

After St. Petersburg Death, Health Officials Could Seize HIV-Positive Children

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Victor Bartenev / Interpress / TASS

HIV-positive children should be seized from parents who refuse to treat them on religious or ideological grounds, a Russian Health Ministry official [told](#) the state-run TASS news agency this week.

“When the child’s life is threatened, there must first be a warning, then the child should be removed from the family for treatment,” Yevgeny Voronin, a ministry expert, said Wednesday.

Voronin made the comments after a 10-year-old St. Petersburg girl died from AIDS last week.

The child’s parents reportedly refused doctors’ orders despite a 2016 court ruling requiring them to hospitalize their daughter.

Her adoptive parents reportedly opposed mainstream medicine and were convinced that AIDS is a hoax “invented by greedy drug makers,” the website of Russia’s children's rights ombudsman, Anna Kuznetsova, [said](#).

Related article: [Russia Wishes Away Its HIV Epidemic](#)

Voronin told TASS that he appealed to the Russian children’s rights commissioner “to resolve the issue of AIDS dissidents.”

The local branch of the Investigative Committee announced a pre-investigation inquiry on Thursday into the circumstances of the 10-year-old's death at the children’s hospital.

HIV infections are skyrocketing in Russia with a nearly 150-percent increase in new diagnoses over the past decade, according to the AVERT HIV and AIDS awareness center.

Kuznetsova, Russia children's rights ombudsman, [said](#) earlier this year that 12 HIV-positive children had been seized from an adoptive Moscow family in January.

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