
Krasnoyarsk investigators looking into death of 13-year-old after quarrelling with his peers in social media



On 9 October 2016, the Krasnoyarsk Territory law enforcement authorities got a report that a 13-year-old boy died in Sverdlovsky District of Krasnoyarsk. In order to see all the details of reasons and consequences of what happened, The Krasnoyarsk Territory Office of the Investigative Committee have launched a check at once.

Investigators believe that not long before that, the boy had had a quarrel with his former class mates in a popular social network over some insults published there before. Soon a virtual quarrel turned into a real fight. At about 4 PM, 9 October 2016, four teenagers including the 13-year-old victim met with an insulter and his friend near the building in Sudostroitel'naya Street. A fight broke out during which apparently the one of the two teenagers (the instigator) ran out of arguments and took out a penknife. He attacked his opponents with it and stabbed the 13-year-old boy in the chest. The scared teenager tried to run away, but couldn't because of profuse bleeding. Medics tried to save him, but unfortunately had to pronounce him dead.

The investigators have revealed that the reason for the conflict between the teenagers were insults said by the attacker in the address to a victim's teacher.

Chairman of the Investigative Committee Alexander Bastrykin has pointed out many times the necessity of special control and close attention of law-enforcement and social services to social media, negative influence of which affects children and teenagers more frequently, and especially noted that the threats “they [children and teenagers] face with in modern world become more sophisticated.” Unfortunately, with time, the original task of such media has gone out of control instead of being something providing information and communication, and this time hurt the families on either side of the conflict. By the way, all the teenagers are peers, they are 13 years old, they come from good families and have had no police records. This makes it even more terrible, that instead of settling an ordinary quarrel, those on-line battles turned into something absolutely real, a deathly fight that ended up in a tragedy. In these very minutes some serious conflicts can be breaking out in the Internet.

It is obvious that uncontrolled pastime of teenagers surfing the Internet give birth to permissiveness erasing boundaries between virtual and real worlds. This problem is of systemic nature and requires high vigilance and that respective measures are taken by parents and guardians, social services and other agencies, including by Roskomnadzor (the federal communication oversight service). Soon the investigators are going to file a motion with the Krasnoyarsk Ministry of Education so that it eliminates the reasons and conditions that had contributed to the crime. Considering that the attacker has not reached the age of criminal liability, no charges can be pressed against him.

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