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## **New Jersey sues Trump non-profit over failure to turn over documents**

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New Jersey has filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump's transition team, according to court documents.

The state Attorney General's Office accused Trump for America, Inc. of failing to properly register in the state. After New Jersey opened an investigation, the non-profit refused to turn over internal documents, according to the lawsuit.

The complaint also names KCH & Associates, LLC, a Mendham-based fundraiser. It was filed Friday in New Jersey Superior Court in Essex County.

The two groups "insist that they are above the law," according to the lawsuit. "They aren't."

Trump for America disputed the allegations in a statement sent by Kory Langhofer, a lawyer for the non-profit, and said it had provided the state with all "appropriate" documents.

"The New Jersey Attorney General's Office sued anyway, presumably because they want to be perceived as resisting Trump," the statement read. "This lawsuit is about their desire to issue a press release and not the merits of their case."

Langhofer declined to comment on the group's current activities or assets. A message left with the Trump campaign was not immediately returned.

Trump's transition team was originally formed in New Jersey, according to the suit, and continued to operate in the state after it moved to Massachusetts. Early on, the group was chaired by former Gov. Chris Christie.

Trump for America reported that it developed public policy and hired people for White House positions, in addition to helping Trump transition into the presidency, according to IRS documents.

The non-profit pulled in more than \$6.4 million in 2016 and more than \$2.5 million in 2017, the most recent year available. KCH & Associates received thousands of dollars each year for work as a "fundraising consultant."

But Trump for America failed to follow the law and register with the state's consumer affairs division, according to the suit.

The state opened an investigation around October, 2018. A few months later, on Feb. 11, investigators subpoenaed both groups, the suit said.

The state demanded documents detailing the organization's "finances, tax-exempt and charitable status, fundraising practices, organizational structure, and contracts with independent contractors," and asked for similar documents from KCH, the fundraiser.

Trump for America only turned over documents that were already public, according to the complaint, and KCH provided very little relevant information. The transition team claimed that the state didn't have authority to ask for documents, and KCH said a non-disclosure agreement blocked it from sharing more, the lawsuit said.

State officials demanded documents within 10 business days, as well as a copy of the confidentiality agreement.