The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Suggestive and Freely Distributed Magazine Banned in Moscow

By The Moscow Times

August 22, 2013



The Russian magazine Flirt v Bolshom Gorode (Flirting in the Big City) has been shut down following a decision by a Moscow region court.

The magazine, which is freely distributed in subways and a popular sight on car windshields, is known for its sparse articles and plentiful pages of young women in sexual poses inviting readers to call them.

The Volokamsk city court ruled Wednesday that the magazine was improperly registered and must close.

In June ,the League of Internet Safety filed a complaint with the Federal Mass Media Inspection Service on the grounds that the magazine had been improperly registered. The organization also alleged that Flirt was organizing prostitution.

Flirt had originally been registered as a magazine providing informational and advertising content, entitling it to be freely distributed. The inspection service argued that the magazine had erotic content, which places it in a different category.

It is not the first time there have been attempts to shut down the magazine. In 2012 court decisions closed "Flirting and Dating" and "Auto Flirt," but the publisher registered new magazines under different names. It has a circulation of 150,000.

Stanislava Kazakova, the magazine's lawyer, told the magazine Bolshoi Gorod that she was sure the decision would be overturned and the publication doesn't plan to change its name.

She added that Flirt doesn't know if the women placing ads are prostitutes, but she would rather see them in a magazine than on the street.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2013/08/22/suggestive-and-freely-distributed-magazine-banned-in-moscow-a27004