

## **NEWS FROM SCDCA**

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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## Over 700 Scams Reported to SCDCA in the First Half of 2017

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is releasing its latest scam report, highlighting the top reported scams in South Carolina during the first and second quarters of 2017.

SCDCA's Identity Theft Unit fielded over 750 scam report calls between January 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017. Over half of the reported scams were imposter scams (46%), while the debt collection and sweepstakes scams tied for second place with 11% each. In total, consumers reported actual losses of over \$750,000 from scams, and the potential loss of more than \$760,000 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, obtain a copy of "Ditch the Pitch: A Guide Guarding Against Scams," or view the scam report in its entirety, call 844-835-5322 or visit <u>www.consumer.sc.gov</u>, 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 <u>www.consumer.sc.gov</u> or call toll-free, (800) 922-1594.

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