

**SA-VIT COLLECTION AGENCY
TIPS OF THE MONTH ARCHIVES**



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“You are in violation of Federal law!”

If you haven't yet heard a similar statement from one of your patients, don't be surprised if and when you do. With scores of companies offering to help debtors clean up their credit records, under the guise of “credit counseling,” and the proliferation of websites which for a fee give consumers advice (often poor, if not bad or even illegal) to improve their credit ratings, today's consumer debtor is getting bolder every day.

Some patients who are late in their payments may try to intimidate you or your staff with their “knowledge” of collection law.

Third party collectors of consumer debt, which include collection agencies and attorneys, are in fact regulated by several Federal laws, the most important of which is the FDCPA (the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act). When you are attempting to collect your own debt, you are a first party collector, not a third party collector, and as such, you are not covered by the FDCPA. But be careful!

ACA International, the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals, has just published the latest revision of **Credit Grantors and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act**. This pamphlet defines what actions constitute third-party collection behavior for a healthcare provider, and briefly touches on other issues

of the FDCPA of interest to creditors. SaVit has ordered a large supply for distribution to our clients and friends. Order yours today by emailing us at help@savit.com, or call our Customer Care Department at 800-491-5757.

As long as you do not try to act like a third-party collector, you cannot be accused of or prosecuted for violating the FDCPA. Debtors who attempt to use this type of intimidation are indicating that they do not want to pay for your service. Send their accounts to collection immediately.

Submitted by Jim Mackie