

Hutchens James Justin  
 Form 3  
 February 26, 2009

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
 Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

|  |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person<br/>                 *<br/>                 ^<br/>                 Hutchens James Justin<br/>                 (Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p>C/O NATIONAL HEALTH INVESTORS, INC., ^ 750 B SOUTH CHURCH STREET<br/>                 (Street)</p> <p>MURFREESBORO, ^ TN ^ 37130<br/>                 (City) (State) (Zip)</p> | <p>2. Date of Event Requiring Statement<br/>                 (Month/Day/Year)<br/>                 02/25/2009</p> | <p>3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br/>                 NATIONAL HEALTH INVESTORS INC [NHI]</p> | <p>4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br/><br/>                 (Check all applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other<br/>                 (give title below) (specify below)<br/>                 President &amp; COO</p> | <p>5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)</p> | <p>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p> |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Title of Security<br/>                 (Instr. 4)</p> | <p>2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned<br/>                 (Instr. 4)</p> | <p>3. Ownership Form:<br/>                 Direct (D)<br/>                 or Indirect (I)<br/>                 (Instr. 5)</p> | <p>4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br/>                 (Instr. 5)</p> |
|---|---|--|---|

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

|  |   |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Title of Derivative Security<br/>                 (Instr. 4)</p> | <p>2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date<br/>                 (Month/Day/Year)</p> <p>Date Exercisable      Expiration Date</p> | <p>3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security<br/>                 (Instr. 4)</p> <p>Title      Amount or Number of</p> | <p>4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security</p> | <p>5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security:<br/>                 Direct (D)</p> | <p>6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br/>                 (Instr. 5)</p> |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|

Shares or Indirect  
(I)  
(Instr. 5)

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                      |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer              | Other |
| Hutchens James Justin<br>C/O NATIONAL HEALTH INVESTORS, INC.<br>750 B SOUTH CHURCH STREET<br>MURFREESBORO, TN 37130 | ^             | ^         | ^ President<br>& COO | ^     |

## Signatures

/s/ James Justin                      02/26/2009  
Hutchens

\_\_Signature of Reporting                      Date  
Person

## Explanation of Responses:

### No securities are beneficially owned

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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### Remarks:

No securities are beneficially owned.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.  
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