions with their personal documents as well. In order to support consumers in this effort, SCDCA is partnering with Ben Lippen Elementary School, Carolina Records & Information Management and Shred 360 to sponsor a Shred Day. On Thursday, February 26 consumers may

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Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers.

Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

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bring their sensitive materials to be securely shredded on-site for free. Consumers may come to one of two locations from 7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. The locations are as follows:

SCDCA at 3600 Forest Drive in Columbia

and

Ben Lippen Elementary School at 500 St. Andrews Road in Irmo

For more information about FIFITPA or SCDCA's February Shred Day, contact the Public Information Division at 803.734.4190, toll free in SC at 1.800.922.1594, or online at www.sconsumer.gov.

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