

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

**ACTION REFERRAL**

TO <i>Singleton</i>	DATE <i>2-1-10</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>001322</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 2/8/10, letter attached.</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2-9-10</i>  <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.			

**Brenda James - Cosmetic Surgery Funded by Tax Payers**

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**RECEIVED**

FEB 01 2010

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**From:** Bunny Jones <BunnyJones@scsenate.gov>  
**To:** "kostbr@scdhhs.com" <kostbr@scdhhs.com>  
**Date:** 2/1/2010 1:00 PM  
**Subject:** Cosmetic Surgery Funded by Tax Payers  
**Attachments:** 2010-0011 Whigham 1-20-10 lbj.PDF

Hi Bryan,

I've attached an e-mail from Ms. Donna Whigham for your information and response as you deem appropriate.

Hope you are well and are having a great beginning to 2010!!

Take care!  
Bunny

11  
**RECEIVED**

**Beckie Gunter**

FEB 01 2010

**From:** Donna Whigham [donnawhigham@bankconstruction.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2010 1:39 PM  
**To:** Beckie Gunter  
**Subject:** cosmetic surgery funded by tax payers

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Beckie:

My name is Donna Whigham and I called you earlier today. I have two relatives by marriage (my sister's sister-in-laws) that I have watched leach of the American taxpayer for the past several years and I have had enough. These two ladies will not hold down a job and give all kind of excuses for not working but have the time and energy to ride the roads all day and get the government to support them. They survive on food stamps, SSI checks, free medical care and pretty much any way other than getting a job. They have no health insurance and use the emergency room for general health care and never pay a cent. Several years ago both received a gastric bypass that was paid for by the tax payers and one has recently obtained a tummy tuck that was paid for the same way because the weight loss caused her skin to sag. She is now helping her sister get a tummy tuck and they both are complaining that the weight reduction surgery has caused their breast to sag and need to repaired at no cost as well. Believe it or not I think the breast repair is about to be approved.

Please understand that I accept my responsibility as a tax payer to help the welfare of children, elderly, and disabled but these two ladies are abusing the system and as far as I am concerned taking money from the programs that could be going to those that really need it.

The name of the sister that has already received the tummy tuck is Mindy Ruggles who lives in Goose Creek, SC. She is on SSI, as well as her 15 year old daughter and the other ladies name is Dawn Ruggles Withrock of Moncks Corner, SC.

If I can assist you with any other information that would help you see that these two ladies and any other person never be allowed to steal from the American taxpayer again please let me know

Thank for taking the time to listen to me and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Respectfully,  
Donna Whigham  
1126 Sandy Run Circle  
Summerville, SC 29483

*Passing on to  
DHHS for their  
review  
1/22/10  
BS*

*2010-0011  
LBY*



Log 322 ✓

February 8, 2010

Ms. Donna Whigham  
1126 Sandy Run Circle  
Summerville, South Carolina 29483

Dear Ms. Whigham:

Thank you for your letter reporting suspected Medicaid fraud to the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. We greatly appreciate your concern and diligence in helping to protect taxpayer dollars. I have referred your complaint to our Division of Program Integrity for investigation. While Medicaid confidentiality regulations prohibit us from sharing with you the outcome of our review, I assure you that this allegation will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action will be taken. The Division of Program Integrity reviews both health care providers and Medicaid beneficiaries for fraud and abuse of the Medicaid program. Individuals determined to have received Medicaid benefits they were not entitled to will be required to repay the cost of those benefits. We will also refer individuals to the State Attorney General's Office for investigation and possible prosecution when criminal fraud is suspected.

Thank you for your support of the Medicaid program.

Kathleen C. Snider, Bureau Chief  
Compliance and Performance Review

KCS:m

cc: Bunny Jones, SC Senate