



# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
Carri Grube Lybarker, Administrator



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *SCDCA Launches Identity Theft Unit*

*Columbia, SC...*The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is unveiling its new Identity Theft Unit (The Unit) this week. “Over the past five years, SCDCA has been notified of 118 security breaches affecting more than 6.8 million South Carolina consumers; the Unit is a necessity in this day and age,” says Carri Grube Lybarker, SCDCA Administrator. Consumers who have identity theft questions or think they may be identity theft victims can contact the Unit Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 5:00PM at 1-800-922-1594 or visit [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) and click on “Identity Theft Resources.”

“SCDCA is excited to be able to serve as an identity theft resource for **all** South Carolinians,” said Marti Phillips, Director of the Identity Theft Unit. “We look forward to empowering SC consumers with the knowledge necessary to prevent an identity theft event or recover from one.”

The Unit will accomplish its mission through education, guidance and enforcement:

- **Education.** SCDCA’s Identity Theft Unit will provide education and outreach to South Carolina consumers across the state to increase public awareness and knowledge about identity theft, the steps consumers can take to protect themselves, and what consumers should do in the event their identity is stolen. The Unit will also answer scam calls, maintaining a database of those calls to help keep consumers informed on what types of scams are most prevalent.
- **Guidance.** For consumers who are identity theft victims, the Unit will provide ongoing guidance throughout the process of resolving their particular identity theft situation and mitigating the negative effects.
- **Enforcement.** The Unit will handle administration and enforcement of the state’s *Financial Identity Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Act* as well as other identity theft-related consumer protection laws. Among other duties, the Identity Theft Unit

will receive security breach notices and ensure reporting and notification requirements are met.

For more information on protecting against Identity Theft, including information on placing a security freeze, visit our “[Identity Theft Resources](#)” webpage at [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov).

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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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