

Document 1219

[21219001]

The Justice Department said it filed a lawsuit seeking more than \$ 7.7 million from a Meredith Corp. unit on charges that the company defrauded the government on a contract to provide relocation services for federal employees .

[21219002]

The suit , filed in federal trial court in Des Moines , Iowa , where Meredith is based , alleges that the diversified media company 's relocation unit cheated the government by misrepresenting the value of government employees ' homes .

[21219003]

The government contract required Meredith Relocation Corp. to purchase employees ' homes based on independent appraisals .

[21219004]

The Justice Department alleges that the company " engaged in various forms of misrepresentation " with the goal of reducing the appraised value of employees ' homes .

[21219005]

In the suit , the department seeks to recover \$ 7.7 million in costs incurred when the government terminated its contract with Meredith Relocation and sought other contracts to replace it .

[21219007]

Officials with Meredith did n't have any immediate comment on the suit .