

Russian Orthodox Church calls for amendments speeding up removal of children from families to be declined



Moscow, November 2, Interfax – The Russian Orthodox Church has criticized the plans of State Duma deputies to adopt amendments to a law that would allow the removal of children from families within 24 hours if there is a threat to their life and health under a court ruling.

“I believe the authors of this bill are creating dangerous tension in society, ignoring the position of the Russian Orthodox Church and the parent community,” Priest Fyodor Lukyanov, head of the patriarch’s commission on family issues, told Interfax on Monday, commenting on a report published by the Izvestia newspaper, which says that a bill speeding up the removal of children from problem families may be adopted before the end of this year.

The priest said the administration of the State Duma Committee on Family, Women, and Children’s Affairs has not conducted a broad public discussion of this

bill or consultations with religions or the public.

The patriarch's commission considers the bill to be anti-family, to cause division in society, to be aimed at improving the mechanism for removing children from families, not at preserving Russian families, which the priest said contradicts the spirit and essence of the Russian Constitution. "I believe that common sense will prevail and this bill will be declined," Lukyanov said.

The document proposes making changes to Article 77 of the Family Code and the law On the Police and adding to the Code of Civil Procedure Chapter 381, entitled Removal of a Child in a Situation of Imminent Threat to the Child's Life or Health.

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