

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <b>Jacobs</b>	DATE <b>6-21-07</b>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <b>000792</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <b>6-28-07</b>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <b>Cleaved 7/16/07, letter attached.</b>	<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.			



## House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

**RECEIVED**

JUN 21 2007

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**J. Roland Smith**

District No. 84 - Aiken County  
183 Edgar Street  
Warrenville, SC 29851

**Committees:**

Ethics, Chairman  
Ways and Means  
Ways and Means Budget and Finance  
Ways and Means Economic Development,  
Capital Improvement and Other Taxes  
Ways and Means Public Education and  
Special Schools Subcommittee, Chairman  
Ways and Means Proviso  
Ways and Means Revenue Policy  
School Bus Specification Committee

519-B Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Tel. (803) 734-3114

June 19, 2007

*Log: checks  
due, Negr*

**Ms. Susan Bowling, Director**  
**SC Dept. of Health and Human Services**  
**PO Box 8206**  
**Columbia, SC 29202**

**Re: Keri Gamester, 226 Graystone Drive, Beech Island, SC 29842**  
**Telephone number is 803-345-7549, Case Number: G27331**  
**Disability Case/Social Security Number: 096-58-4817.**

**Dear Director Bowling:**

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Keri Gamester, a constituent who lives in the Beech Island community. I am including the letter explaining escalating medical problems she has accumulated. She is facing a financial crisis having a hospital bill totaling \$60,000 and ongoing expenses due to the expensive chemotherapy treatments. She has applied for Medicaid, and I request your assistance in this matter.

Ms. Gamester will lose her home and everything she has unless she gets some assistance through Medicaid for health benefits.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance and help.

Sincerely,

*J. Roland Smith*

J. Roland Smith

JRS/ffc/2007jun19-1

Enclosure

06/10/07

To:

Representative J. Roland Smith  
416A Blatt Bldg.  
Columbia, SC, 29211

From:

Keri Gamester  
226 Graystone Dr.  
Beech Island, SC, 29842  
803-345-7549

Case # C-27331 (Disability case) SS # 096-58-0817

Dear Sir,

I am writing to share with you my dilemma. I am a single, unemployed mother of two who was working until an injury put me out of work with a back problem that requires surgery to correct. Workman's comp has helped but, while waiting on approved surgery, it was found that I have cancer and am now receiving chemotherapy. My back surgery is now on hold indefinitely as I am treated for my cancer.

I am now in financial crisis with hospital bills at 60,000 dollars and ongoing expensive chemotherapy. I was refused medicine because I have no insurance to pay for it. I am now told that I need to see a specialist for a new growth found in my stomach and that he won't see me unless I pay 160 dollars up front. I have applied for Medicaid to help with these costs but keep running into closed doors. I have applied to help organizations for cancer medications and use Wal-Mart's 4 dollar prescriptions whenever I can, and when I can't, I must sacrifice or rely on friends for help- they too sometimes sacrifice for me. All I have is my home which has a mortgage of 400 dollars a month and is the first place I could call my own in my entire life.

Before all of this happened to me and I was working, I was able to afford (barely) to maintain a life for me and my two children. Now what little I have is in jeopardy and may lose my children to be wards of the state. They have 3 more chemotherapy sessions scheduled and then radiation treatments. These treatments drain me of energy; I have lost my hair, and feel at times of just giving up. The medications are very costly and having little income, have been a financial nightmare for me.

I ask for your help in expediting my case with Medicaid so as to get some help with my needs. The people there have been so nice and I believe they are doing the best they can but some technical problems concerning my married/maiden name have caused delays. My married name was Moran, maiden is Gamester.

Thank you in advance for your help in this urgent matter,





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

Mark Sanford  
Governor

July 16, 2007

Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

The Honorable J. Roland Smith  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
183 Edgar Street  
Warrenville, South Carolina 29851

Dear Representative Smith:

Thank you for referring Ms. Keri Gamester to our agency regarding her concerns about healthcare and daily living expenses. We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

We have communicated with Ms. Gamester regarding her Medicaid application, and she has been given the name and telephone number of a staff person if she has any further concerns or questions regarding eligibility. In an effort to assist Ms. Gamester with her outstanding hospital bill, we provided contact information for the Aiken County Medically Indigent Assistance Program. This program sponsors inpatient hospital care for individuals who lack financial resources to pay for their care and whose income is below 200% of the federal poverty level. We also provided her with information on other programs that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare services, prescription medications, and daily living needs.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I can be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Susan B. Bowling*

Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

SBB/jode

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

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

July 16, 2007

The Honorable Thomas L. Moore  
The Senate of South Carolina  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Moore:

Thank you for referring Ms. Keri Gamester to our agency regarding her concerns about healthcare and daily living expenses. We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

We have communicated with Ms. Gamester regarding her Medicaid application, and she has been given the name and telephone number of a staff person if she has any further concerns or questions regarding eligibility. In an effort to assist Ms. Gamester with her outstanding hospital bill, we provided contact information for the Aiken County Medically Indigent Assistance Program. This program sponsors inpatient hospital care for individuals who lack financial resources to pay for their care and whose income is below 200% of the federal poverty level. We also provided her with information on other programs that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare services, prescription medications, and daily living needs.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I can be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Susan B. Bowling*

Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

SBB/jode

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

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Susan B. Bowling  
Acting Director

Ms. Keni Gamester  
226 Graystone Drive  
Beech Island, South Carolina 29842

Dear Ms. Gamester:

Governor Mark Sanford, Senator Thomas Moore, and Representative Roland Smith asked our agency to assist you with your concerns about healthcare and daily living needs. We hope to be of some assistance.

Your application for Medicaid's Aged, Blind or Disabled program was denied in January 2007 because you did not meet the disability criteria. Your most recent application for our Low Income Families program was denied on June 13, 2007, because your monthly income is over the allowable limit. You have 30 days to appeal this decision. Fortunately, your children receive Medicaid benefits through our Partners for Healthy Children program.

Good customer service is important to us, so thank you for your kind remarks about our eligibility workers. We attempted to contact you by telephone at 803-345-7549, but were unable to leave a message. If you will contact Denise Epps at 803-898-2505 or (toll-free) 1-888-549-0820, she will be glad to address any specific questions you may have about Medicaid eligibility; however, our records indicate your last name was not a factor in the eligibility determinations.

To hopefully assist with your outstanding hospital bill, we have enclosed an application for the Medically Indigent Assistance Program (MIAP). This program sponsors inpatient hospital care for individuals who lack financial resources to pay for their care and whose income is below 200% of the federal poverty level. Please contact Ms. Angela Gunter at 803-642-2071 in Aiken County for more information about the MIAP.

We have also enclosed information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare, prescription medications and daily living needs. Please call the contact numbers on each to learn more about the services they offer.

I hope the information we have provided is helpful.

Sincerely,

*Alicia Jacobs*  
Alicia Jacobs  
Interim Deputy Director

AJ/ode  
Enclosures