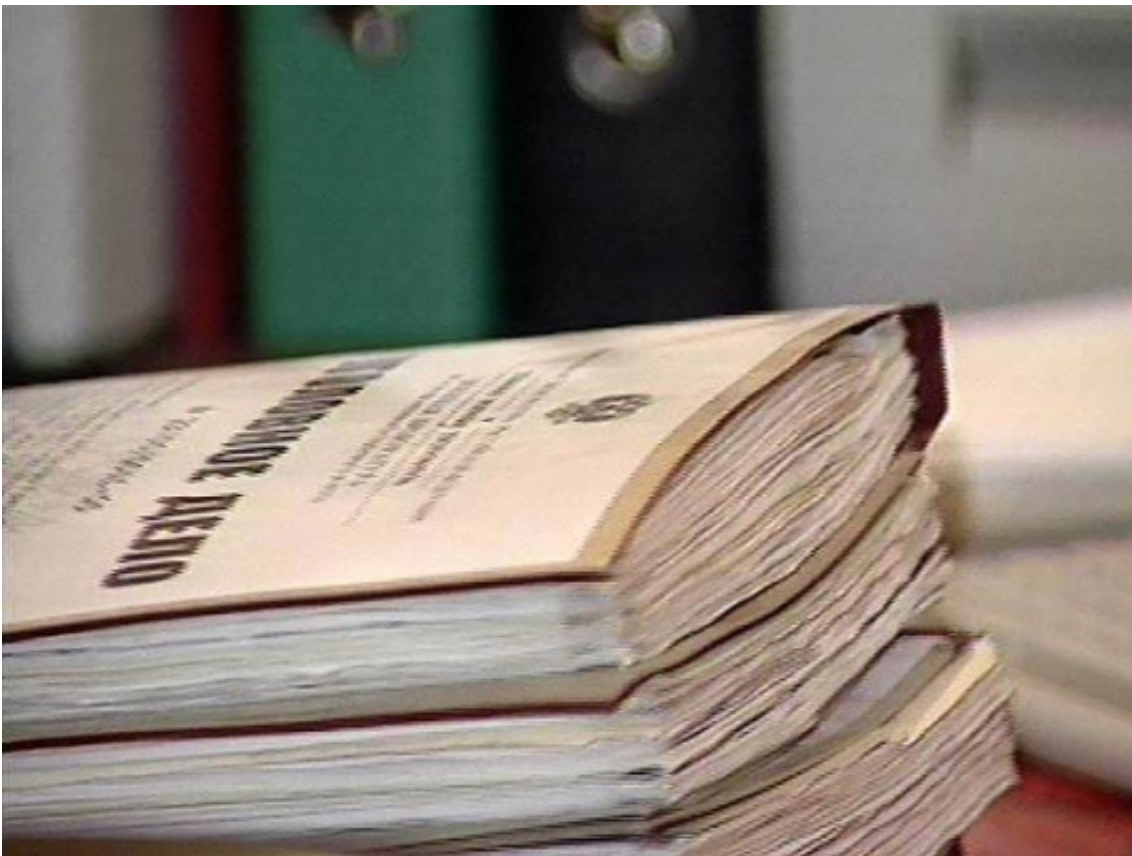

Criminal proceeding started in Leningrad Region over illegal purchase of ownership right for forestry lands in the village of Siversky, Gatchinsky district



Based on the results of the check ordered by Chairman of the Russia's Investigative Committee Mr. Bastrykin, the Leningrad Region investigating bodies have launched a criminal investigation into signs of a crime under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Criminal Code (swindling on an especially large scale).

According to investigators, before 2006, unknown people obtained an ownership for a land plot in forestry in the village of Siversky, Gatchinsky district, Leningrad Region using title of 1991-1992 issued with violation of the current law. After that they sold the land under a sale contract. These actions caused the Russian Federation a material loss on an especially large scale.

At present investigating operations are underway to find all the circumstances of the crime.

During the inquiry investigators are going to give legal treatment to the lawfulness of the decisions to transfer the land into ownership and change of the kind of land use made by officials of Gatchinsky district administration and Siversky village administration.

In addition, on the initiative of the regional investigations directorate, a criminal case launched by the police against protectors of Siversky forest over a crime under paragraph “a” of part 1 of article 213 of the RF Criminal Code (hooliganism) has been transferred to the Investigative Committee for a further investigation.

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