

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Ries</i>	DATE  <i>3-20-07</i>
-------------------	----------------------------

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER  <i>000598</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>3-27-07</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>Claud 4/5/07 letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

JOHN C. LAND, III  
SENATOR, CLARENDON, FLORENCE  
CALHOUN AND SUMTER COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 36

HOME ADDRESS:

P. O. BOX 138  
MANNING, SC 29102  
(803) 435-8894

COLUMBIA ADDRESS:

P. O. BOX 142  
504 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BLDG.  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6180  
FAX (803) 212-6299



COMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION  
FINANCE  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
RULES  
ETHICS  
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

March 16, 2007

**RECEIVED**

MAR 19 2007

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

*Doc Riech*  
*"Riech's Sign"*

Mr. Robert M. Kerr  
Director  
Department of Health and Human  
Services  
P. O. Box 8206  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

RE: Mr. Jack Whack, 3777 South Brewington Road, Manning, South Carolina 29102

Dear Mr. Kerr:

I am enclosing herewith a letter I received from one of my constituents, Mr. Jack Whack from Manning, South Carolina. I ask that you please investigate this to see if there is anything that can be done to assist Mr. Whack with his outstanding medical bills.

If you need further information in this regard, please contact Mr. Whack at (803) 473-3362.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

*John C. Land, III*  
John C. Land, III  
Senate District #36

JCL:jns

Enclosure

CC: Mr. Jack Whack

kerr-3.whack

MR. JACK WHACK  
3777 SOUTH BREWINGTON ROAD  
MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA 29102  
(803) 473-3362

Wednesday, March 8, 2007

The Honorable Joel Lourie  
The Senate of South Carolina  
504 Gressette Building  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

*Sent to John C. Land, III*

Dear Senator Lourie:

My name is Mr. Jack Whack. I am a constituent in the state of South Carolina. I have been a hard working man who takes care of his family. We don't have much, but we do survive. My wife and I own our home. I have worked for Martin Brothers, Incorporated for some time. My job allows me to have a steady income, and as I stated above, take care of my family, but the job does not provide health insurance. On Christmas Eve of 2005 I suffered a severe heart attack. I was rushed to Providence Hospital where, through the efforts of my cardiologist and the staff at the hospital, my life was spared. My stay at Providence Hospital began 12/24/2005 until February 27, 2006. Because I did not have any health insurance the social worker at the hospital took information from me and my wife and submitted it to South Carolina Medicaid. After months of waiting for a reply we finally received word that Medicaid accepted the application and I was given coverage. The problem is, they only covered me for a certain length of time, and most importantly the coverage began February 1, 2006. Therefore, December and January were not covered. During those months were the times when most of the medical treatments were provided to me. I have outstanding debts to the hospital and to all the doctors that took care of me. My wife and I have pleaded with them asking that they retroactivate the coverage to start in December. They told me that they could not do this because I made something like \$10-\$20 too much. And because I did have time with my job I was able to get paid through January, therefore my earnings of making \$10-\$20 too much was taken into account for that month also.

Sir, right now because of the heart attack I cannot work. I have difficulty breathing if I overwork myself with just walking. My concern is the bills that are hanging over my head. My wife was working, however, recently she has suffered some health problems so

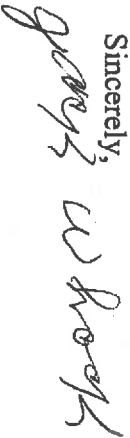
Letter

Page 2

she is also not working. I've been told by several people how your office has assisted people like myself who cannot afford health insurance. I just want the Medicaid program to help with all these bills I have. If they could just move my coverage back to December and January to cover my entire hospital expenses that would greatly take away some of the stress I feel like I am under. I am no longer covered with the Medicaid program and because of my health concerns I really need the coverage now. I am really afraid to go any doctor's office because I don't want to add any more expenses to the bills I already have. And I really need to see my cardiologist.

Please, Sir, I am requesting your help. Anything you could do to help me and my family would be greatly appreciated. I am thanking you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Whack".

Jack Whack

598



State of South Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Robert M. Kerr  
Director

April 5, 2007

Mr. Jack Whack  
3777 South Brewington Road  
Manning, South Carolina 29102

Dear Mr. Whack:


Senator John C. Land, III asked our agency to respond to your request for retroactive Medicaid coverage for December 2005 and January 2006.

After carefully reviewing your situation, we determined you are not eligible for Medicaid based on your income and resources during these two months. You were eligible for Medicaid services February 2006 through September 2006.

I encourage you to contact Providence Hospital and request an application for their charity program. As we discussed with you, the hospital requires that you contact them in person to apply for this assistance. Their program offers financial assistance to eligible low-income patients. You may apply in person at 2435 Forest Drive, Columbia, SC 29204. Hopefully this program will be able to help you. Please call (803) 256-5300 for more information.

Enclosed are materials on organizations providing assistance to individuals who lack the financial resources needed to obtain medications and other health care services. We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

  
Gary Ries  
Deputy Director

GR/jod  
Enclosures



*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Robert M. Kerr  
Director

April 5, 2007

The Honorable John C. Land, III  
Member, South Carolina Senate  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Thank you for referring Mr. Jack Whack to our agency regarding his request for retroactive Medicaid coverage for December 2005 and January 2006.

We have reviewed Mr. Whack's situation and determined that his Medicaid case was budgeted correctly according to our Medicaid policy. A member of my staff has been in direct contact with Mr. Whack, and we were pleased to answer his questions about Medicaid eligibility.

Additionally we provided him with information on how to apply for financial assistance through Providence Hospital's charity program. This program offers financial assistance to eligible low-income patients. We also mailed him information on organizations providing assistance to individuals who lack the financial resources needed to obtain medications and other healthcare services.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Kerr", written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Kerr  
Director

RMK/rjod

**From:** Alicia Jacobs  
**To:** Jennifer Dabbs  
**Date:** 3/21/2007 1:02 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Jack Whack  
**Attachments:** Re: Jack Whack

Please be sure these email get with this letter when you receive it. Also, please have Carolyn take a look at it. I want us to be absolutely sure without a doubt that he is ineligible. Thanks

>>> Tamala E Owens 03/21/07 12:33 PM >>>  
Good morning, Mrs. Jacobs.  
Mrs. Kelley and I have been e-mailing each other about Mr. Whack this morning. I pulled the case file and the information that I am forwarding to you is what I found in the case. I really think that DHHS did all that we could do to help this man. Do not hesitate to let me know if you need anything else.

Alicia  
If I am looking at  
this right, they are  
several hundred on  
SSI limit?? Also,  
didn't discuss w/ him  
the need to personally  
go to Providence to  
apply + what it would  
do for him?  
Carolyn  
Carolyn, we did tell  
him this but I  
expedited the letter  
as well. He is ineligible  
for SSI due to  
income & resources  
of

**From:** Tamala E Owens  
**To:** KELLEYG@scdhhs.gov  
**Date:** 3/21/2007 12:28 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Jack Whack

Mr. Whack's countable income for 12/05 was \$2518.12 and for 01/06 it was \$1651.83. However, Mr. Whack also owned commercial property valued at \$22,900.00 which was not connected to his homestead property. DHHS received a statement from Mrs. Whack on 2/24/06 that the commercial property was up for sale. Since the property was under a "bona fide effort to sell", it could then be excluded, and Mr. Whack's medicaid was approved effective 02/06. On 3/07/06, the property in question was deeded to his children for \$5.00. Mr. Whack continued to receive Medicaid until his Social Security benefits began, causing him to become ineligible financially again. Mr. Whack was receiving 1114.00 in SSA benefits and his wife was getting \$607 in SSA benefits. His medicaid case closed effective 09/01/06. Let me know if you need anything else.

>>> Gerri Kelley 03/21/07 9:47 AM >>>  
I would feel better if we could be certain that we looked at General Hospital. Maybe documented in the file...His wages may be too high even for GH. I just know how ballistic the 11th floor gets when the Governor's office calls.

>>> Tamala E Owens 03/21/07 9:30 AM >>>  
Mr. Whack was employed in December. He also got wages in January. His wages made him ineligible for everything. Remember, Michelle and Barbara Ann also had to help the little wife try to put some of their land up for sale so that he could be eligible in February. That's all of the specific details that I remember, but I can pull the case if you need more.

>>> Gerri Kelley 03/21/07 9:23 AM >>>  
I remember this client. But I can't remember why he wasn't eligible. Was it income?

>>> Tamala E Owens 03/21/07 9:20 AM >>>  
This is the man that had a heart attack in 12/06 and had to have a heart transplant. He was also in intensive care for many days. Michelle, Barbara Ann, Becky, and myself worked on this case. He was not eligible for anything for those 1st 2 months.

>>> Gerri Kelley 03/21/07 8:51 AM >>>  
Tammy, who is the worker? I am a little concerned. What are the reasons he is ineligible? Is it income? Sometimes we forget about General Hospital. Was he hospitalized over 30 consecutive days?

>>> Tamala E Owens 03/20/07 4:28 PM >>>  
My understanding is that the worker looked at everything.

>>> Alicia Jacobs 03/20/07 4:27 PM >>>  
I assume you looked at MLAP and General Hospital too. Thanks

>>> Tamala E Owens 03/20/07 4:25 PM >>>  
Yes, Ma'am. I know he has been. We not only fielded calls from him, his wife, and his daughter, but I even got a call from his heart surgeon. They are all upset that Medicaid will not cover those months. And I don't really blame him. His heart transplant was done in December or January and he spent many days in intensive care after his heart attack. There is no way in the world that he will ever be able to pay that bill. But our hands really are tied because we cannot make him eligible when he really is not.

>>> Alicia Jacobs 03/20/07 4:20 PM >>>  
Thanks. I know he has been difficult. He wrote another letter to the Governor complaining about our not covering his bill. Thanks

>>> Tamala E Owens 03/20/07 4:16 PM >>>



We have looked at EVERYTHING that Mr. Whack could possibly be eligible for. We looked at every month beginning the month he had his heart attack. We also looked at every possible program that we have available. He does not qualify for medicaid in any category of assistance. Trust me when I tell you that SEVERAL people in our office worked diligently to see what help we could offer this man. If I can be of further assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to call me.

>>> Alicia Jacobs 03/20/07 2:48 PM >>>  
0780552662

This man has asked for retro coverage for his December and January hospital bills. Can you please take a look to see if coverage is possible? Thanks



*I mention that he is ineligible only because he states this in his letter.*

- Our Mission
- History
- Leadership
- Heritage Society
- Society of St. Luke
- Community Sponsorships

## CONTACT US

**Providence Hospital / Providence Heart Institute**  
 2435 Forest Drive  
 Columbia, SC 29204

General Information: (803) 256-5300  
 Patient Information: (803) 256-5963  
 Providence Day Surgery Center: (803) 253-7570  
[info@provhosp.com](mailto:info@provhosp.com)

**Providence Hospital Northeast**  
 120 Gateway Corporate Blvd.  
 Columbia, SC 29203  
 I-77 at Farrow Road

General Information: (803) 865-4500  
 Patient Information: (803) 865-4504  
 Admissions Department: (803) 865-4520  
 Emergency Department: (803) 865-4530  
[info@provhosp.com](mailto:info@provhosp.com)

**Providence Hospitals Human Resources**  
 2709 Laurel Street  
 Columbia, SC 29204  
 Phone: 803-256-5410  
 Fax: 803-256-5838  
[hr@providencehospitals.com](mailto:hr@providencehospitals.com)  
 JOB line: 803-256-5627

**Providence Hospitals Development Office**  
 Denise D. Wilkinson, Director of Development  
 Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals  
 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 302  
 Columbia, SC 29204  
 803-256-6653

## FIND A PHYSICIAN

**Patient Information**  
 Providence Hospital &  
 Providence Heart Inst  
 (803) 256-5963

Providence Hospital N  
 (803) 865-4504

Release of Informatio  
 (803) 256-5722

*"Charity application apply in person."*

MEDEL02 P S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DATE: 03/21/07

MEDSPROD MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY DECISION ACTION: PAGE: 3 OF 3

DATES-FROM: 05 / 2006 THRU: / HH NUMBER: 101099391

HH NAME: JACK WHACK JR CATEGORY: ABD ACTION TYPE: MAINTENANC

BG NUMBER: 19085723 ACTION DATE: 08/09/06

BG: C BGP: C WKR: SLOGA SHARON LOGAN RCP NUMBER: 0780552662

RCP NAME: JACK WHACK JR CORRECT RCP NUMBER:

PREVIOUS BG: NEW BG: IT: PING-PONG: RETRO: N EXPARTE: N QMB: N PROT PER DATE:

ACTUAL ELIGIBILITY DATES

MEDICAID

---BENEFIT DATES--- --MEDICAID+QMB DATES-- SERVICE REASON REASON

BEGIN END BEGIN END TYPE CODE 1 CODE 2

02/01/2006 09/01/2006 051

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

UPDATED: USER ID: SLOGA DATE: 08/09/06 SYSTEM ID: ELD3000 DATE: 08/09/06

ME900115 BUDGET GROUP PERIOD INFORMATION FOUND

PF1-HELP PF2-PREV MBR PF3-NEXT MBR PF5-HH MBR DTL PF6-RETURN PF10-MENU

PF11-HH MBRS PF15-MD PF16-BG DET PF18-RCP INFO PF21-HIST- PF22-HIST+ PF24-AOD

<b>LEGISLATIVE LOG #</b>	0598
<b>LEGISLATOR/INQUIRER</b>	Senator John C. Land, III
<b>CONSTITUENT</b>	Jack Whack
<b>SSN</b>	
<b>BC ASSIGNED LOG</b>	Jacobs
<b>DATE REC'D BY AGENCY</b>	3/19/2007
<b>DATE DRAFT DUE GR</b>	3/26/2007
<b>LOG LETTER DUE DATE</b>	3/27/2007
<b>DATE REFERRED TO BC</b>	3/20/2007

Brief Description of Issue/Problem	Date	Staff Person	Phone #	Action Taken
Requesting retro coverage for 12/05 and 01/06. The county says they looked at every possible category. I will get with Carolyn to be 100% sure nothing is overlooked.	3/20/2007	Jan	8-2502	Alicia's box - shared with Alicia because she and I had worked
	3/21/2007	Jenny	8-3965	I will handle.
	3/22/2007	Jenny	8-3965	Met with Carolyn for her to review and determine retro eligibility for all categories. We even explored the fact that the property in question was commercial property. If he would have received income from the property, we could exclude the property. He did not so he is not eligible before Feb, which is when the property was under a bona fide effort to sell. MPPM 302.21.01
	3/22/2007	Jenny		Called Providence Hospital to explore possible financial assistance. "Charity applications" can be obtained at the Northeast or Forest Drive location. They would not give me "income limits" but they said the applicant must apply in person and provide income, resource, and tax returns for the time period in which they need assistance. She said they could go back to Dec/Jan if he is eligible. I spoke with Mr. Whack and explained that we had reviewed his situation, but he is ineligible, told him I would be mailing him information that may be able to assist with future needs.
	3/23/2007	Jenny	8-3965	Drafted letters and to Mark.
	3/23/2007	Jenny	8-3965	To Jan.

#### CHECKLIST

Family Size	
Income/Resources	

**Other Resources:**

#### Programs:

ABD	(32)	
Foster Children	(31,60)	
General Hospital	(14)	
HCBWS	(15)	
LIF	(59)	
MBCCP	(71)	