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## **On the progress of the criminal investigation into methanol poisoning of local residents in the Republic of Tatarstan**



The Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia for the Republic of Tatarstan continues to investigate the criminal case under Paragraphs A, C of Part 2 of Article 238 of the Criminal Code (sale of products that do not meet the safety requirements of life or health of consumers).

On November 16 in Kazan city 13 young people born in 1999-2003 were hospitalized with signs of methanol poisoning. Their condition is assessed as moderate to severe. Currently, investigators established that at night of November 15-16 a group of 18 young people celebrated the birthday of one of them at the cottage in Salmachi settlement of Kazan. Fourteen of them drank some alcoholic beverages after which they felt unwell and sought medical assistance.

The investigation established that one of the detainees had bought the alcohol-containing substance in a 5-liter plastic bottle through an acquaintance. Subsequently, the bottle was taken in the trunk of a carshare car to the cottage. In the trunk of the car there was a bottle of non-freezing automobile liquid of the same volume. Young people mistakenly took it with them, after which they added flavorings to the liquid and consumed it.

Currently an inspection of the scene and surrounding area was conducted, during which the bottle of "antifreeze" was seized. The study showed that it contained traces of methanol. In addition, a bottle of counterfeit alcohol was found in the carshare car, which the young people had purchased for the holiday. Investigators interviewed four local residents, born in 1990-2000, who sold the alcohol. According to preliminary data, no methanol was detected in the purchased alcohol.

Genetic and chemical expertise were appointed in the criminal case. Other investigative actions are

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conducted. The criminal investigation continues.

*17 November 2021*

*Page address:* <https://en.sledcom.ru/news/item/1629678>