

Provisional Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Family Law Subcommittee of the Legislative Council (provisional translation)

On December 20, 2022, the 21st meeting of the Family Law Subcommittee of the Legislative Council was held at the Ministry of Justice (in person and online). Nearly all the members and non-voting members attended the meeting. The Chairman, Prof. OMURA Atsushi, presided over the meeting.

In the previous meetings of the Family Law Subcommittee, several members expressed opinions that the Subcommittee should hear from a broader range of persons from different positions, in addition to the researchers in the second, through fifth meetings. Accordingly, at this meeting the Subcommittee heard from the five interviewees.

First, a lawyer explained the outcome of a private-sector forum and expressed his opinion that supported the review of the issue of parental authority after divorce. On the other hand, a child psychiatrist introduced the statements by the Japanese Association for Infant Mental Health (JAIMH) and expressed her opinion that careful consideration is required when reviewing the issue of parental authority after divorce. Based on these opinions, many of the members and non-voting members asked questions about the opinions of the two experts and raised points that need to be clarified.

Then, two children whose parents have divorced¹ and a divorced parent (who once lived separately from his children but now lives with the children) talked about their personal experiences. The members and non-voting members asked questions to the two children and the parent.

The Subcommittee decided to invite other interviewees to speak at the 22nd meeting.

※These provisional minutes are the summarized results of the subcommittee meeting and are to be provided by the Secretariat of the Subcommittee in both Japanese and English on an as-needed basis. The official meeting minutes (in Japanese) will be published at a later date.

¹ The two children were 19 years old and 23 years old at the time of the hearing.