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Yandex General Director Accused of Violating 'LGBT Propaganda' Ban

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Artyom Savinovsky, general director of Yandex. **Yandex Press Service**

The general director of Russian tech giant Yandex is under investigation for violating the country's ban on displaying "gay propaganda" toward minors, the independent news outlet Mediazona reported Wednesday, citing public court records.

The case against Artyom Savinovsky is linked to his ongoing role as head of the media services department at Kinopoisk, an online Yandex-owned movie database and streaming service, Mediazona quoted the press service of Kinopoisk as saying.

A Moscow court on Tuesday issued a 1-million-ruble ($11,000) fine against Kinopoisk for "showing films demonstrating non-traditional sexual relations" without the appropriate age rating.

"The company is planning to appeal the decision," the Kinipoisk press service representative said.

The publicly available case files cited by Mediazona don't specify who initiated the lawsuit against Savinovsky.

Savinovsky was appointed general director of Yandex in April 2022.

Russia late last year expanded its "LGBT propaganda" ban to outlaw public displays of non-traditional relationships and lifestyles to people of any age, not just minors.

Russian authorities have initiated multiple lawsuits against Kinopoisk, the country's top movie streaming service, since the law came into effect.

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