



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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Tips for Hacked Yahoo Users

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is encouraging Yahoo Mail users to take action to secure their online accounts in light of the company’s massive breach announcement. Those who may have been affected can follow these tips to help protect their accounts:

- **Change your password and security questions immediately.** Use strong, creative passwords (uppercase, lowercase and special characters) and don’t share them with anyone. Don’t use the same passwords or security questions for multiple accounts, especially when using your e-mail address as the login name on that site.
- **Watch out for phishing attempts.** Asking for personal or sensitive information via a phone call, text or e-mail is a tactic used by scammers. Never reply to texts, pop-ups, or e-mails that ask for verification of personal information. Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from suspicious emails or texts.
- **Closely monitor financial and benefits statements/accounts.** Check all monthly statements and account activity, especially for financial accounts saved as payment options on internet merchant sites. Review them carefully and notify the financial institution/provider as soon as you spot an unauthorized or suspicious item.
- **Consider a fraud alert and security freeze.** Scammers may use the stolen information to open new accounts. A fraud alert and security freeze are FREE security measures for your credit report. A fraud alert tells a business accessing your report to take extra steps to verify that you are the one seeking its goods/services. When a security freeze is in place, no one can access your report without your “okay.” Contact one of the three major credit reporting agencies to place an alert and contact each of them to place a freeze: Equifax (800-685-1111), Experian (888-397-3742) and TransUnion (888-909-8872).

For information on identity theft, security freezes and fraud alerts, or to report a possible scam, please contact SCDCA’s Identity Theft Unit by calling 1-800-922-1594 or visiting www.consumer.sc.gov.

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 or call toll-free, 1-800-922-1594.

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