



# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Over 2,000 Scams Reported to SCDCA in 2015**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is releasing its new scam report, highlighting the top reported scams in South Carolina during 2015.

Throughout 2015, SCDCA's Identity Theft Unit fielded more than 3,000 calls, **2,452** of which were scam reports. Over half of those reported were imposter scams (53%), while the next two highest categories were debt collection (13%) and phishing (8%). In total, consumers reported actual losses of over **\$1.8 million** from scams, and the potential loss of another \$1 million by those who did not fall victim to the scams they reported.

Scam reporting is an important step in helping SCDCA empower consumers to recognize and avoid scams. To report a scam to SCDCA, call 800-922-1594 or visit [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) and click Contact Us.

For more information on defending against and reporting scams, request a copy of SCDCA's scam guide, Ditch the Pitch, by calling 800-922-1594 or view a digital copy by visiting [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) and clicking the Scams button under Helpful Links. The full scam report is available to view on the Scams page.

### **About SCDCA**

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs 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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