



# NEWS FROM SCDCA

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 19, 2017 | Release #17-017

Contact: Juliana Harris, (803) 734-4296

## **SCDCA Offers Comments on Proposed Robocall Rule**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) has submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission in support of their proposed rule targeting unlawful robocalls.

The proposed rule aims to protect consumers by allowing telephone providers to block illegal robocalls at the network level, before they reach the consumer. The request to block the call can either be made by the subscriber of a number to combat spoofing or by the provider after determining the telephone number is invalid, unallocated or unassigned. “Spoofing” occurs when a scammer uses technology to alter the caller ID to trick the consumer into thinking the call is from a particular person, organization or place.

Between January 1, 2015 and June 29, 2017 SCDCA’s Identity Theft Unit received over 2,500 scam reports from consumers regarding unsolicited telephone calls. A staggering 99% of these reports included imposter scams as the central issue. The success of this type of scam often hinges on the use of caller ID spoofing technology. Arming the telephone industry with the ability to target “spoofed” numbers would dramatically decrease the number of these unwanted calls, and related scams.

[SCDCA’s comments](#) also highlight the local impact of the rampant IRS imposter scam and the financial losses suffered by South Carolinians who fell victim to imposter scams over the past two and a half years. Scam reports aid in keeping SCDCA informed on the latest schemes, helping us warn and educate South Carolina consumers. To report a scam or obtain a copy of SCDCA’s scam guide “Ditch the Pitch,” call 844-835-5322 or visit [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov), then click Report a Scam.

### **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, (800) 922-1594.

###