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## **Investigative Committee to give legal assessment to actions of social workers regarding deaths of children in families in several Russian regions**



Regional Investigations Directorates of a number of Russian regions will check causal links between actions (inactions) of authorities of prevention and social services system and tragedies entailing deaths of minors. During their investigation into the probes investigators of the Investigative Committee of Russia are intended to establish whether the social authorities worked in a timely and comprehensive manner with families in which the murdered children had been brought up and to determine reasons and pretexts for the critical events.

Thus, on the 10th of November a woman and her disabled son died as a result of a fatal accident in the city of Tolyatti in Samara region. The Samara Regional Investigations Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has immediately launched a probe into this fact.

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A similar tragedy happened on the same day in Tver region where a mother murdered her 4-month-old girl and then tried to commit a suicide. The investigators have also launched a probe into this fact.

On the 26th of October, 2018 Bashkortostan Regional law enforcement authorities received a report about bodies of two 9-year-old brothers showing signs of violent death discovered in a private house with a body of their 35-year-old father who according to preliminary version had committed the murder of the children. The Bashkortostan Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has launched a probe into this fact.

During investigation into these probes the investigators of the Investigative Committee of Russia will establish all circumstances, reasons and causes that led to the tragedies.

Moreover, they will pay special attention to procedural assessment of actions (inactions) of authorities responsible for providing social support and protection to the said families.

It must be noted that in carrying out of investigations and procedural probes of this category the Investigative Committee of Russia not only pays attention to the negative aspects but also analyses the available positive experience.

Thus, in the beginning of November, 2018 Igor Komissarov, the senior assistant of the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia Alexander Bastrykin, visited Murmansk Region upon instruction of the Chairman to inspect regional organization of work for prevention of crimes committed by minors and their social rehabilitation and effectiveness of cooperation of units of the system for prevention and social protection authorities. Following the visit Igor Komissarov reported to the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia that the system of prevention of crimes committed by minors and social rehabilitation of children and their parents that exists in Murmansk region is quite effective and productive. It is important that the region features early risks prevention in the families and family resources are mobilized to resolve certain difficult situations. A comprehensive support technology enables specialists to provide individual approach to families and children.

The similar experience and practice are to be implemented everywhere since it is much easier to prevent problems than to deal with their consequences.

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