



FINANCIAL FITNESS SERIES 2010!

The 3rd Annual Financial Fitness Series is featured in our weekly bulletins, and also here on our website – www.spcbc.com. Please check this portion of the bulletin for the next eight-weeks for new tips to strengthen your financial future in 2010!

***This Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30pm** join us for a **FREE Financial Planning & Budgeting Seminar** sponsored by SPCBC and the Community Enrichment & Education Foundation, a non-profit financial wellness organization specializing in providing tips and resources to help you better your financial future! Don't miss the opportunity to learn valuable information from the professionals!*

[INFONAR #4- January 31, 2010](#)

Source: Black Enterprise, January 2010

While the days of debt collectors sending sheriffs to your home are long gone, for some, contemporary debt collection methods can still cross the line. In an unprecedented recent ruling, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced the largest penalty ever imposed on a debt collection agency for allegedly threatening and harassing consumers, disclosing their debt to third parties, and numerous other infractions.

What exactly are your rights when it comes to debt collections? Check out these five things you need to know to avoid unscrupulous practices by your creditors.

Debt collectors cannot harass you. It is against the law for debt collectors to harass consumers, including issuing threats of violence, publishing a list of names of people who refuse to pay their debts, using obscene or profane language, or repeatedly using the phone to annoy someone. They also cannot call you before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. A debt collector may contact you in person, by mail, telephone, telegram, or fax but cannot contact you at work if the collector is aware that your employer prohibits it. To stop a debt collector from calling you must write them a letter--be sure to keep a copy for yourself--and send it certified mail.

Debt collectors cannot lie to you. Debt collectors may not falsely claim that they are attorneys or government representatives, that you have committed a crime, represent that they operate or work for a credit reporting company, misrepresent the amount you owe, indicate that papers they send you are legal forms if they aren't, or indicate that papers they send you aren't legal forms if they are.

Debt collectors cannot touch your earnings. This one is a little tricky. Debt collectors cannot say you will be arrested if you don't pay your debt or that they'll seize, garnish, attach, or sell your property or wages—unless a judge has ruled in their favor.