

In Sverdlovsk Region, suspects detained in death of 7-year-old girl of dog bites



The Sverdlovsk Region Office of the Investigative Committee continues investigating a crime under Part 1 of Article 109 of the RF Penal Code (reckless homicide) after dead body of a 7-year-old girl with bite wounds to her neck and traces of dog claws was found in the afternoon of 5 February 2017 in the village of Palmينو, Tabory District.

According to preliminary data, the girl lived in the village with her mother and brother. Some teenagers found the body and reported it to police at about 2:20 PM. A paramedic arrived and certified the girl's death.

As a result of a set of urgent investigative and search operations conducted by investigators and policemen, four eyewitnesses of the incident have been identified. The teenagers saw the dead body lying near a playground located behind a local recreation center and two big dogs nearby walking

without muzzles or leash. The investigators have found two families that kept the said dogs and two local residents aged 53 and 42 who owned the dogs. The two men watched by the investigators have put down their dogs. Experts have taken necessary samples from the dogs which were covered in something looking very much like blood.

Considering the results of all investigative operations, the investigator has detained the two dog owners as suspects. The investigators are going to ask courts to put the men in custody pending trial. Charges are going to be pressed soon. Witnesses are being interrogated, a number of necessary expert inquiries have been ordered (a postmortem of the body, a DNA test and a medical inquiry).

The investigators are going to look into contributing factors of the crime (reasons and conditions that had led to the tragedy) and to take steps to prevent such factors. To do that, they are going to check the actions of officials responsible for pet keeping rules. They are also checking if there were other incidents of aggressive behavior of the said dogs and if the dogs were examined for rabies. It will be established why the girl was outside alone unattended by any adults.

The investigation is ongoing.

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