

# SCAMS IN SC | 2017

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine sophisticated technology with age-old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. They add new twists to old schemes and pressure people to make important decisions on the spot. One thing that never changes: they follow headlines—and the money.

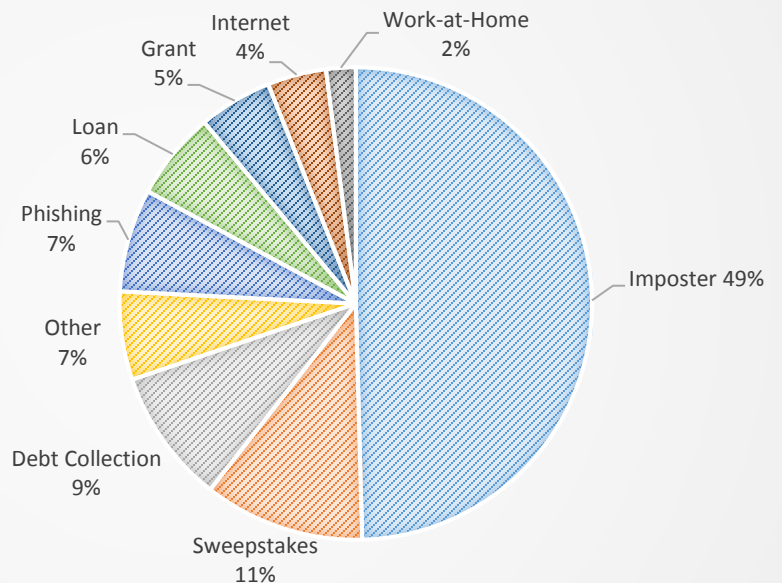
The charts below reflect scams reported to SCDCA in 2017:

## Top Reported Scams in South Carolina

1,441 REPORTS

TOP THREE CATEGORIES

1. Imposter
2. Sweepstakes
3. Debt Collection



Scammers will pose as an organization or person you are familiar with and may ask for money or personal information. The IRS, grandparent, and tech support scams are very common examples of fraudsters pretending to be someone they aren't to gain your trust.

Fake lottery/sweepstakes offers generally come from a cold caller, but can just as easily show up in your mailbox or inbox. It's illegal to play in a foreign lottery and remember, you cannot win a prize if you never entered the contest!



Debt collection scammers will use scare tactics to get you to pay a debt **right now**. Other red flags include: asking you to verify sensitive information like your SSN, offering to settle the debt for much less, threatening to arrest you or asking for payment by untraceable methods like iTunes gift cards or wire transfer requests.

POTENTIAL LOSSES  
\$1,019,308

This is the total amount of money reported to SCDCA by consumers who did NOT fall for a scam.

ACTUAL LOSSES  
\$1,620,146

This is the total amount of money reported to SCDCA by consumers who DID fall for a scam.



# TOP SCAMS BY MONTH

