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## **Chairman of the Investigative Committee Instructs to Transfer Criminal Case on a Minor Missing in Novgorod Oblast to Department's Central Office**



On January 25, 2022, a girl born in 2020 was reported missing in the town of Kholm, Novgorod Oblast. In order to arrange a full-scale search, as well as in order to objectively and comprehensively investigate all the circumstances of the child's disappearance, the investigative authorities of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation for Novgorod Oblast initiated a criminal case on the grounds of a crime stipulated in Paragraph C of Part 2 of Article 105 of the Criminal Code of Russia (murder of a minor).

When viewing the place of occurrence, the IC investigators found combustion residues, including those similar to bone fragments, in the stove; the necessary forensic tests have been scheduled. The mother and her cohabitee have been detained. Criminologists of the central office (Forensic Center of the IC of Russia) are working on site. All versions of what happened are being checked, the child's relatives are being interrogated. It has been established that the family was registered with the prevention system authorities, seven children were previously placed in a social institution due to their inadequate living conditions.

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Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia Alexander Ivanovich Bastrykin ordered to transfer the criminal case for a comprehensive investigation to the Main Investigative Department of the IC of Russia, establish the children's living and upbringing conditions in the family, as well as to thoroughly check the actions (inaction) of the child protection services.

The investigation course is closely monitored.

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