



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF JAPAN

2023

closely connected to every member of the community



The Ministry of Justice is closely connected to every member of the community.

In order to live in this community it is necessary to have rules and regulations.

Such rules ensure that family relationships, such as parents and children or brothers and sisters are accurately registered; that people can live safely within the community; and that ordered materials can be obtained without fail.

Furthermore, to preserve peace and order in society, it is also essential that persons who harm others or commit a crime are appropriately punished.

The Ministry of Justice not only prescribes such basic rules applicable in society but also creates basic judicial framework under which the rules are adhered to. It also assumes responsibility for a broad range of legal work under which those who have been punished are assisted in their resocialization processes.

The Ministry also oversees the management of a system to help citizens exercise their personal rights, such as the registration of real estate and notarization.

Other important duties of the Ministry of Justice are to ensure that the immigration control of those entering and departing from Japan is dealt with in an appropriate manner, the basic human rights of individuals are respected, and intelligence activities are carried out for the purpose of public security.



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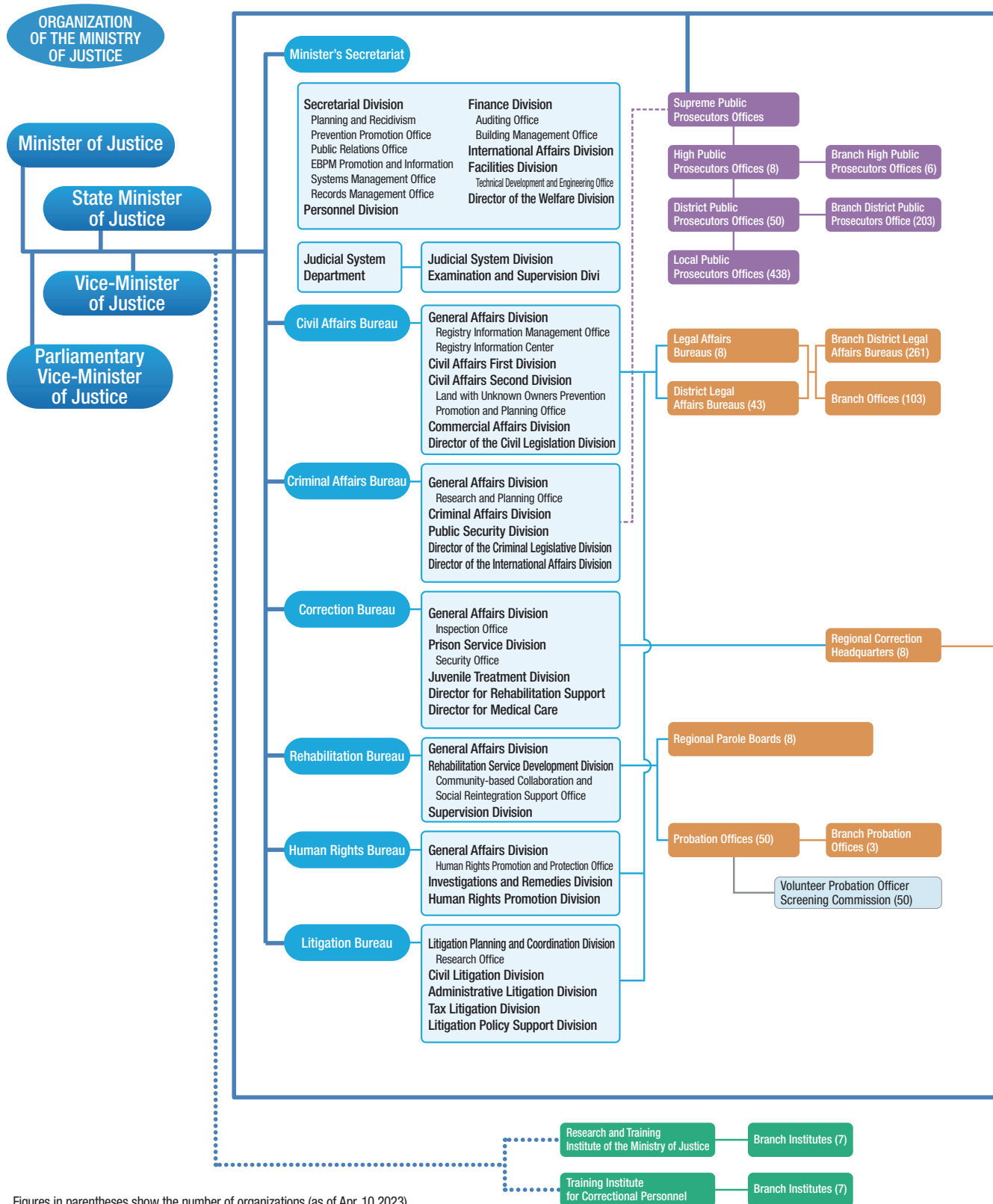
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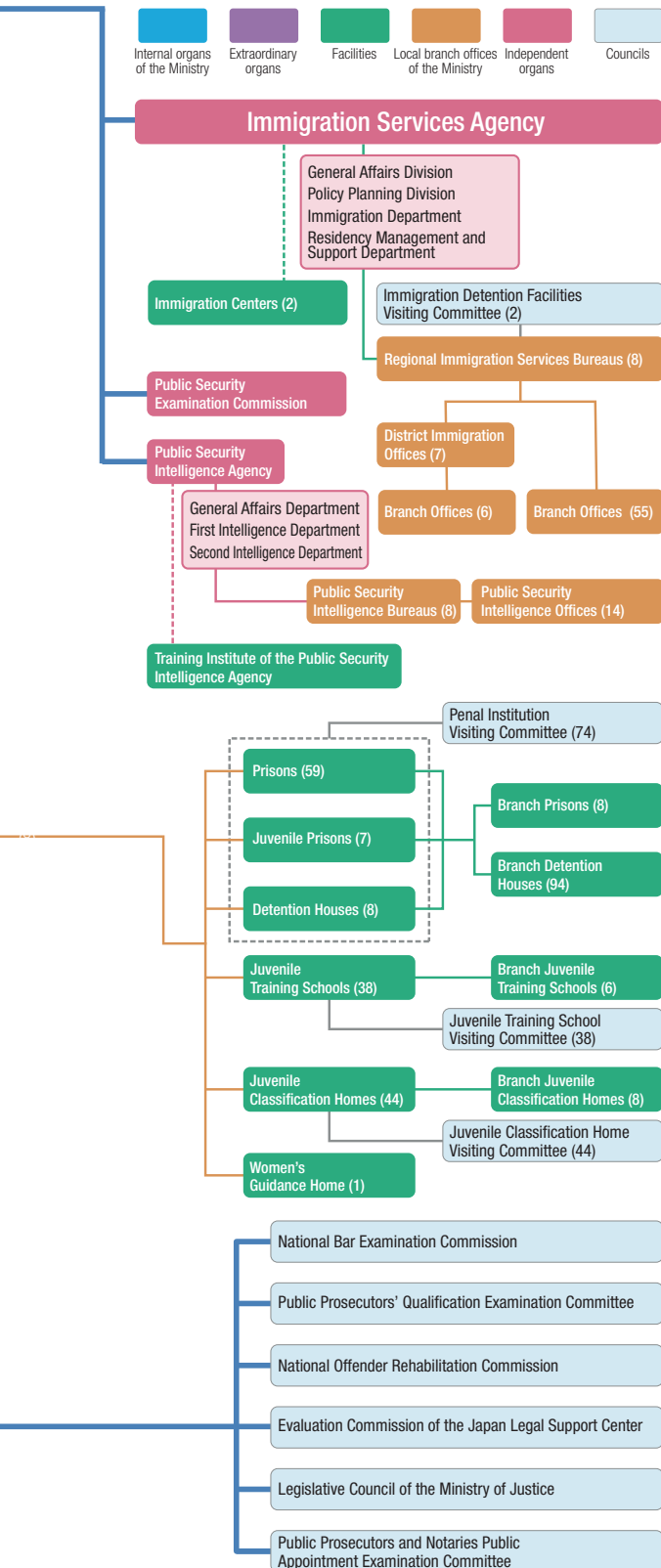
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About the Ministry of Justice

Structure, Historical Background, Number of Personnel of budget base, and Budget



Figures in parentheses show the number of organizations (as of Apr. 10 2023)



Historical Background

- 1871 ● Shihosho established
- 1947 ● Separated from Shihosho, came under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court
- 1948 ● Ministry of Justice
- 1949 ● Renamed Homufu (with 3 director-generals and 11 bureaus)
- 1952 ● Renamed the Ministry of Justice (with Minister's Secretariat and 7 bureaus)
- 2001 ● Reorganization of the central government (with Minister's Secretariat and 6 bureaus)
- 2015 ● Litigation Bureau established (with Minister's Secretariat and 7 bureaus)
- 2019 ● New Establishment of Immigration Services Agency (Minister's Secretariat, 6 Bureaus)

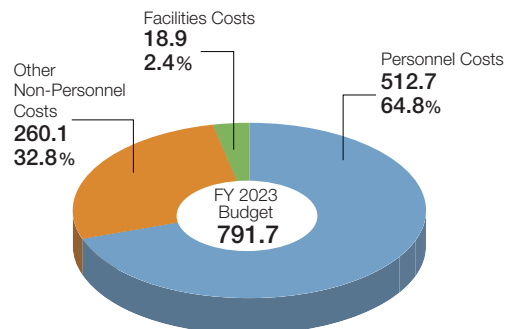
Number of Personnel of budget base (FY 2023)

Organization Name	Personnel
Ministry of Justice	837
Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice	84
Legal Affairs Bureaus	8,935
Public Prosecutors Offices	11,865
Correctional Institutions	23,595
Probation Offices and Regional Parole Boards	1,829
Immigration Services Agency	6,314
Public Security Examination Commission	4
Public Security Intelligence Agency	1,768
Total	55,231

Note: Special officers are included in the Ministry of Justice.

Budget (FY 2023)

The MOJ FY 2023 Budget comprises a general budget of 791.7 billion yen and 0.1 billion yen for the "Special Account for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake". Personnel costs comprise 64.8% of the general budget.



Promote The Prevention of RECIDIVISM

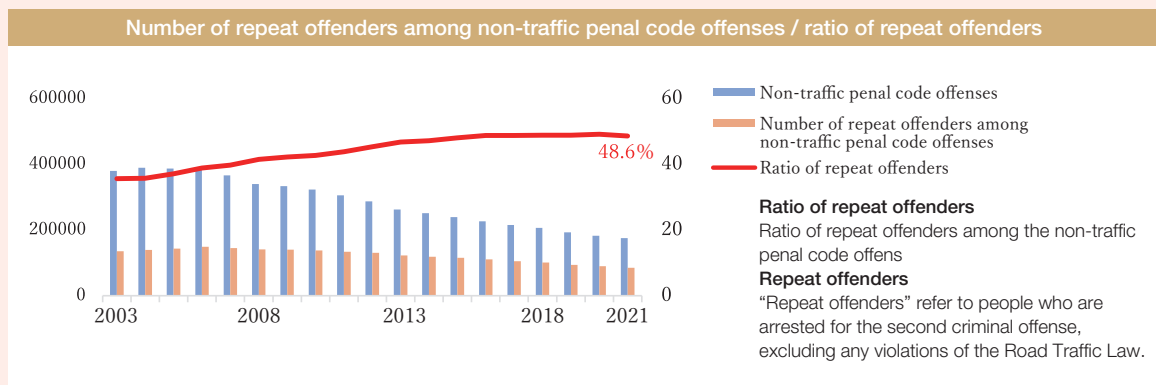
❖ For the achievement of a society where crime is never repeated, nor no more new victims are suffered

The Ministry of Justice promotes measures for preventing recidivism in order to stop victims from being suffered by crimes. We also aim to realize a society where citizens can live safely and securely so that persons who have committed crimes or juvenile delinquents will smoothly reintegrate into society without committing crimes again.



❖ Why is it necessary to prevent Recidivism?

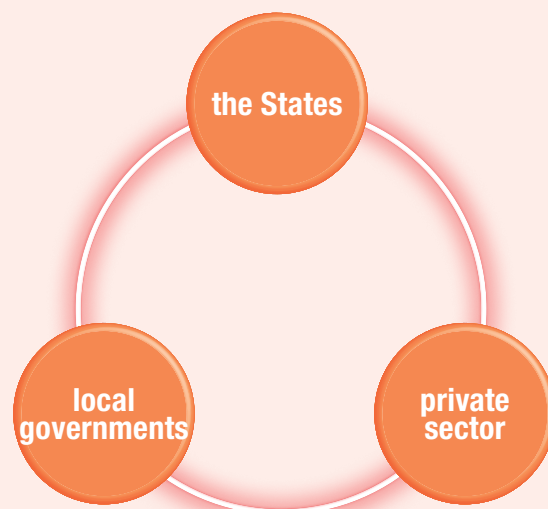
The number of reported cases has been decreasing for 18 years in a row since it started to decline in 2003, but the ratio of repeat offenders has not decreased; it has remained at nearly half of the total number of persons arrested. In other words, approximately one in two people who committed a crime are repeat offenders. It is very effective to take measures against the repeat offenders to reduce crime.



❖ For never committing a crime or acts of delinquency

In order to prevent offenders and juvenile delinquents from committing a crime or acts of delinquency again, it is necessary for criminal justice related agencies to provide guidance and education. However, among some people who commit a crime or acts of delinquency repeatedly have problems with work, housing, old age, poverty, mental well-being and disability. These factors also affect them, and as a result, they might commit a crime or acts of delinquency again.

Therefore, in order to prevent recidivism, in addition to guidance and education by organizations in the criminal justice system, other various kinds of support are required to prevent recidivism or acts of delinquency. In implementing the support, it is important that private-sector organizations and other related parties engaging in preventing recidivism should come together to provide long-term support with an eye toward not only organizations in the criminal justice system but also time after criminal justice processes.



❖ Act for the Prevention of Recidivism and Recidivism Prevention Plan

“Act for the Prevention of recidivism”, was enacted in December 2016. It establishes the fundamental principles for measures to prevent recidivism, clarifies the responsibilities of the States and local governments, and serves as the foundation for measures to prevent recidivism. In order to promote comprehensive and systematic measures to prevent recidivism, “Recidivism Prevention Plan” was also decided by the Cabinet in December 2017 under the Act above. In response to “Recidivism Prevention Plan” ending at the end of FY2022, we are planning to implement measures under the 2nd Recidivism Prevention Plan (tentative name) from FY2023. The Plan above sets forth the following three basic directions and six important items and indicates specific measures to be taken on the basis of the directions and items.

Basic Policies

1. Accomplish “long-term support” according to individuals problems respecting their independence
2. Establish consultation sites and regional support connection (network) bases to enhance the effectiveness of support
3. Promote independent and active efforts of local governments based on sharing roles between the States and local governments, and strengthen the connection among the States, local governments, and cooperating members of the private sector

Major Challenges

1. Securing Employment and Housing
2. Promote the smooth access to health, medical and welfare services
3. Implement effective guidance matching the traits of the persons who committed a crime and others
4. Promote the activities of cooperating members of the private sector such as volunteer probation officers
5. Promote regional inclusion
6. Develop a foundation for preventing recidivism

Measures to prevent recidivism taken by the government on the basis of the plan are reported every year on the White Paper on Recidivism Prevention.

For those who have committed a crime or acts of delinquency, cooperation from local people other than national and local governments is essential for them to recover.

We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation in the measures to prevent recidivism.

For more information on the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism, visit here.



For more information on the Recidivism Prevention Plan, visit here.



For more information on the White Paper on Recidivism Prevention, visit here.



Promoting Measures against Unclaimed Land

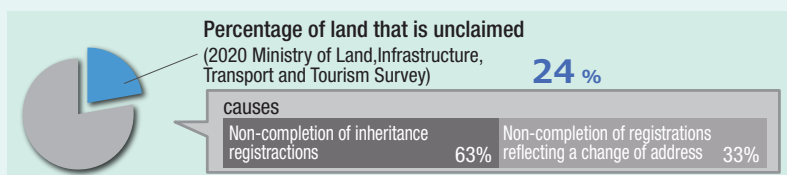
What is Unclaimed Land?

Unclaimed land means land that falls under any of the following due to the lack of inheritance registration and other reasons. It is said that over 20% of the land in Japan (equivalent to the area of the Kyushu main island) is unclaimed land, which causes a major social problem.

1. Land whose owner cannot be immediately identified from the real property register
2. Land whose owner cannot be contacted because their whereabouts are unknown



Real Property Registration
Promotion Mascot
Toukitsune



What are problems caused by unclaimed land?

That fact that it takes a lot of time and money to search for land owners causes a wide range of problems, including that the land cannot be purchased or sold in the private sector, cannot be used, or left without proper management, causing negative consequences to adjacent land. As the population is declining and aging, countermeasures against unclaimed land are an urgent issue.



Measures against Land with Unknown Ownership

Projects by the Legal Affairs Bureaus for Unclaimed Land

The Legal Affairs Bureaus in Japan take a wide range of actions to solve problems related to unclaimed land, including that (i) for land whose owner is dead and ownership has not been transferred for a long time, registrars investigate family registers to search for legal successors in response to requests from entities that implement public projects (local governments, etc.) and provide list of legal successors in registry offices which can be used for smoothly carrying out public projects; and (ii) for land where the name and address of the owner have not been not appropriately recorded due to historical reasons, registrars search for owners with official or historical documents as a clue and register the results.

National Legal Inheritance Information Certification System

Legal Affairs Bureaus carry out legal inheritance information certification service, where the Bureaus collate family registries with lists that describe relationship between the deceased and his/her heirs and issue copies of the lists as a certificate. By using a copy of this relationship list instead of a large amount of copies of family registers, inheritance registration and other processes can be carried out more easily and quickly. Many people use this system.

(記載例)

被相続人法務太郎法定相続情報

<p>最後の住所 ○県○市○町○番地 最後の本籍 ○県○郡○町○番地 出生 昭和○年○月○日 死亡 平成28年4月1日 (被相続人) 法 務 太 郎</p> <hr style="width: 20px; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p>住所 ○県○市○町三丁目45番6号 出生 昭和○年○月○日 (妻) 法 務 花 子</p> <p>以下余白</p>	<p>住所 ○県○郡○町○34番地 出生 昭和45年6月7日 (長男) 法 務 一 郎 (申出人)</p> <p>住所 ○県○市○町三丁目45番6号 出生 昭和47年9月5日 (長女) 相 続 促 子</p> <p>住所 ○県○市○町五丁目4番8号 出生 昭和50年11月27日 (養子) 登 記 進</p>
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作成日：○年○月○日
 作成者：○○○士 ○○ ○○
 (事務所：○市○町○番地)

Example of filled-out lists

New system starting in April 2023

In April 2021, the basic civil laws were comprehensively reviewed in order to prevent unclaimed land and facilitate smooth use of it, and the revised laws will be put in force from April 2023. The rules related to real estate and inheritance will change drastically in order to solve issues related to unclaimed land.

[Learn more](#)



Application for inheritance registration will be mandatory from April 1, 2024



Real Property Registration Promotion Mascot Tokitsune

The application for inheritance registration, which had been voluntary until now, will be mandatory due to the amendment act.

Basic rules

An heir who acquired real property through inheritance, including a testamentary gift, will be made mandatory to apply to register their inheritance within three years from the date the heir learned that he/she had acquired the real property. At the same time, in order to simplify the performance of this obligation, declaration-by-the-heir registration was newly established.

Additional rules when the division of inherited property is concluded

When consummation has been reached in a discussion on the division of inherited property, the heir who acquires the real property will be made mandatory to apply to register their inheritance based on the details of the division within three years from the date when the division of inherited property is concluded.



In any case, if an heir breaches the obligation without justifiable reason, he/she will be subject to a non-penal fine of not more than 100,000 yen. Register the inheritance of your land and buildings as soon as possible.

所有者不明土地^(※)の解消に向けて、不動産に関するルールが大きく変わります！
※登記簿を見ても所有者が分からない土地の面積は、全国で九州本島の大きさに匹敵するともいわれています

令和6年4月1日から相続登記の申請が義務化^(※)されます！

※正当な理由がなく義務に違反した場合、10万円以下の過料が科されることがあります

- 今のうちから、相続した土地・建物の相続登記をしましょう！
今なら、**相続登記の免税措置も**、拡大されています
- 相続の際、**遺産分割**をちゃんと済ませましょう！
- 登記の手続は、**法務局のホームページ**をご覧ください
- 相続・登記の**専門家**への相談も、ご検討ください

新制度について詳しくは、以下の二次元コードか、「法務省 所有者不明」で検索！

法務省民事局
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE CIVIL AFFAIRS BUREAU

Q 令和6年から始まる義務化は、私に関係があるの？ 今からできることは、あるの？

A 相続登記の申請の義務化は、令和6年4月1日に始まりませんが、それ以前の相続でも、**不動産（土地・建物）の相続登記がされていないものは、義務化の対象**になります。それぞれのケースに応じ、相続人（ご遺族）で、必要な遺産分割を行い、今のうちから、**相続登記を速やかに行うことが、重要**です。相続登記を促進する税制上の措置（100万円以下の土地の相続登記申請の免税措置等）も令和4年4月から、拡充されています。
（新しい税制措置は、法務省ホームページで詳しく掲載しています）

Q 相続登記の申請って大変じゃないの？ どのような手続をとればいいのか？

A 不動産の所有者がなくなった場合の登記手続は、不動産の所在地の**法務局（登記所）に申請**して行います。手続は、①**遺言書**による相続の場合、②**遺産分割協議**による相続の場合（相続人全員で話し合いをする場合）、③**法定された割合による相続**の場合（民法に定められた相続割合で相続する場合）など、ケースにより、必要な登記や書類が異なります。必要な登記の種類は、法務省ホームページでもご案内しています。
（法務省ホームページ「あなたと家族をつなぐ相続登記」をご覧ください）

Q 相続登記について、更に知りたいときはどうすればいいのか？

A ● 全国の法務局では、**手続案内**を行っています（予約制）。
（各法務局の案内はこちらに掲載しています）

● 法務局ホームページで、**手続や書式**をご案内しています。
詳しくは、上記法務省ホームページ「あなたと家族をつなぐ相続登記」の「相続登記の手続等についてお知らせします」から

● **専門家（司法書士・弁護士）に相談**したい場合は、こちら

<p>日本司法書士会連合会のホームページ（登記相談のご案内） </p>	<p>日本弁護士連合会のホームページ（法律相談のご案内） </p>
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Learn more

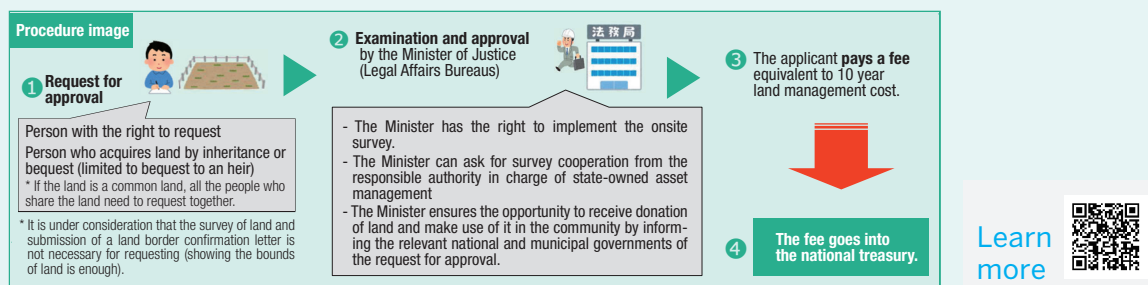


Establishment of the Inherited Land Treasury Return System (starting from April 27, 2023)

There is a growing need to let go of inherited land for reasons such as “I live far away and have no plans to use the land” or “My land need to be managed, but it would get costly.” In order to prevent difficult-to-manage land from being left uncontrolled and becoming unclaimed land, the “Inherited Land Treasury Return System” was established, where land acquired through inheritance or bequest can be returned to the national treasury after payment of a certain burden when the land satisfies certain requirements.

The inherited land treasury return system will start at the Legal Affairs Bureaus in Japan from April 27, 2023. The system is gaining social attention and interest as the launch of a new system that has never been seen before.

The Ministry of Justice and the Legal Affairs Bureaus have been disseminating and publicizing specific procedures for the use of this system, which aims to prevent the occurrence of unclaimed land, in cooperation with various related ministries and agencies and related organizations to ensure the smooth operation and establishment of the system.



Revision of the Rules in Civil Laws (starting April 1)

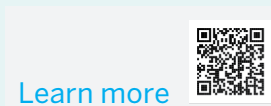
Since the use of land is hindered by the fact that the some owners of the land are unknown or unlocatable, civil laws were revised and a new system was established to facilitate the use of land.

For example, in order to facilitate the use of joint properties, a system was established that, with the involvement of a court, allows the management of common properties by excluding co-owners whose whereabouts are unknown, and that a joint owner acquire the part owned by other joint owners whose whereabouts are unknown.

In addition, a system to manage land/buildings with unknown owners and land/buildings that are not properly managed was established in order to deal with cases where the owner and their location are unknown or are not properly managed.

Other newly established systems include one where land owners can use other land to the extend necessary to draw lifelines such as water and gas to his/her land, and one where a deceased person's estate will be divided in a uniform manner after 10 years have passed since inheritance basically.

These new systems will come into effect on April 1, 2023.



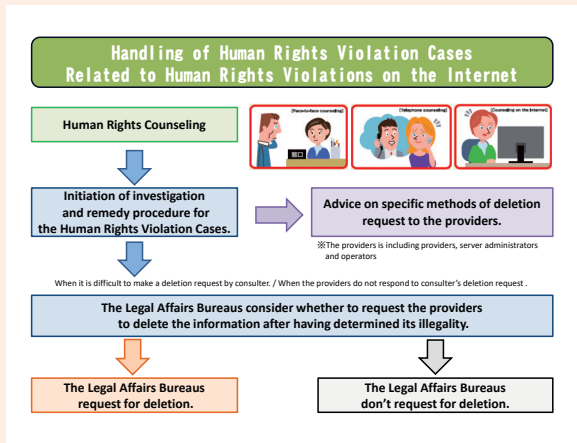


Promote measures against human rights violations on the Internet

Following increased use of the Internet and social media, and owing to its anonymity and capacity to send out information with ease, various human rights problems have arisen such as violation of individual reputations and privacy and publication of expressions that promote discrimination. These acts hurt the targets, and those who have made such posting may be accused of a crime. In response to the growing problem of human rights violations on the Internet, the Ministry of Justice is taking the following measures.

Human rights counseling regarding information violating human rights on the Internet, and investigation and remedy procedures for human rights violations cases

Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide provide human rights counseling regarding information that human rights violations on the Internet. If they suspect a case of human rights violation during a consultation, they will file the case as a human rights violation and conduct research. Depending on the requests from the victim, we advise them on how to request the providers (including providers, server administrators and operators) to disclose the sender's information or delete information violating human rights. If the investigation finds violation of human rights, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice will take measures such as requesting the providers, to delete the information.



Human rights awareness activities related to human rights violations on the Internet

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice hold Human Rights Lectures nationwide, in collaboration with Smartphone and Mobile Phone Safety Lectures that are held by mobile phone companies mainly targeting junior high school students, as countermeasures against human rights violations by abuse of the Internet, which are becoming increasingly serious among young people. The bodies are also distributing an awareness-raising booklet and video and have held a symposium targeting junior and senior high school students and their guardians in order to raise their awareness of human rights. Additionally, jointly with a social network service business association, the bodies launched a website for raising awareness concerning the use of social network services, under the slogan “#No Heart No SNS”, thereby endeavoring to improve young people’s information morals, or otherwise strengthen countermeasures.



Awareness-raising video
“The Internet is not something that hurts people.”
(Cyberbullying at schools)



Human Rights Awareness-raising website
“#No Heart No SNS”



Request to the providers for deletion

When a victim of human rights violation on the Internet asks human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice to request deletion of the information, it requests the providers to delete the information after determining whether it illegally defames the victim or violates privacy.

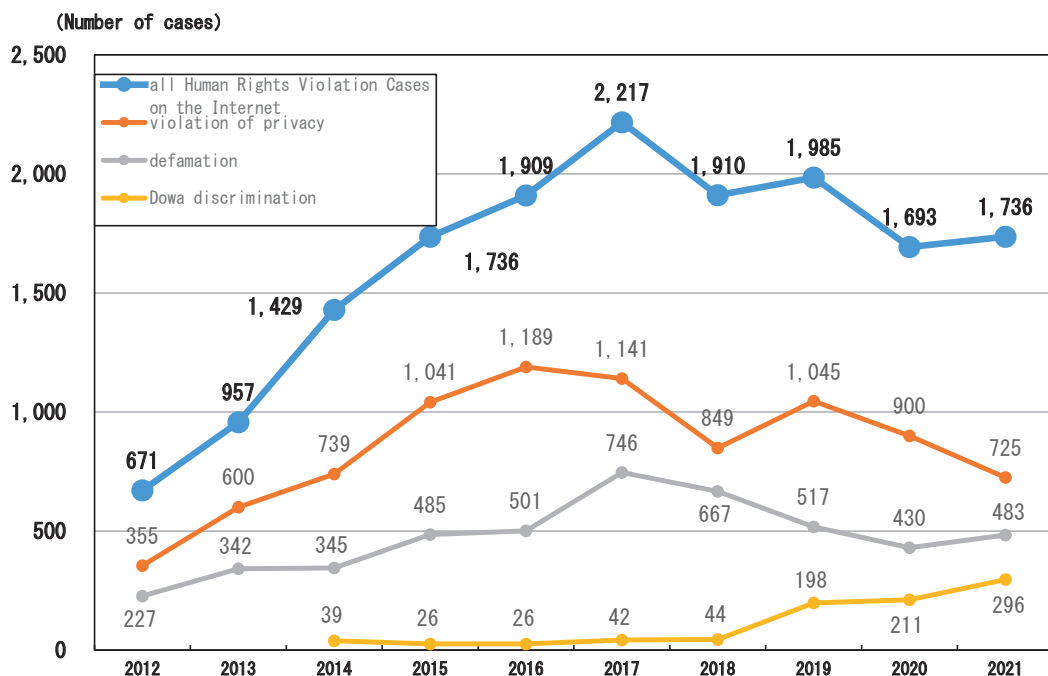
It also requests the providers to delete the information when it becomes aware of information claiming that a specific area is or was a discriminated community on the Internet through reports from relevant administrative agencies. (The Ministry of Justice refers to such cases as Dowa discrimination.) Requests for deletion made by the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are voluntary, and it is up to private sector providers to decide whether or not to delete it in response to the requests. Therefore, in order to improve the effectiveness of the deletion request, it is important to promote efforts to ask them to understand deletion requests.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice takes the following measures in order to share the awareness of the consultations contacted the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice.

1. Hold a study group session to exchange opinions with the providers (co-hosted by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
2. Consult with and exchange opinions with the individual providers.

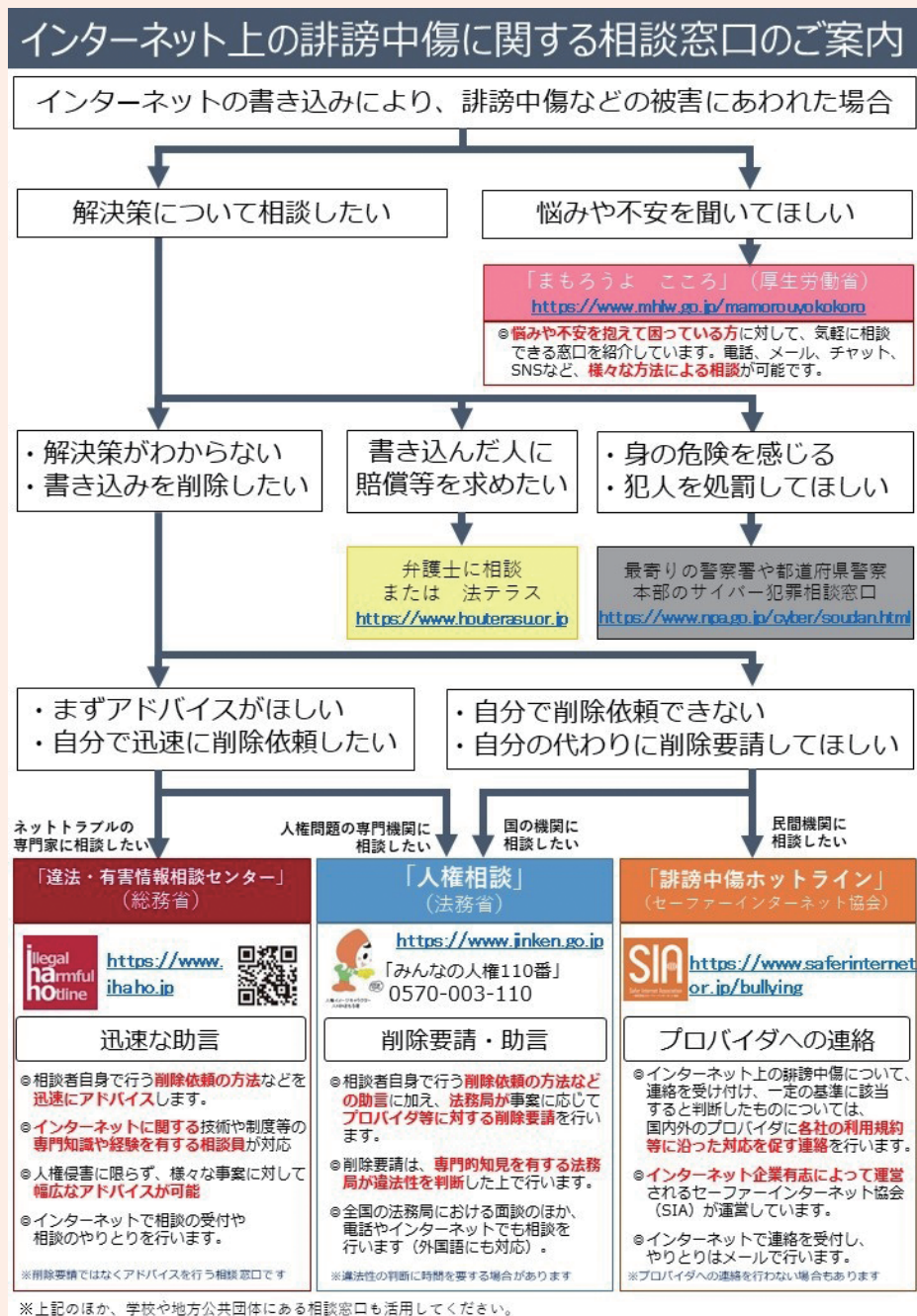
In response to summary of “Study meeting of experts on legal problems related to slanders on the Internet”, which are held to legally summarize judgment criteria for deletion and in which the Ministry of Justice participated as a related government organization, released in May, 2022, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice work on deletion requests based on the concept and try to make deletion requests more effective by sharing the concept with the providers.

Incidents of human rights violations related to human rights violations on the Internet (newly started)



Providing information on the consulting service for information violating human rights on the Internet

In response to consultations regarding human rights invasion information, such as posting slanders on the Internet, multiple consultation desks are expected, depending on the intentions and purposes of the consuler. Therefore, because it is important for consulers to be able to use these consultation desks appropriately and effectively, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and other organizations, Human Rights Bureau of the Ministry of Justice makes flow chart available on the websites and distributes it at the Ministry of Justice and other related organizations nationwide. The flow chart is neatly organized and shows when and how to select which consultation services.



Website & Official SNS Accounts of the Human Rights Bureau

provide various information about us

Website of the Human Rights Bureau,MOJ



Twitter



Facebook



LINE

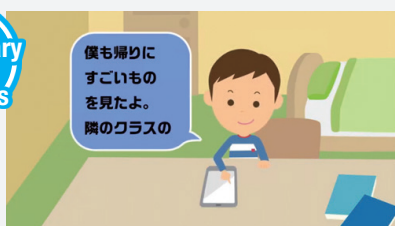


Introduction of “Law-Related Education” materials

It is important for us to express our opinions and ideas through social media, but sometimes it may hurt someone deeply or cause irreversible situations.

The Ministry of Justice has created “law-related education” materials to think about “freedom of expression” and “personal rights” based on examples, such as posting information about friends on bulletin boards on the Internet and comments about restaurants, and made them available on the Ministry of Justice's YouTube channel.

For elementary school students



“Law-Related Education” Audio-Visual Materials “Think before you post!”



For the general public



“Law-Related Education” Audio-Visual Material “Respect and coordination of individual freedom”



Raising the statutory penalty of Insults

Recently, insulting online has been a social problem with growing public criticism, which the public has considered should be prevented.

The statutory penalty of Insults (Article 231 of the Penal Code), which is committed when a person who insults another person in public, irrespective of whether the accusation alleges facts or not, has been raised to “imprisonment or imprisonment with work for not more than one year, a fine of not more than 300,000 yen, penal detention or a petty fine, in order to show the legal evaluation that Insults must be dealt with strictly, to prevent it, and to deal with malicious insulting, while the former statutory penalty was “penal detention or a petty fine.”

The amendment does not modify the element of Insults and legitimate expression such as fair commentary is deemed as Justifiable Act (Article 35 of the Penal Code) and not punishable.

Promote measures to realize A SOCIETY OF HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS

On April 1, 2019, The Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice has been reorganized into the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, an external bureau of the Ministry of Justice, with a novel mission of improving the environment for receiving foreign residents to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, in addition to addressing issues such as smooth and strict immigration screening, proper management of foreign residents, and prompt and reliable protection of refugees.

On January, 2021, the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (referred to below as “Ministerial Conference”) decided to hold the “Advisory Panel of Experts for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” to study the ideal form of society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, assess the medium- to long-term issues to be addressed toward the realization of such a society, and provide recommendations to the Ministerial Conference. The Opinion compiled by the Advisory Panel was submitted to the Minister of Justice, co-chair of the Ministerial Conference, on November 29 of the same year. Based on this opinion, in June 2022, Ministerial Conference formulated “Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” (referred to below as “roadmap”) which shows Japan’s visions of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, medium- to long-term issues, etc. The government has united to further promote establishing an environment aimed at realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

❖ Ideal society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals (Three visions)

1. A society where foreign nationals are included as members of Japanese society of the future and where all people can live safely and comfortably.
2. A diverse and vibrant society where all people, including foreign nationals, from various backgrounds can participate and demonstrate their abilities to their fullest.
3. A society where all people, including foreign nationals, respect each other’s individual dignity and human rights and can live without discrimination or prejudice.

❖ Medium- to long-term issues to be addressed (Four key points)

1. Initiatives such as Japanese language education for smooth communication and participation in society
2. Disseminating information to foreign nationals / Strengthening consultation systems for foreign nationals
3. Support for each life stage and life cycle
4. Initiatives to establish the foundation of a society of harmonious coexistence

❖ The major initiatives related to the four key points

- Developing an environment where foreign nationals can acquire knowledge of various procedures by producing and making the most of an induction video on living in Japan (providing basic information on living in Japan and learning basic Japanese).
- Ensuring dissemination of information using Mynaportal.
- Promoting the establishment of one-stop consulting counters by reviewing the subsidies for preparations for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals.
- Establishing the “Awareness Month for Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (tentative name)” and hosting various awareness-raising events.
- Training foreign support personnel and examining the certification system for highly specialized support personnel.

❖ Promotion Framework

The planning period of a roadmap is five years, from FY2022 to FY2026. In promoting a roadmap, we will review and track their progress each year while seeking advice from experts.

◆ Major measures of the Immigration Services Agency

One-stop consulting counter

Financial assistance through the “subsidies for preparations for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals” (referred to below as “subsidies”) is provided to local municipalities for the measures for establishment and operation of the one-stop consulting counters through which the local governments provide information and advice so that when a foreign national living in Japan has questions or concerns about various matters related to life such as the residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, child care or child education, he or she will be able to receive appropriate information or will be able to quickly reach a place that offers advice and consultations. In FY2022, as of April, there have been applications for subsidies from 228 local governments. It is expected that the one-stop consulting counter that has received a subsidy will provide appropriate information to the persons seeking advice through consultations offered in numerous languages and through coordination with the relevant organizations.

Cooperation with local governments through Accepting Environmental Coordinators

From April 2019, “Accepting Environmental Coordinators” were assigned to the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus excepting some offices. The officers of the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus are sent to the one-stop consulting counters based on the request from the local government, while information and training are provided to the local governments’ officers engaging in consultation services.

Furthermore, to promote multicultural and inclusive policies in the region, we strengthen the system of Accepting Environmental Coordinators. In cooperation and collaboration with the local governments, we also collect information in the region and share the collected useful information, such as good practices to the local governments.



Activities by Accepting Environmental Coordinators
(scene of the lecture)



Activities by Accepting Environmental Coordinators
(scene of dispatching counselors)

Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC)

At the Foreign Residents Support Center, eight organizations from four ministries and agencies, including the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Tokyo Regional Legal Affairs Bureau's Civil Liberties Department and the "Hoterasu" Legal Aid Information in English, have offices on one floor to cope with inquiries regarding the renewal and changes in the status of residence as well as various legal problems, respond to inquiries from one-stop consulting counters at local government offices, hold training sessions for administrative officers of local governments through close cooperation among them.



Activities in Foreign residents Support Center

Immigration Information Center

The Immigration Services Agency has established the "Immigration Information Centers" which include the consultation counters provided by the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus excepting some offices. The Immigration Information Centers provide multilingual consultation services to foreign nationals and their related parties in Japan on various procedures concerning immigration control and residency management as well as on how to fill out the required forms. They also provide multilingual consultation with a single telephone number usable nationwide.



Guidebook on Living and Working

The Immigration Services Agency, with cooperation from a wide range of sections of the government, has compiled a “Guidebook on Living and Working” that covers basic information (residency procedures, labor-related laws, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) necessary for foreign residents to lead their lives and take up employment in Japan safely and securely.

* The guidebook can be seen in the “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” on the agency’s website in 16 languages (Japanese (including plain Japanese), English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepalese, Thai, Indonesian, Burmese (Myanmar language), Khmer (Cambodian), Filipino, Mongolian, Turkish and Ukrainian)

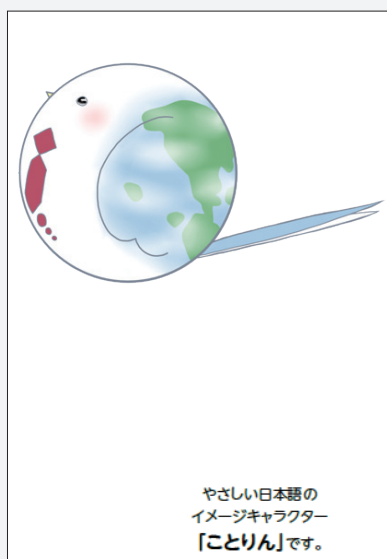


<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/index.html>

Spreading the use of plain Japanese

In order to promote the use of plain Japanese in national and local governments, an expert committee on “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support” was convened in February 2020, and in August of the same year, “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support” were created. These guidelines are available on the Immigration Services Agency of Japan website under “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals.”

In addition, based on the results of the report by the “Review Meeting for the Promotion of Information Provision through the Use of Plain Japanese” held in FY2021, we are promoting the dissemination and the use of plain Japanese by informing local governments and relevant ministries and agencies and providing training for local government officials.



https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/plainjapanese_guideline.html





Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” and ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers

❖ What is Justice Affairs Diplomacy?

The Ministry of Justice has promoting “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”, an initiative which aims to promote fundamental values to the international community, such as the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights, which are the foundations for creating safe and secure societies where all people are equally protected by law.

The promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” not only supports the development of legal infrastructure and contributes to sustainable development, but also strengthens connection between countries that share basic value and contributes to achieving international order based on rules.

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (commonly known as the Kyoto Congress) was held in Kyoto in March 2021 under the theme of “Promoting the Rule of Law.” It was the largest UN Congress in the field and its success was a major step in the promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy.”

❖ Links and efforts initiatives the Ministry of Justice and ASEAN: Why ASEAN?

It is no exaggeration to say that the ASEAN region, home to 650 million people and located in a geopolitically important location, epitomizes regional cooperation in Asia. Promoting and instilling fundamental values of “the rule of law” in the region is the key to peace, prosperity and growth in Asia.

For nearly 30 years, the Ministry of Justice has contributed to the establishment of the “rule of law” in the developing countries, mainly ASEAN countries by providing legal technical assistance ; for instance, the Ministry of Justice assisted them to draft and amend their basic laws and regulations, to improve their judicial systems and to develop human resources to operate these systems. Such activities earned high reputation and trust. This is a major pillar of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” and can be said to be Japan’s software power.

The year 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the Ministry of Justice will hold the “ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers.” To deepen relations with ASEAN countries to a new stage, based on the trustful relationship established through the support of legal system development, this will be a large-scale and extremely important meeting that the Ministry of Justice should take strategically as the next step in Justice Affairs Diplomacy following the Kyoto Congress.

Taking this opportunity, the Ministry of Justice will promote the rule of law in Asia and firmly develop Justice Affairs Diplomacy.



ASEAN countries

The Ministry of Justice is cooperating with ASEAN countries in the field of law and Justice fields so that Japan, as the only G7 member in Asia, can play a leadership role serving as a bridge between the G7 and ASEAN to contribute to ensuring world peace and stability!

◆ ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers - In 2023, ASEAN - Japan Friendship and Cooperation Progresses to the Next Stage

The year 2023 marks the 50th year of ASEAN - Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

With this milestone year, various events related to ASEAN-Japan cooperation will be held by the public and private sectors in order to raise the ASEAN-Japan relationship to the next stage.



The Ministry of Justice **will hold the “ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers” in Tokyo** to further strengthen cooperation in the field of law and Justice between Japan and ASEAN.

- Point 1** Holding ASEAN’s first Meeting of Justice Ministers outside the ASEAN area
- Point 2** Inviting Justice Ministers from the ASEAN countries to Japan to discuss strengthening ASEAN-Japan cooperation
- Point 3** Planning to hold side events and exhibitions to deepen understanding of the initiatives by the Ministry of Justice

Taking the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers as an opportunity, we will further promote “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” by enhancing the level of the initiatives in the field of law and Justice and sharing fundamental values, such as “the rule of law,” not only with ASEAN but also with international community.

ASEAN-Japan related meeting held in October 2022



Official logo

Details on ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers will be posted on the official Twitter. Please follow us.



For further information, please visit the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers in the Ministry of Justice website.

https://www.moj.go.jp/kokusai/kokusai10_00003.html



Mission

The Minister's Secretariat is an organization established in all ministries and is responsible for general administrative duties such as secretarial, personnel, and finance, as well as overall coordination of policy planning and formulation.

The Minister's Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice houses the Judicial System Department, the Secretarial Division, the Personnel Division, the Finance Division, the International Affairs Division, the Facilities Division, and Director of the Welfare Division (see page 23 onwards for the duties of the Judicial System Division, the International Affairs Division and the Facilities Division).

Steering and overall coordination within the Ministry

The Ministry of Justice is tasked with a wide range of policies closely related to lives of people, such as maintaining and improving the basic legal system, maintaining law and order, protecting the rights of the people, ensuring the unified and proper handling of disputes related to the interests of the country, and fairly managing immigration and foreign nationals' residency.

In order to accomplish these missions, the affairs under its jurisdiction have been specifically subdivided and the departments with jurisdiction have been defined. However, in a diversified and complicated social situation, there are many policies that involve multiple departments and policy issues that must be considered by the Ministry of Justice as a whole. Therefore, it is extremely important to play the role of "steering the Ministry of Justice" by coordinating within the Ministry and with related ministries and agencies in the planning and drafting process of various policies, and formulating and implementing the Ministry of Justice's response policies.

The Minister's Secretariat is in charge of overall coordination among the various bureaus and departments to ensure the smooth operation of these legal administrations.

To smoothly carry out "legal administration by the people for the people"

One of the characteristics of the Ministry of Justice is the large number of local institutions (Legal Affairs Bureau, Public Prosecutor's Office, prisons, probation offices, Immigration Services Bureau, etc.) and the fact that more than 55,000 employees work throughout the country. The content of its work is also closely linked to the lives of individual citizens, including the operation of the registration system to help citizens realize their rights, human rights protection activities, and rehabilitation support for those who have committed crimes and delinquencies. It is because of these characteristics that legal administration is called "administration by the people for the people."

Since creating an environment in which not only the Ministry but also local institutions are properly maintained and operated, and in which each and every employee is able to perform his or her duties with vitality will eventually lead to the "realization of a fair and just society in which everyone can live safely and securely", the Minister's Secretariat also plays an important role in matters related to the overall structure and capacity of the Ministry of Justice, budget requests for implementing policies, and the maintenance of government buildings and other facilities.



Scene of classwork on law-related education



Facilities division staff overseeing the construction work



Prison officer giving face-to-face guidance



Immigration inspector conducting the landing inspection

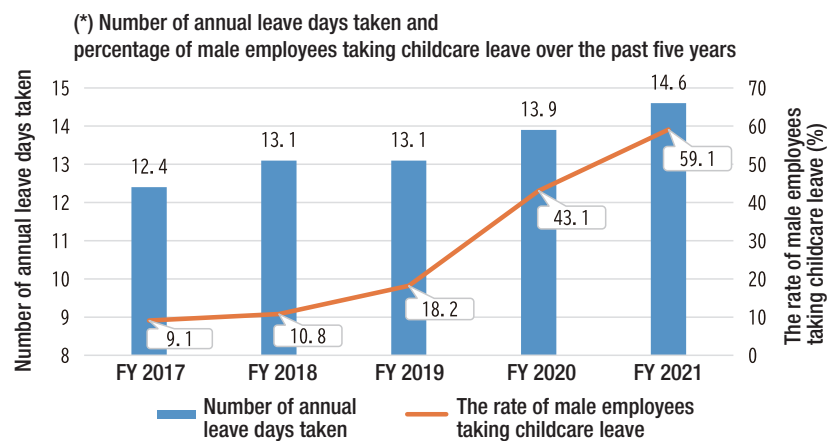
At Home Plan - plus one -: Aiming to achieve diversity and inclusion

In order to promote women's activities in their professional lives and work-life balance for all employees, the Ministry of Justice has formulated the "At Home Plan - Plus One -" and is implementing the "Plus One" initiative as the Ministry of Justice with its own initiative and originality, in addition to government-wide efforts.

As part of the "Plus One" initiative, the Ministry is working to encourage male employees to take leave for childcare, promote the use of annual leave, foster an atmosphere in which it is easy to take leave, and introduce a childcare mentor system to ease the concerns of employees returning from childcare leave. In addition, the Ministry is planning to further promote work-life balance and female employees' activities.

The number of days of annual leave taken and the percentage of male employees taking childcare leave over the past five years (*) show that these figures are on an upward trend, which is an indication of the results of the above initiatives.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to further develop the above initiatives to create an attractive workplace where all employees can work with vigor and enthusiasm.



Note: The number of annual leave days taken (days) is calculated in the calendar year.

EBPM initiatives by the Ministry of Justice

As seen in the rapid progress of digitalization and the COVID-19 pandemic, the environment is changing rapidly, and social issues are becoming increasingly complex and difficult, making it difficult to predict the future. Even under these circumstances, the government must respond firmly to various social issues and solve them.

Against this backdrop, it has been pointed out that there exists a so-called "myth of infallibility," a tendency in Japanese public administration to believe that "the administration cannot be wrong" and that "the current system is not wrong". If you are caught up in infallibility, even if the environment changes and our policies do not adequately address social issues, you will easily continue to follow precedents, claiming that they have been right up until now.

In order to break free from this infallibility and respond to increasingly complex social issues, it is necessary to establish a policy planning and evaluation system that allows us to learn and search for what policies will be effective, based on the premise that social conditions are constantly changing.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Justice has been working on EBPM (Evidence Based Policy Making), which clarifies the logical linkage between policy objectives and measures, which is "the basic policy framework". By clarifying the policy framework, it will be possible for the government and various stakeholders to collaborate on increasingly complex social issues with shared objectives, and to verify and improve them after the fact. EBPM is an activity that will be the basis for policymaking in the future.

Mission

The International Affairs Division of the Minister's Secretariat was established on April 1, 2018 for the purpose of promoting "Justice Affairs Diplomacy," which is an effort to spread fundamental values such as the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights internationally. The Division is responsible for planning and overall coordination of basic policies regarding international affairs of the Ministry of Justice, organizing international conferences, and providing courtesy calls by foreign government officials and others. On a daily basis, the International Affairs Division responds to various inquiries from relevant ministries, international organizations, embassies, and related organizations regarding the international affairs of the Ministry of Justice, and conducts comprehensive planning for international measures to be implemented by the Ministry of Justice, which need to be based on a cross-ministry strategy.

Implementing the Kyoto Declaration

1 Leading the formulation of "the United Nations Standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending"

In March 2021, Japan hosted the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (commonly known as the Kyoto Congress), the largest international conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. One of the follow-up efforts of the Kyoto Congress is leading in the formulation of "the UN standards and norms on reducing reoffending."

The Kyoto Declaration, the outcome document of the Kyoto Congress, included a detailed description of reducing reoffending and attracted a great deal of interest from various countries in the area of reducing reoffending. Japan has formulated the "Recidivism Prevention Plan" and is implementing recidivism prevention efforts through public-private partnerships, including the Hogoshi system, a volunteer probation officer system with a history of approximately 130 years and employment support, etc. Based on these findings, the Ministry of Justice would like to provide leadership in the formulation of the UN standards and norms, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The UN standards and norms play an important role in enhancing national policies by being referred to when drafting legislation and policies in each country.

The Ministry of Justice aims not only to lead the formulation of the standards and norms on reducing reoffending, but also to support the implementation of these standards and norms in developing countries, thereby contributing to the enhancement of reducing reoffending measures in each country.



Opening Ceremony of the Kyoto Congress

2 Regular holding of the "Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness"

The "Kyoto Declaration" pointed out the importance of youth empowerment. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has decided to hold the "Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness" on a regular basis. A culture of lawfulness means a culture in which the public, in general, respects the law and its enforcement, trusting that they are just and fair. Through this forum, the Ministry of Justice aims to promote the empowerment of young people, an important element in fostering a "culture of lawfulness," and to establish the "rule of law" in the international community.

3 Regular holding of the "Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific"

The "Kyoto Declaration" also confirmed the importance of international cooperation and the establishment of regional networks for law enforcement and other agencies. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice has decided to hold the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific on a regular basis as a platform for information sharing among criminal justice practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region. Through this forum, the Ministry of Justice would like to promote mutual understanding and trust among criminal justice practitioners in each country, and to promote further international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region by sharing knowledge.



Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific

International Arbitration in Japan

International arbitration is a procedure where the disputing parties appoint third-party arbitrators and attempt to resolve the legal dispute through their decision. International arbitration is the global standard for resolving disputes over cross-border commercial

transactions. International arbitration has many advantages, for example:

- ease of enforcement of arbitration awards in foreign countries under treaties,
- private and confidential resolution of disputes, including the confidentiality of trade secrets in principle,
- and the parties may appoint specialized and neutral arbitrators.

The promotion of international arbitration in Japan is an important issue to further encourage the overseas trade involving Japanese companies, and to secure overseas investment in Japan.

Based on the "Possible Measures for Promoting International Arbitration" compiled by the "Liaison Conference of the Relevant Ministries and Agencies for Promoting International Arbitration," chaired by the Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretaries in April 2018, the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with private sectors, has been conducting research on the effective measures for the promotion of international arbitration while implementing promotion and awareness raising for companies, educating and training arbitrators and arbitration practitioners, and establishing dedicated facilities.

Contribution to leading the development of rules in the field of international civil and commercial law

Japan is aiming for taking the lead in rule-making to realize a rule-based international order backed by fundamental values such as the rule of law.

The Ministry of Justice actively contributes to rule-making in the field of international civil and commercial law to ensure that rules are formed that are compatible with Japan's legal system and its operation.

As part of the effort, at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), which was established under the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of promoting harmonization and modernization of the law of international trade, Japan proposed a project to investigate and analyze trends in international arbitration, mediation, and other legal dispute resolution mechanism in order to examine measures to address issues arising from digitalization. The proposal was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2021. This project has been steadily implemented, being operated mainly by the staff dispatched from the Ministry of Justice of Japan to the UN Secretariat.



Tokyo Forum on Dispute Resolution
(hosted by the MOJ jointly with UNCITRAL and ICSID)



Active engagement of officials of the Ministry of Justice in foreign countries

The Ministry of Justice is working actively on the dispatch of officials to overseas, with a view to addressing challenges such as contributing to the promotion of the rule of law and other fundamental values in the international community at large, developing international order based on the rule of law, and effectively contributing to international legal dispute resolution. Approx. 90 officials are currently working abroad, mainly in Asia, North America and Europe, as diplomats and staff of overseas diplomatic establishments and international organizations as well as long-term JICA experts who provide legal technical assistance to developing countries.

In addition, in order to expand the range of staff who are capable of dealing with various international issues, the Ministry of Justice is working on a number of ways of developing human resources with high language ability, strong understanding of relevant international context, and legal mind.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to develop human resources who can work on a global scale in the field of legal and justice affairs and dispatch officials abroad, taking into account factors such as the needs of the international community and the contribution to the envisaged sphere of activities.



Attending a Human Rights Treaty Review in Geneva, Switzerland

Facilities Division of Minister's Secretariat

Mission

In order to efficiently provide facilities and services that meet the objectives of the Ministry of Justice, the Facilities Division of the Minister's Secretariat conducts administrative work related to the development and management of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, and international cooperation in the development of correctional facilities in foreign countries.

With a view to ensuring the smooth execution of the entire range of administrative work of the Ministry of Justice, and in order to keep the Ministry's buildings where such work should be performed in optimal conditions, we, the Facilities Division, carry out facility management based on the key concepts—security, humanity, and harmony, while mobilizing all of the technical and creative abilities that we have accumulated over many years.

Facility Development and Management

The Facilities Division, which is responsible for the development of facilities of the Ministry of Justice, undertakes the construction (including planning, designing, and construction supervision) of detention facilities (e.g., prisons, detention houses, and juvenile training schools) and office buildings (e.g., legal affairs bureaus, public prosecutors offices, and immigration bureaus). We also carry out all operations related to the ministry's facilities, from management to maintenance of the constructed facilities as government assets.

Planning

Formulating construction plans for new facilities and renovations through coordination with other divisions of the Ministry of Justice and other ministries and agencies

Budget request

Estimating the necessary costs based on the construction plan and requesting a budget

Designing

Working out a design while taking into consideration the budget, site conditions, required facility performance, related laws and surrounding environment

Cost estimation

Estimating the appropriate amount of construction costs based on the design drawings

Contracts

Selecting contractors through the bidding procedure that involves technical examination, and concluding construction contracts

Construction supervision

Supervising construction work and giving instructions to ensure that the buildings are being constructed as ordered based on the design drawings

Government asset management

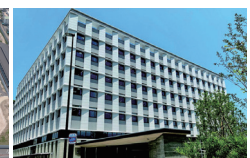
Managing government assets such as lands and buildings under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice

Facility maintenance

Giving guidance to maintain the buildings in proper conditions at all times



Detention facility
(Hiroshima Prison)



Office building
(Fukuoka No. 2 Ministry of Justice Office Complex)

Initiatives on Facilities

The total number of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice is 794 (as of April 1, 2022) and the total area of the buildings is larger than that of other ministries and agencies. They are also various from government office facilities to detention facilities. In order to ensure that these facilities can be used in good condition while maintaining their intended functions over a long period of time, we reconstruct deteriorated buildings and renovate the existing buildings to extend their service life. We also engage in facility maintenance intensively.

Extending the service life of facilities

Rather than simply pulling down deteriorated facilities and facilities less resilient to earthquakes and constructing new buildings, we comprehensively consider the situation in which the facilities are present and renovate them to improve their resiliency and maintain their functions according to the current needs, so as to extend the interval between initial construction and reconstruction.

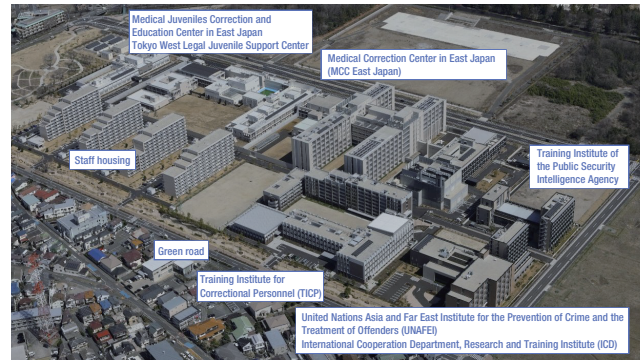


Before life prolongation renovation of Shimotsuma Detention Center (left) and after renovation (right)

Facility integration

In the event of reconstruction, we try to integrate facilities of several agencies into one facility. By reducing the number of buildings and promoting the joint use of common spaces and facilities, we can save costs for facility management and maintenance.

The International Justice Center has been developed for facility integration by relocating the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice from many places across Japan and bringing them together on the government-owned land located in Akishima City, Tokyo (the Akishima District of the former site of the Tachikawa Air Base), in an area of approx. 126,000 m². As a result, a new "community" of facilities of the Ministry of Justice was created.



The International Justice Center (Completed in 2019)

Consideration to the local environment

In the International Justice Center, a greenway is provided on the west side of the premises so that the center blends with the scenery of the Musashino district surrounded by greenery including Showa Kinen Park. In the process of making this design, workshops were held to hear opinions from local residents.



Green road blending into the local landscape

International Cooperation

As the only organization well-versed in design and construction of correctional facilities, we carry out initiatives for international cooperation in development of correctional facilities.

Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities, Architects and Planners (ACCFA)

ACCFA allows participants to present and discuss issues faced by each country to share the latest information of correctional architecture. As a coordinator, Japan has been taking the leadership role in the management of the ACCFA. The eighth conference was held in Japan with the participation of four organizations and 13 countries. The next one will be held in Thailand.



The 8th ACCFA 2019 (Japan)

Technical cooperation to the Kingdom of Thailand

We participated in the grants-in-aid project for constructing the Sirindhorn Vocational Training School led by the Japanese government, from the initial stages of field survey and basic design, and thus made a great contribution to the construction of this school. We also dispatched our staff to Thailand as JICA experts, and provided advice on the construction of correctional facilities such as juvenile training schools and prisons nation-wide.



Sirindhorn Vocational Training School

Various Training

Engineers belong to the Facilities Division as technical and engineering officials. In order to improve the technical skills of the Division's staff, it has a substantial system to support learning about the construction of correctional and public facilities where its staff participate in training inside and outside of the Facilities Division.

Entering the ministry - 2nd year: First year development

2nd year - 5th year: Practical training for young staff (internal training), short-term external training (Japan Construction Training Center, etc.)

6th year - 10th year: Long-term external training (College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, etc.)



Official mascot character

Name: SHISETSU KAME

Title: Public Relations (Facilities Division official character)

Habitat: Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice
(16th floor, Building A, Central Common Government Building No. 6)



Mission

The Judicial System Department of Minister's Secretariat is responsible for matters related to laws and regulations, which are the foundation of the country. In particular, it is in charge of conducting research and studies as well as drafting of laws and regulations on the judicial system; clerical work related to collecting, filing, compiling and publishing of data on laws and regulations, court precedents and legal affairs; the administration of the Legislative Council of the Ministry of Justice; the compilation of statistics on the work handled by the Ministry; matters concerning comprehensive legal support; matters concerning law-related education; matters concerning the qualification of attorneys-at-law (bengoshi) certified by the Minister of Justice; matters concerning foreign lawyers registered as "Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi" (Gaiben); matters concerning the examination of license and authorization and the supervision of claim management and collection companies (servicers); and matters concerning the certification and supervision of private dispute resolution services.

Training in Legal Professions to Support Japan's Judicial Foundation

With the reform of the judicial system in 2001, the "processes" of legal training were established with graduate school of law at its core, in order to train a large number of quality people in the legal professions. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and other relevant organizations is taking necessary measures reflecting on the current state of all systems of legal training in the legal professions, and the expansion of activities in relevant legal professions, to make legal services more accessible to various fields of society.

Promotion of Law-Related Education

Law-related education aims to enable citizens who are not legal professionals to understand laws, the judicial system, and the values that underlie them, such as "respect for fundamental human rights", and "the rule of law". In a modern society where values are becoming more diverse and complex, it is important to cultivate the ability to live together as a member of society, while maintaining a firm grasp of one's own ideas, while respecting the ideas of others, through law-related education. The Ministry of Justice is taking a wide range of activities to further promote law-related education.

◆ Fostering Leaders in Law-Related Education

Through carrying out law-related education seminars for teachers and dispatching instructors to various teacher training programs, we convey the significance of law-related education and how to implement it, and cultivate leaders in law-related education.

◆ Support for Those Engaged in Law-Related Education

We have prepared law-related education materials for each developmental stage and made available on the Ministry of Justice website (including examples of model classes and explanatory videos). We also send our staff to schools to offer special classes in response to requests from schools.



◆ Public Relations and Awareness-raising of Law-Related Education

We made Hourisu-kun, a mascot for law-related education, to make law-related education more familiar to the general public.



Promotion of Translation of Japanese Laws

In order to ensure that Japanese laws are widely and accurately understood, the Ministry of Justice is actively translating Japanese laws into foreign languages and making them available on the Ministry's website. Over 850 English translations of the laws, including the Civil Law and Companies Act, are published on the Japanese Law Translation website, along with English translations of outlines of amended laws in an easy-to-follow and timely manner.

Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi (Registered Foreign Lawyers)

The Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi system is designed to permit a person, qualified as a lawyer in foreign jurisdiction, to handle specific legal services in Japan as a registered foreign lawyer without qualification examinations. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the approval of qualifications for registered foreign lawyers.

On November 1, 2022, the "Attorney at Law / Registered Foreign Lawyer Joint Corporation" system was launched. The system will make it possible to provide one-stop, high-quality legal services related to Japanese and foreign laws, and since these joint corporations can establish branches, the one-stop service will expand to regional areas.

Claim Management and Collection Companies (Servicers)

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for reviewing approvals of claim management and collection, as well as for supervising servicers to ensure appropriate practices through on-site inspections.

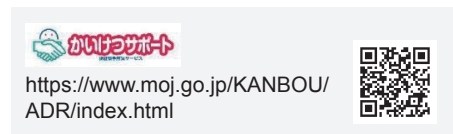
System of Certified Dispute Resolution

In order to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the Ministry of Justice certifies private dispute resolution services (such as those for conciliation and mediation of civil disputes conducted by private businesses) that are deemed appropriate and meet the standards and requirements set forth in laws and regulations.

◆ The Promotion of Online Dispute Resolution

In March 2022 the Ministry of Justice formulated the “Basic Policy for Promoting Online Dispute Resolution” (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Policy”) in order to promote online dispute resolution (ODR), which uses digital technology to conduct private dispute resolution online. In addition to ODR having the features of ADR (such as flexibility of procedures, simplicity, speed, non-public nature, use of specialists in the field of the dispute), it also brings additional advantages such as not requiring face-to-face meetings and not being limited by time and location. In recent years an increasing number of certified dispute resolution business operators have adopted online meetings for conciliation and mediation.

The Ministry of Justice is taking a wide range of initiatives, including those in line with the Basic Policy, to make private dispute resolution by certified dispute resolution business operators more accessible to the general public.



Comprehensive legal support centering on Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

Houterasu was established under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice in April 2006 with the purpose of promptly and appropriately render comprehensive legal support service. While working to build and strengthen networks with various organizations, Houterasu conducts the following five services as stipulated in Article 30, Paragraph 1 of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act. Houterasu also provides aid services entrusted to the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

1. Information Services

Provision of free information on legal systems and consultation services for the settlement of legal problems

2. Civil Legal Aid

Free legal consultations for persons of limited means for people with low income, or make an advance payment of fees for an Attorney's or judicial scrivener's services

3. Services related to Court-Appointed Attorneys

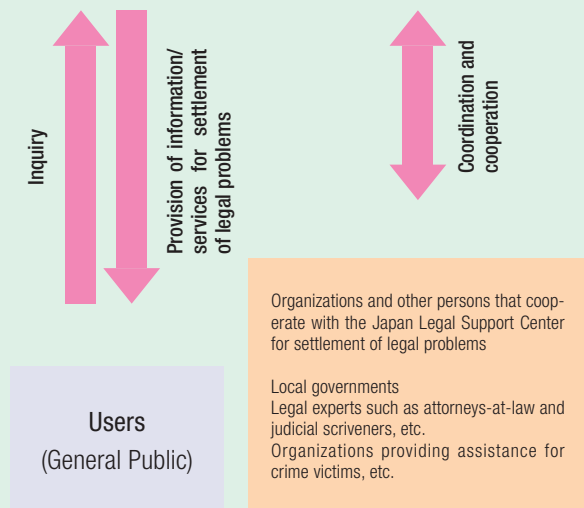
Notification of prospective court-appointed defense counsel to courts, and calculation and payment of the fee to court-appointed defense counsel

4. Measures for Areas with Limited Legal Services

Establishment of regional offices and regular placement of staff attorneys to offer general legal services in areas where legal services are hard to access

5. Support to Crime Victims

Provision of supportive information for crime victims, introduction of lawyers who are well-versed in assisting crime victims, implementation of legal consultations for DV victims, and notification of prospective court-appointed attorneys-at-law for victims to courts.



Mission

The Civil Affairs Bureau is responsible for handling affairs related to registration systems for companies and real estate, family registration, nationality (citizenship), deposit services, storage of will, notarization, judicial scriveners, land and house investigators, and planning and drafting of civil legislation, such as the Civil Code, the Commercial Code, and the Code of Civil Procedure with the aim of protecting the rights and property of citizens

Efforts to solve the Issue of Unclaimed Land

Unclaimed Land is difficult to use and manage, which impedes public works projects and disaster recovery. New systems to solve these unclaimed land problems will come into effect sequentially from 2023. For details, please refer to "Promoting Measures for Land with Unknown Ownership" (page 7).

Efforts to resolve the problem of people without a family register

If a woman gives birth to a child during her marriage to her husband or within 300 days of her divorce from her ex-husband, since the husband or ex-husband is presumed to be the father of the child (presumption of wedlock), the birth of the child may not be reported and the child may not be entered in the family register due to the existence of another father by blood, etc.

People without family registration may suffer disadvantages in social life, such as inability to receive administrative services, and it is necessary to resolve such disadvantages as soon as possible. The Ministry of Justice website provides information on the procedures for these persons to be listed in the family register.

[Learn more](https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/minji04_00034.html)

https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/minji04_00034.html



The storage of will system

The storage of will system is a system related to the storage of wills made by holograph document at 312 will archives nationwide (the headquarters and branch offices of the Legal Affairs Bureau and District Legal Affairs Bureau, including Itabashi Branch Bureau). A will made by holograph document can be made at no special cost as long as the testator has the ability to write, and it is easy and flexible for the testator. On the other hand, it is not required for a third party to be involved in the writing and storage, it is said that after the commencement of inheritance, there are some risks that a dispute may arise regarding the authenticity and content of the will, or that heirs may divide the inheritance without recognizing the existence of the will.

The storage of will system can reduce these risks, because when applying for storage, a holographic will is externally verified through the process of this system whether it is written in accordance with the method stipulated in the Civil code and then the original will and its image data shall be recorded, stored and managed in safe in this system.

After the commencement of inheritance, heirs and others can inspect the stored will and obtain a certificate of will to check its content. If one of the heirs inspects the will or obtains a certificate, the other heirs will be notified that the will is stored. If the will storage officer confirms the fact that the testator has died, one of the heirs that the testator specified will be notified that the will is stored. In these ways, they can immediately recognize the existence of the will. In addition, the stored wills are not required to be probated at the respective family courts.



Igonsyo-Hokangaroo

Operation of Beneficial Owner list system

There is a growing domestic and international demand for public institutions to understand information on the beneficial owners of legal persons from the perspective of improving the transparency of legal persons and preventing the misuse of legal persons for purposes such as money laundering.

The Ministry of Justice has been operating a system of Beneficial Owner list since January 31, 2022. By a company's application, the beneficial owner list the company prepared which the registrar with expertise in commercial corporations has verified is stored in the commercial registry and its copy with the registrar's certification is delivered to the company.

Responsibilities of the Legal Affairs Bureau

As a regional organization of the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Affairs Bureau is responsible for civil administrative affairs that protect the property and identity of citizens, such as registration, family register, nationality, deposits, and storage of will, as well as litigation work relevant to the interests of the State and the human rights affairs that protect basic human rights.



Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau

For more information, please check the "Ministry of Justice website".

<https://houmukyoku.moj.go.jp/homu/static/>



Organization of the Legal Affairs Bureau

The Legal Affairs Bureaus are divided into 8 blocks nationwide, with a Legal Affairs Bureau in charge of each block (8 bureaus), and placed under these Legal Affairs Bureaus are the District Legal Affairs Bureaus, which are generally responsible for prefectural units (42 bureaus).

Moreover, Branch District Legal Affairs Bureaus and Branch Offices have been placed under the Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus.

The Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus and Branch District Legal Affairs Bureaus are responsible for registration, family register, nationality, deposit office deposits, storage of will, litigation, and human rights affairs, while Branch Offices are mainly responsible for registration.



State of the Legal Affairs Bureau

Column

Introduction of "Sentan", the image character of nationality selection

In Japan, a person who has both Japanese and foreign nationality (dual nationality holder) is required to choose one of the two nationalities within a certain period of time. Therefore, "Sentan" was created to spread awareness of the nationality selection system.

Sentan, a faerie resembling a raccoon, has a heart mark pattern on her nose as a charm point, and her favorite thing to do is to wash (choose) clothes.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to work with "Sentan" to make everyone aware of the nationality selection system, and thank you in advance for your support.



Mission

The Criminal Affairs Bureau is responsible for the planning and drafting of criminal legislation, such as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure; affairs regarding prosecution; and affairs regarding extradition of criminals and fugitives as well as mutual international legal assistance. The Criminal Affairs Bureau has the General Affairs Division, the Criminal Affairs Division, the Public Security Division, the Criminal Legislative Division, and the International Affairs Division, which are responsible for operations and measures related to the affairs under their respective jurisdictions. The Criminal Affairs Bureau is committed to its daily work with the goal of achieving social justice by ensuring that those who should be punished are appropriately punished.

Improvement of the criminal legal system in line with the times

The Criminal Affairs Bureau conducts necessary studies and reviews of criminal laws and regulations such as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in order to develop a criminal legal system that responds to changes in social conditions and public awareness and is in line with the times.

In recent years, in light of the actual situation of deaths and injuries caused by so-called "tailgating" driving, the law has been amended to add acts that are deemed as dangerous driving resulting in death or injury. In addition, with regard to 18- and 19-year-olds, the Juvenile Act and other laws have been amended to provide for special provisions for juveniles aged 18 and older, in term of changes in social conditions, including lowering the age of majority, while also taking into consideration the plasticity of juveniles.

Main Points of the Revised Juvenile Act

Ministry of Justice website for details



Point 1 Application of Juvenile Act

The Juvenile Act continues to apply to 18- and 19-year-olds as "specified juveniles," and all cases are referred to the family court, which decides the disposition. However, they are treated differently from those under 17 years of age, such as the expansion of cases subject to referral to in principle and after the decision to refer to a public prosecutor, they are treated in the same way as those 20 years of age or older in principle (*2).

(*2) For example, the maximum term of a fixed-term imprisonment sentence is 30 years (15 years for juveniles under 17 years old).

Point 2 Expansion of cases subject to referral to in principle

Cases involving crimes punishable by death, life imprisonment, life imprisonment without work, or a sentence of imprisonment or imprisonment without work whose minimum term (of statutory penalty) is one year or more committed by juveniles 18 years of age or older (specified juveniles) will be added to the cases subject to a public prosecutor in principle, in which a decision to a public prosecutor is made in principle.

(*3) For example, the offense of arson of inhabited buildings, robbery, forcible sexual intercourse, and organized fraud.

Point 3 Lifting of the ban on reporting in real names

The prohibition on reporting the real name and photograph of the perpetrator of a crime committed by a juvenile is lifted when the perpetrator is prosecuted for a crime committed by a juvenile 18 years of age or older (specified juvenile) (*4).

(*4) Except in the case of the summary procedure, a procedure in which a fine or petty fine of up to a certain amount is imposed in a closed, written hearing.

In 2022, in light of the actual situation of defamation of persons, in addition to raising the statutory penalty for contempt, in order to improve the treatment of those who have committed crimes for their rehabilitation and prevention of recidivism, amendments were made to the Penal Code, etc., to abolish imprisonment with or without work and to create imprisonment in their place.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice is also studying the legislation of criminal laws to prevent the escape of defendants on bail or those who have been sentenced, to ensure their appearance at trial dates and the execution of their sentences, to protect the names and other information of crime victims throughout the criminal process, and to develop laws to deal with sex crimes.

Utilization of ICT in Criminal Procedure

Utilization of ICT in Criminal Procedure aims to reduce the burden on the public involved in the procedures and to facilitate and expedite the procedures by utilizing information and communication technology, such as preparation of documents used in investigations and trials by electronic means, sending and receipt of documents online, and expanding of the procedures that can be carried out through the transmission of images and sound.

The Criminal Affairs Bureau is currently studying ways to realize this goal in terms of legislation and system.

Support for various efforts in the Public Prosecutor's Office

The Ministry of Justice supports various efforts by Public Prosecutor's Office in recent years.

(1) Support for Crime Victims

To protect and support victims of crimes, various support systems are in place for each stage of the investigation and trial. For more information on specific support systems, please read this.

In addition, in order to provide adequate protection and support to victims of crimes while paying more careful attention to their needs, the Ministry of Justice conducts training for victim support staff assigned to local public prosecutors' offices who are engaged in supporting victims of crimes.

(2) Recidivism Prevention in the Public Prosecutors Office

The Public Prosecutors Office, in cooperation with the Probation Office, bar associations, welfare and medical institutions, etc., implements efforts such as bridging to social services upon release from custody "entrance support". In addition, in order to ensure smooth implementation of support, a department in charge has been established in each prosecutor's office, with public prosecutors and public prosecutors' assistant officers in charge, and initiatives have been promoted by hiring social workers as social welfare advisors and obtaining their advice as needed.

Brochure for victims of crime, and videos for victims of crime are available.

https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/keiji1/keiji_keiji11.html



International Cooperation in Criminal

In order to accurately respond to the internationalization of crimes associated with the international traffic of people and goods and advances in information and communication technology, and to strictly deal with such crimes, it is necessary to gather evidence from abroad more effectively and strengthen cooperation between foreign investigative authorities and those of Japan.

Examples of such enhancement of cooperation include the Treaties and Agreements between Japan and the United States of America (entered into force on July 2006), and the Republic of Korea (entered into force on January 2007), and the People's Republic of China (entered into force on November 2008), and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (entered into force on September 2009), and the European Union (entered into force on January 2011), and the Russian Federation (entered into force on February 2011), and the socialist Republic of Viet Nam (entered into force on August 2022), the Convention on Cybercrime (entered into force on November 2012), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (entered into force on August 2017) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (entered into force on August 2017). These treaties, agreements and conventions enable communication for the collection of evidence not through diplomatic channels but directly between the Ministry of Justice or the National Police Agency and the judicial authorities of respective countries or regions, expediting the process. The Ministry of Justice is committed to further strengthening international cooperation.

Public Prosecutors Office

The Public Prosecutors Office consists of Supreme Public Prosecutors Offices, High Public Prosecutors Offices, District Public Prosecutors Offices, and Local Public Prosecutors Offices, which are located corresponding to their respective courts. In the Public Prosecutors Office, public prosecutors and public prosecutors' assistant officers are proud to perform their duties to realize social justice and protect the law and order that is the foundation of civil life and the social economy.

In criminal cases, public prosecutors represent public interest such as having the power to investigate any criminal offense, decide whether or not to prosecute, request proper application of law by courts and control/supervise the execution of judgments.

Public prosecutors' assistant officers shall assist the Prosecutor and is directed by public prosecutors in investigative and trial activities.



For more information, please check the "Public Prosecutors Office website".

https://www.kensatsu.go.jp/link/index_english.htm



Public Prosecutors Office's PR character Saiban Inko



The Public Prosecutors Office offers on-demand lessons and study camps. The details of the lessons can be arranged depending on the object of learning. Feel free to contact your nearest Public Prosecutors Office apply for the lessons.

Mission

The Corrections Bureau conducts administrative work related to the operation of correctional facilities for people who have committed crimes or delinquent acts for the purpose of preventing recidivism and reoffending by providing guidance according to age, disability, and problems caused by the crime, etc., so that people who have committed crimes or delinquent acts can reflect on their crimes and smoothly re-entry into society.

Correspondence regarding the revised Juvenile Law

On April 1, 2022, the revised Juvenile Law came into effect, and 18- and 19-year-olds, who are adults under the Civil Code, continue to be subject to the Juvenile Law as specified juveniles. In juvenile training schools, the Ministry of Justice has decided to focus on fostering "the ability to think and act on one's own" in order to raise awareness as an adult, and has newly introduced "adult social participation guidance" for specific juveniles, as well as introducing vocational guidance courses for all inmates to enhance correctional education with an awareness of its connection with social life. In addition, a new Class 5 Juvenile Training School was established to develop treatment in close cooperation with the probation office when a specified juvenile placed on probation for two years commits a serious violation of compliance and is detained at a juvenile training school upon the decision of the family court.



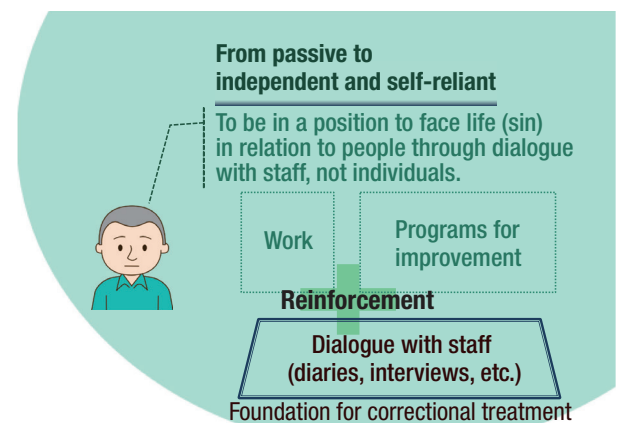
In the Juvenile Classification Homes, the Ministry of Justice has decided to strengthen the system for implementation of the classification, taking into account that special exceptions of cases subject to reverse transfer in principle have been established for specified juveniles. Furthermore, in order to contribute to the enhancement of correctional education, etc., in principle, treatment identification will be conducted at least once during the period of stay for all juvenile inmates, and the results of the analysis of the achievement status of individual correctional education goals, etc. will be notified to the Juvenile Training Schools.

New Initiatives in the Treatment of Young Inmates

Based on the Legislative Council's report to Consultation No. 103 issued by the Minister of Justice, the Ministry of Justice has decided to enhance the treatment of young inmates, under the age of about 26, in penal institutions by utilizing the knowledge and facilities of Juvenile Training Schools, in accordance with their characteristics.

1. From September 2022, those with less advanced criminal tendencies among young inmates are selected and placed in Kawagoe Juvenile Prison for male and Mine Rehabilitation Program Center for female, where they are treated in small groups of approximately 30 or less as "unit-type treatment for young inmates" in a residential building or prison workplace independent from other inmates, then they are provided a treatment of "dialogue-based model" based on trust between staff and inmates, utilizing the knowledge of correctional education in juvenile training schools.

2. The "Ichihara Gakuen," a Juvenile training school, will be renovated as a penal institution, and young inmates with disabilities such as intellectual disabilities who require particularly intensive treatment will be placed there, and "treatment for young inmates by renovating a juvenile training school into a penal institution" will begin within FY2023, focusing on teaching them the lifestyle and interpersonal relationship skills necessary for social life.



Accompaniment in addition to instructional supervision

From a role that is primarily about responding to problems so that they don't cause problems, to a presence that considers the sins committed and life together



Introduction of Correctional Institutions

Penal institutions

Penal institutions consist of prisons, which confine inmates sentenced to imprisonment with or without work; juvenile prisons, which confine sentenced juvenile inmates; detention centers, which confine mainly unsentenced inmates, such as defendants or suspects whose criminal sentences have not been confirmed.



Juvenile Training Schools

Juvenile Training Schools confine juveniles who have been sent from the family court as protective measures that provide correctional education and reintegration support.



Juvenile Classification Homes

Juvenile classification homes confine juveniles who have been referred by the family court when the court orders protective measures, and conducts assessments of these juveniles.

As a "Legal Juvenile Support Center," it also provides consultation services to the general public, school teachers, and other concerned parties on delinquency, bullying, domestic violence, and other issues to prevent delinquency act and crime in the community.



Training Institute for Correctional Personnel

The Training Institute for Correctional Personnel of the Ministry of Justice provides the necessary work training programs for personnel engaged in correctional services, as well as evidence-based research of correctional treatment.



Model Project for Treatment and Support of Intellectual Disabilities Inmates in Nagasaki Prison

According to a special survey conducted by the Correctional Bureau of the Ministry of Justice in FY 2020, there are 1,345 inmates with intellectual disabilities or suspected intellectual disabilities nationwide, of which 414 (30.8%) have obtained a Rehabilitation Certificate. These inmates tend to repeat crimes within a relatively short period and are sent to penal institutions more frequently than the overall population.

Since FY2022, the Nagasaki Prison has gathered about 50 inmates with intellectual disabilities or suspected intellectual disabilities from penal institutions in various prefectures in Kyushu and concluded an

outsourcing contract with a social welfare corporation with expertise in welfare for persons with disabilities. It has developed its business based on four pillars of initiatives: 1. assessment and treatment planning in accordance with their characteristics; 2. training and guidance based on treatment planning; 3. coordination for obtaining a Rehabilitation Certificate; and 4. coordination to enable long-lasting support for the inmates. In addition to providing consistent guidance and social reintegration support to help stabilize their lives while in prison and after release, it is also building a system that allows for a transition to long-lasting, cohesive welfare services after release.




“About the cooperation between correctional facilities and the community”

Do you have an image of Prisons and Juvenile Training Schools as unapproachable places surrounded by high walls?

In recent years, correctional facilities have been implementing various initiatives in cooperation with the community in order to change

such an image and be seen as a “community resource”. For example, shoe boxes made by Yokohama Prison inmates are installed in elementary and junior high schools in Kamakura. It also serves as a local disaster prevention center by releasing a portion of the correctional facility to local residents as a shelter in the event of a disaster and dispatching staff to the disaster area to provide assistance.



[See here for the details of these initiatives](#)


Mission

The Rehabilitation Bureau aims to build a safe and secure community through conducting recidivism prevention measures for and supporting rehabilitation of people those who have committed offences. The specific duties of the Rehabilitation Bureau include: probation, in which probation officers and *hogoshi* (volunteer probation officers) work together to provide instructions and supervision, and guidance and assistance for rehabilitation as healthy members of society; coordination of the social circumstances for persons in correctional facilities to improve their rehabilitation and reintegrate into society with supporting their residence and occupation after their discharged from correctional facilities; parole from prisons and juvenile training schools; crime prevention activities such as “Campaign to Give Society a Brighter Future”; pardons; measures for crime victims; and treatments in the local community, etc. within the system of medical treatment and supervision for persons who have committed a designated serious harmful act under the state of insanity or diminished capacity.

Providing Community-based Treatment

In order to effectively provide guidance and other measures to prevent re-offence, the bureau strives to accurately understand the characteristics of each probationer/parolees (supervisees) and enhance his/her treatment. Since January 2021, the bureau has introduced an assessment tool (Case Formulation in Probation/Parole; CFP) to comprehensively collect and analyze factors that lead to re-offence as well as matters that are useful for improvement and rehabilitation. Based on the results of this analysis and statistical evaluation of the degree of risk of recidivism, has it been implementing probation. In addition, the Ministry of Justice develops Drug Relapse Prevention Program and other programs based on the theoretical foundation of cognitive-behavioral therapy, and is also actively engaged in providing welfare support, employment, and housing support tailored to the needs of supervisees.



Group Session(image)

Contribution for Local Community

In addition to providing “long-lasting” support to those who have committed offences, the Ministry of Justice supports the recidivism prevention measures of community volunteers and local governments, and provide assistance as needed to all people living in the community.

- The Ministry of Justice responds to consultations not only from those who have served their sentences, but also from local residents and related organizations, and provides information, advice, and other assistance, using its expertise of offender rehabilitation.
- For those who have left halfway houses and are now living in the community, the halfway house staff provides ongoing support until they get their lives back on track, such as visiting them for consultation and accompanying them through the various procedures necessary for social life.
- In some areas, probation offices have commissioned private sectors with specialized know-how to promote the establishment of support networks consisting of private who provide local support to those who have terminated their sentences.

These activities encourage the Bureau to play a significant role in improving the welfare in the community and contributes to build an inclusive society where “no one is left behind”.

Mobilizing Eligible Persons for *Hogoshi*

In recent years, the number of *hogoshi* has been on the decrease. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice has implemented the “council for examining *hogoshi* candidates” to identify suitable candidates from among local residents of all ages, including young people, and from diverse occupations, and the “internship for *hogoshi* activities” to give local residents experience in *hogoshi* activities, and has established “Offender Rehabilitation Support Centers” across Japan to serve as bases for *hogoshi* activities.

The Ministry of Justice has disseminated the value and worth of *Hogoshi* to the public in various opportunities such as “Campaign to Give Society a Brighter Future” and international conferences.

Through these opportunities, the Ministry of Justice is improving the recognition of and further enhancing the evaluation of *Hogoshi* both domestically and internationally, thereby fostering a sense of fulfillment and pride among *Hogoshi*.

[Click here to learn more about the Rehabilitation Bureau](#)



Organizations and Stakeholders for Offender Rehabilitation

Regional Parole Boards

Regional Parole Boards are located in the eight regions across the country that corresponds to the jurisdictional areas of the high courts. The major functions of the boards are to make decisions on parole and revoking parole when parolees fail to observe the parole conditions.

Probation Offices

Probation Offices are located in 50 locations nationwide and implement supervision to adult/juvenile supervisees, coordination of social circumstances for inmates, urgent aftercare of discharged offenders and medical treatment and supervision.

Probation Officers

Probation Officers are government officers of the Ministry of Justice who are working at the Secretariat of the Regional Parole Board or the Probation Office. With expertise in medicine, psychology, pedagogy, sociology, etc., they work with *hogoshi* to conduct supervision and coordination of the social circumstances.

Rehabilitation Coordinators

Rehabilitation Coordinators are government officers with qualifications such as mental health social workers who are working at probation offices. They conduct mental health supervision, social circumstances investigation, and social circumstances coordination for the subjects to the system of medical treatment and supervision for persons who have committed a designated serious harmful act under the state of insanity or diminished capacity, in cooperation with relevant local institutions, etc.

Hogoshi (Volunteer Probation Officers)

Hogoshi are private citizens commissioned by the Minister of Justice to support people who have committed crimes or delinquencies in the community to rehabilitate. *Hogoshi* have the status of part-time government officers, but do not receive salary except for all or part of expense needed for performance of their duties.

Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid

It is a volunteer organization of women who cooperate in the prevention of crime in the community and in the improvement and re-habilitation of those who have committed crimes and delinquencies, in order to realize a safer society free from crime and delinquency.

BBS Association

The Big Brothers and Sisters Association is a youth volunteer organization that aims to support the healthy growth of juveniles by interacting with them like a friendly older brother or sister.

Cooperating Employers

Employers who hire people who have committed crimes or delinquencies with an understanding of their previous record and other circumstances, and cooperate with their reintegration into society.

Halfway Houses

There are approximately 100 facilities nationwide that provide guidance, assistance, etc. necessary for independence to those who have committed offences with no residence and no one to rely on, as well as ongoing support to help them settle into community life after leaving the facility.

National Centers for Offender Rehabilitation

The National Center for Offender Rehabilitation is established and operated to provide discharged persons from correctional facilities, etc., who cannot secure the necessary social surroundings for smooth reintegration into society from relatives or halfway houses with lodging at state-established facilities, where probation officers directly provide them with intensive supervision and generous employment assistance, thereby encouraging their rehabilitation and preventing them from committing further offenses.

Column

Mascot character of Offender Rehabilitation



Rehabilitation penguins, "Hogo-chan" & "Sara-chan"

The Yellow Feather



The Yellow Feather is the symbol mark of the "Campaign to Give Society a Brighter Future", which hopes for a bright society free from crime and delinquency.

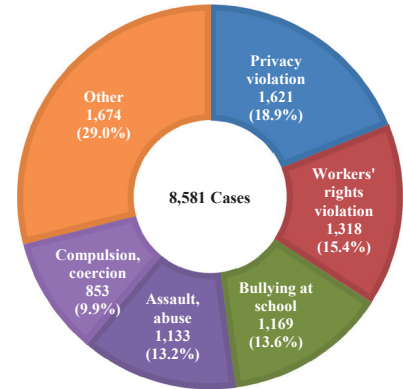
Human Rights Bureau

Mission

The Human Rights Bureau provides various consultation on human rights issues and offers advice according to the content of the consultation, investigates and resolution of human rights violation cases such as bullying and sexual harassment, and conducts various human rights awareness-raising activities to improve each citizen's awareness and understanding of human rights.

Human Rights Counseling and Investigation and Remedy Procedures for Human Rights Violation Cases

Legal affairs bureaus nationwide offer human rights counseling, by phone, and via the Internet (including SNS). Therefore, depending on the case, the Ministry of Justice may provide “assistance” in the form of legal advice, “coordination” in the form of mediation of discussions between the parties concerned, or “instruction” and “recommendation” to demand improvement from the person who committed the human rights violation, etc. in an effort to remedy and prevent damage.



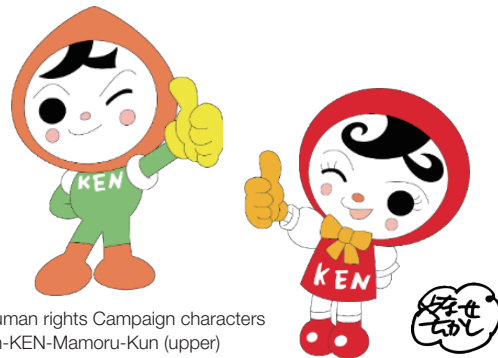
Breakdown of the Number of Human Rights Violation Cases in 2021

About Children's Rights

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice distribute “Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters” (letter paper with a pre-stamped envelope). In addition, a dedicated consultation phone, “Children's Rights Hotline” (toll-free number 0120-007-110 (from anywhere in Japan)) has been set up, and Legal Affairs Bureaus staff and Human Rights Commissioners are available for consultation from children. In addition, the Ministry of Justice has established an “Human Rights Counseling Service on the Internet (Children's Rights SOS-email)” on its website to accept human rights counseling, and also provides human rights counseling through social networking services (LINE), among other means, in an effort to detect cases of human rights violations against children at an early stage.



Children's rights SOS mini-letters (for elementary school students)



Human rights Campaign characters
Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun (upper)
Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan (right)

Human Rights Counseling Services

- English
- Chinese
- Korean
- Filipino
- Portuguese
- Vietnamese
- Nepalese
- Spanish
- Indonesian
- Thai

- Human Rights Hotline **0570-003-110** (nationwide)
- Children's Rights Hotline **0120-007-110** (nationwide toll-free number)
- Women's Rights Hotline **0570-070-810** (nationwide)
- Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline **0570-090-911** (nationwide)



PC
Smartphone
Mobile



<https://www.jinken.go.jp/> Click
Human Rights Counseling Service on the Internet Search

Awareness-Raising for Human Rights

In order to convey the importance of mutual respect for human rights, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities, such as holding symposiums, conducting Human Rights Lectures and various forms of training, and publishing awareness-raising materials and distributing advertisements by making use of the Internet, and so on.

1. The Priority Goal of Awareness-Raising Activities “It’s not someone else’s problem.”

In Japan, there are various human rights problems related to children and women, Buraku discrimination, etc. These are never “someone else’s problems” or “unrelated to you”. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are conducting a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities, setting “It’s not someone else’s problem” as a priority goal of awareness-raising activities, so that everyone can see these human rights problems as problems close to them and themselves, recognize the importance of mutual respect for human rights, and take action with consideration for the human rights of others.

2. National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students has been held since 1981, for the purpose of enabling junior high school students, who will lead the next generation, to deepen their understanding of the importance and necessity of human rights and to foster awareness of human rights through writing essays on human rights issues.



Poster
“The Priority Goal of
Awareness-Raising
Activities”



Winning essays collections in the
40th National Essay Contest on
Human Rights for Junior High
School Students



Human Rights Lecture

Human Rights Lecture

Human Rights Volunteers are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice. Currently, approximately 14,000 Human Rights Volunteers are assigned to each municipality in Japan.

The Human Rights Volunteers was established in 1948 based on the idea that it is desirable for people from various fields to spread the importance of human rights and to protect human rights in their communities. Human Rights Volunteers, together with Legal Affairs Bureau and District Legal Affairs Bureau officials, take advantage of each other’s strengths and engage in providing counseling on human rights and raising awareness.

Column

What's “Hate Speech”?

Discriminatory speech and behavior intended to exclude people of certain ethnic groups or nationalities are generally referred to as “hate speech”.

“Hate speech” not only causes people a feeling of anxiety or repugnance, but could also violate human dignity or generate a sense of discrimination.

Such kind of speech and behavior will not be tolerated in seeking to realize a rich, secure, and mature society where the human rights of each individual are respected.

Let us work together to build a society that recognizes differences in ethnicity and nationality, and respects each other’s human rights.



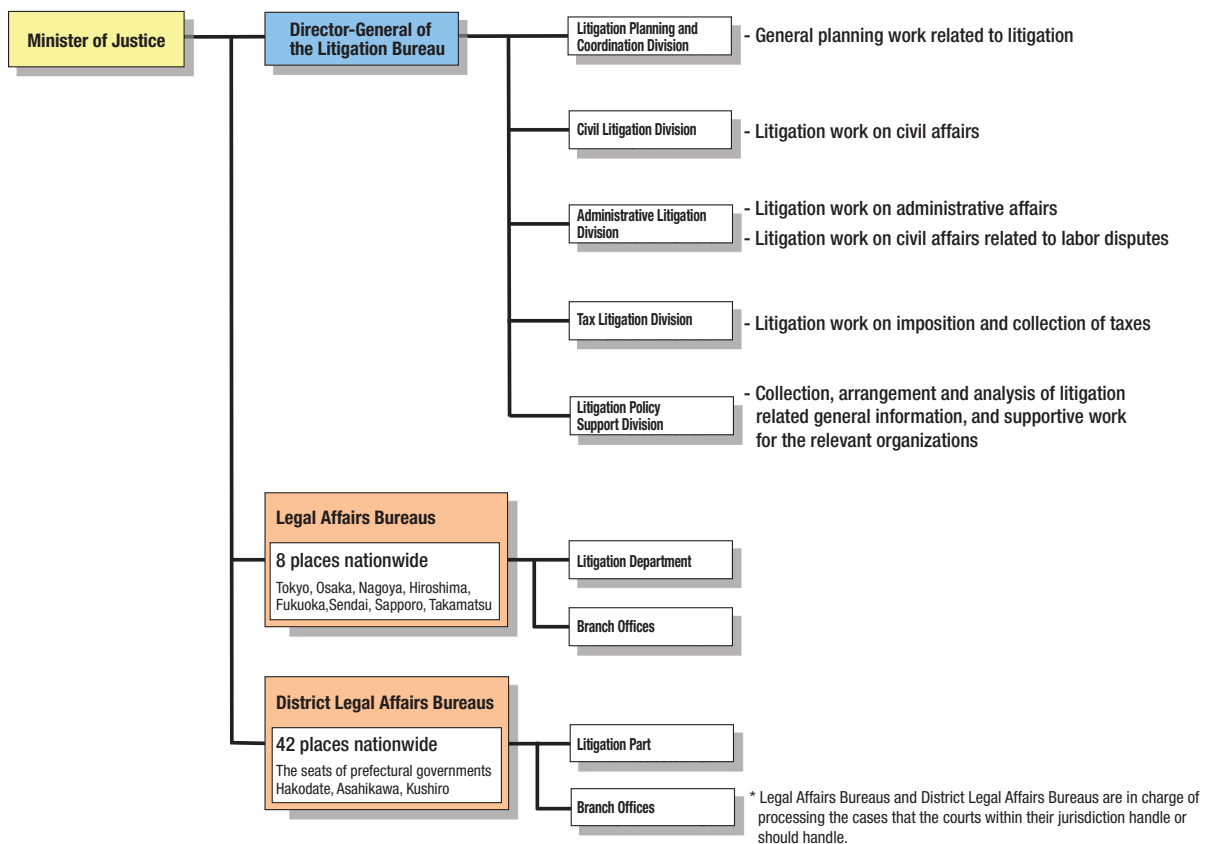
Litigation Bureau

Mission

For the purpose of unified and appropriate handling of national litigation, the Litigation Bureau shall handle civil and administrative lawsuits in which the state is a party and is also in charge of giving legal advice upon requests from government ministries and agencies concerning cases which may lead to legal disputes (so called "Preventive Legal Support System"). Among lawsuits involving local governments, incorporated administrative agencies, and other public corporations specified by cabinet orders as a party of the lawsuits, those which are deemed to have an interest in the state shall also be handled by the Bureau based on the requests.

Litigation organization

Litigation organization from the Minister of Justice on down consists of Litigation Bureau located within the Ministry of Justice, and Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus as local implementation organizations.

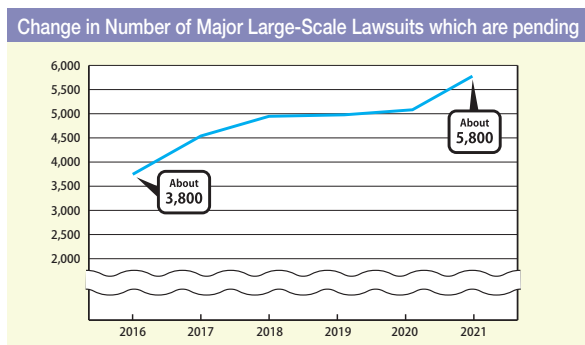


Pursuit of Lawsuits

Lawsuits in which the Japanese Government is a party include civil lawsuits for claiming damages against the state and administrative lawsuits for seeking the cancellation or invalidation of administrative action.

Among such lawsuits, the proportion of "serious and large-scale cases" which may potentially have profound impact on the politics, administration and economy of the state has increased, and remained at a high level in recent years.

The Ministry of Justice, as essential components of justice system, contributes to the achievement of appropriate resolution of disputes based on law and evidence, by producing evidence and constructing an argument from the state's viewpoint in a unified and appropriate manner. This ensures the interests of the people as a whole and those of individuals to be harmonized properly and thereby the "administrative principle based on rule of law" is secured.



Major Pending Lawsuits

- Lawsuit over asbestos damages
- Lawsuit over bases
- Lawsuit over Minamata diseases
- Lawsuit over hepatitis C
- Lawsuit over hepatitis B
- Lawsuit over atomic energy
- Lawsuit over reparation by the national government related to Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accidents
- Lawsuit over land reclamation in Isahaya Bay
- Lawsuit over Individual Number
- Lawsuit over reparation by the national government on the Japanese security legislation

Preventive Legal Support System

The Litigation Bureau operates a “Preventive Legal Support System” where the Litigation Bureau, as legal advisors within the Japanese Government, provide advice to enquiring administrative bodies as to how to deal with the various legal problems that they are engaged with. The Litigation Bureau’s advice is based on expertise gained through the handling of past litigious matters.

The purpose of the “Preventive Legal Support System” is to enable the Litigation Bureau to pre-assess the legitimacy of a policy or a measure proposed by governmental administrative bodies from a legal perspective in order to prevent, where appropriate, the negative impact on Japanese citizen’s rights such as their rights relating to life, body and property, and the advent of legal disputes such as trials. Thus the “Preventive Legal Support System” is a system implemented to support the efficient realization of “the administration based on the rule of law”, and to protect the rights and interests of Japanese citizens.

Providing Support in dealing with International Legal Dispute

The progress of globalization in the political, economic and other realms will likely increase the chances of the Japanese Government getting involved in legal disputes before foreign courts or legal proceedings in international organizations. The Litigation Bureau, with its skills and expertise on legal strategies gained through domestic and foreign litigation practices, provides support in order to prevent such disputes in advance or deal properly with those disputes in close cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant ministries and agencies.

Additional information is posted on the Ministry of Justice website about lawsuits involving the Japanese Government as a party, including summaries of major pending lawsuits and major court decisions.

Additional information is posted on the Ministry of Justice website about lawsuits involving the Japanese Government as a party, including summaries of major pending lawsuits and major court decisions.

Topics

Litigation Bureau Website

Summaries of Major Pending Lawsuits

https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukou-hou/shoumu01_00024.html



List of Major Court Decisions

http://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukou-hou/shoumu01_00023.html



Database of Important Litigation Precedents

This database enables you to search and browse precedents contained in the Monthly Litigation Report (the information magazine issued by the Litigation Bureau).

http://www.shoumudatabase.moj.go.jp/search/html/shoumu/general/menu_general.html



Mission

The Immigration Services Agency is responsible for equitable control over all those who enter and depart from Japan, the residency of foreign nationals residing in Japan, and procedures for refugee recognition, based on the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. The Agency is also responsible for implementing planning, policy development, and general coordination regarding the development of an environment for an acceptance of foreign nationals.

Smooth and strict immigration control examination

Equitable immigration control for all persons

Whether or not to grant permission for landing and residence to foreign nationals is determined by confirming their purpose of entry and length of stay, and by examining the possibility of risks to the livelihood of Japanese nationals in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. The administration work conducted by the immigration offices responsible for the abovementioned procedures becomes even more important as interactions between people get increasingly promoted.

The Immigration Services Agency's work is not only to ensure that those who intend to visit Japan for a valid purpose can enter Japan smoothly and stay without any worries, but to protect the lives and safety of Japanese nationals, as well as the industrial interests and benefits in the lives of Japanese nationals from foreign nationals who should not be permitted to stay in Japan.

Facilitation of the immigration procedures ("Bio-Cart", facial recognition automated gate, automated gate)

In order to facilitate immigration procedures, the Immigration Services Agency of Japan is operating equipment, commonly known as "bio-carts," at 20 air and sea ports to provide fingerprints and facial photographs while waiting for landing examinations. This method speeds up the process of obtaining personal identification information from foreigners at landing examination sites.

Furthermore, by using facial recognition technology to process Japanese nationals departing and returning to Japan, more immigration inspectors can be assigned to screen foreign nationals, further facilitating the process while maintaining the strictness of the screening process.

Japanese nationals and foreigners who meet certain requirements can also smoothly complete immigration procedures using the automated gate (fingerprint recognition gate) and registering as a user in advance.



Bio Carts



Facial recognition automated gates

Proper and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals

Residency management of foreign nationals

Foreign nationals staying in Japan may engage in activities freely without hindrance within the scope of their status of residence and period of stay, which were determined when they landed in Japan. Those who desire to change their status of residence or extend their period of stay are required to obtain permission from the Immigration Services Agency in accordance with Japanese laws and regulations.

While guaranteeing the foreign nationals' activities and stay in Japan by granting a status of residence and a period of stay as well as taking steps to protect the interests and security of Japanese citizens through the abovementioned examination process, Japan seeks to implement proper residence control of foreign nationals.

Online Residency Procedures

Online residency procedures via the Internet have been limited to staff members of organizations that satisfy certain criteria as well as lawyers and administrative scriveners whom such organizations have commissioned. However, since March 2022, foreign nationals can apply online via the Internet by utilizing the personal authentication function including the My Number Card (Prior application must be made by registering user information online or by mail).

Moreover, with the addition of residence status such as "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" to the scope of online application, many procedures, except for permanent residence permit applications, are now eligible for online application.



PR character "Rasppi" for online residence procedures

Promotion of measures against illegal residents to realize a safe and secure society

Some foreign nationals illegally enter Japan or stay in Japan beyond the period of stay permitted. It is also a task of the Immigration Services Agency to deport such foreign nationals from Japan through procedures based on law and to prevent harm to the safety and interests of Japanese citizens. The Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act stipulates the cases requiring deportation.

Deportation procedures are taken for foreign nationals who come under the conditions for deportation; however, in rendering decisions on deportation, the process of ascertaining the facts and considering the circumstances of foreign nationals through the procedure of investigation into violations, examination into violations and hearings is carefully carried out. This does not mean that all foreign nationals who come under the conditions for deportation stipulated in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act will be deported from Japan. Some of them may be granted special permission to stay by the Minister of Justice in the light of that person's history in Japan, their family situation, etc.

Proper protection of refugees

Japan became a signatory to the "Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention)" in 1981 and has established a system for recognition of refugee status.

The definition of a refugee is a "person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country" etc.

Upon an application for recognition of refugee status from a foreign national staying in Japan, the foreign national is examined to ascertain whether or not he/she is a refugee. When the foreign national is recognized as a refugee, he/she is provided protection as stipulated in the convention; for example, recognized refugees may be issued a "refugee travel document" to travel abroad.

In addition, Japan accepts refugees through resettlement and the Immigration Services Agency is mainly in charge of the selection process for resettlement refugees to be accepted. With the decision in 2019 to expand the coverage and number of cases for accepting refugees, the Immigration Services Agency has been continuously working to smoothly accept refugees in cooperation with related ministries to reflect the government's policies.

Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

In June 2022, the Ministerial Conference formulated a roadmap covering the period up to FY2026, which shows Japan's visions of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, medium- to long-term issues and concrete measures to realize these visions. The government has united to further promote establishing an environment aimed at realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals. For more details, please see our dedicated article "Promote measures to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals".

To promote immigration control all over the country

In addition to the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, an external bureau of the Ministry of Justice to deal with immigration management, there are regional immigration services bureaus (8 bureaus), district immigration services offices (7 offices), branch offices (61 offices), and immigration centers (2 centers).



Omura Immigration Center



Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau

Public Security Intelligence Agency

Mission

The Public Security Intelligence Agency assumes the duty to ensure the public security of Japan based on the Subversive Activities Prevention Act and Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (also known as the Organization Control Act). The Agency collects and analyzes information on the various development of the situation inside and outside Japan, including economic security, cyberattack, international terrorism, the situation in neighboring countries such as North Korea, China and Russia, and movements of various domestic organizations. The Agency provides the obtained information (intelligence) for government agencies in a timely and appropriate manner, thereby contributing to various government policy implementation. In addition, the Agency conducts surveillance disposition against Aum Shinrikyo in an appropriate and rigorous manner, and uncovers their actual activities so as to contribute to ensuring public security, including the peace of life of the people.

Economic Security

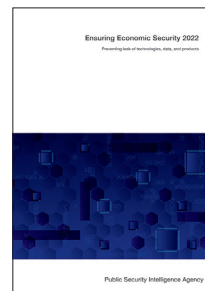
In the international community, it has become important to address security issues related to economy and advanced technologies. In Japan as well, there have been cases in which attempts were made to acquire technologies, data, and products owned by Japanese companies and universities under the guise of appropriate economic and research activities. Therefore it is important to prevent the leaks of such technologies and so on.

The Public Security Intelligence Agency collects and analyzes information on, for instance, trends of concern targeting technologies owned by Japanese companies and universities, trends in the use of influence through economic activities by countries of concern, and the acquisitions by foreign capital of real estate located near critical facilities. The Agency provides analyzed intelligence to relevant organizations, including the Prime Minister's office. In addition, it also aims to promote awareness among economic organizations and companies by giving lectures as well as preparing and publishing educational videos and leaflets on the issues.

[Economic Security Feature Page](#)



Symposium on Economic Security (June 2022)



Ensuring Economic Security 2022



Overview of Threats in Cyberspace 2022

Collection and analysis of cyber-related information

As cyberattacks aimed at stealing confidential information and acquiring money become common inside and outside Japan, the activities of malicious actors in cyberspace are a serious threat to the safety and security of people's lives. Especially, advanced cyberattacks involving and backed by states are of particular concern as a serious threat.

The Public Security Intelligence Agency is engaged in investigations related to cyberspace activities in which countries of concern are involved and support. The Agency collects and analyzes information on issues such as clarifying the actual situation of the threatening actors who carried out cyberattacks and clarifying the cases of cyberattacks that have occurred. It provides related intelligence to relevant organizations in a timely and appropriate manner so as to contribute to government policies.

Strengthening efforts to prevent terrorism

- Looking ahead to the G7 Hiroshima Summit and the Osaka-Kansai Expo -

The Public Security Intelligence Agency collects and analyzes information on overseas trends of international terrorist organizations, the presence or absence of suspicious individuals and organizations in Japan that may have relationships with such terrorist organizations, and the trends of their suspicious movements.

In particular, with the G7 Hiroshima Summit to be held in 2023 and the Osaka-Kansai Expo in 2025, the Agency collects and analyzes terrorism-related information at these large-scale international events in close cooperation with relevant organizations in Japan and overseas, thereby strengthening its efforts to prevent terrorism.

In addition, in order to share information on the situation of international terrorism among the public and private sectors, it annually prepares and distributes the Handbook of International Terrorism, which summarizes information related to terrorism around the world, and provides lectures for private companies.

Surveillance disposition against Aum Shinrikyo

The so-called Aum Shinrikyo (the organization) continues its activities centered on "Aleph", "group led by Yamada" and "Hikari no Wa" and still admires Chizuo Matsumoto, also known as Shoko Asahara, who was the ringleader of the subway sarin gas attacks as the subject of absolute devotion. They, thus, maintain its dangerous nature, still being under the influence of Asahara.

In response, the Agency has conducted surveillance disposition (including the collection of reports on the current status of organizations and activities, and on-site inspections of organization facilities) based on the Organization Control Act since 2000. It provides the results of the surveillance to the heads of the relevant local governments.

In addition, in order to help alleviate the fear and anxiety of residents, it holds meetings to exchange opinions with local residents and explains the current status of the organization and the results of on-site inspections.

The Public Security Intelligence Agency will continue to strive to ensure public security, including the peaceful life of the people, by conducting investigations and regulatory measures in a proper and strict manner based on the Organization Control Act.



On-site inspection

[Aum Shinrikyo Special Page](#)



Topics

Public Security Intelligence Agency Website

The Public Security Intelligence Agency website disseminates the laws and regulations under the jurisdiction of the Public Security Intelligence Agency, its history, its functions, and various information on domestic and overseas situations, such as "Aum Shinrikyo-related information", "the recent situation of terrorist attacks", and "the recent situation inside and outside Japan", and introduce various leaflets on the aforementioned initiatives.



[Public Security Intelligence Agency Website](#)



[Published documents](#)

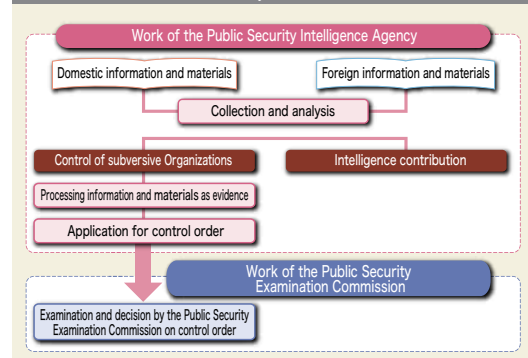


Public Security Examination Commission

Mission

Public Security Examination Commission has been established as an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Justice with the aim of contributing to ensuring public safety. Upon receiving an application from the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency for regulatory actions on subversive organizations stipulated in the Subversive Activities Prevention Act or the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder, the Commission examines the application from an objective and neutral viewpoint and makes a decision on whether control measures are necessary, and if so, what control measures should be taken.

Workflow of the Public Security Intelligence Agency and the Public Security Examination Commission



Mission

Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice conducts a wide range of work, including (i) statistical research related to criminal justice policies in general, and publication of the “White Paper on Crime” which summarizes crime trends, the actual situation of offender treatment, and important current issues in Japan as well as the “Research Department Reports” which are themed on individual issues, (ii) various kinds of training for Ministry of Justice officials (except for officials of correctional institutions, Immigration Services Agency, and Public Security Intelligence Agency) depending on their career experience and specialties, (iii) international cooperation such as international training for criminal justice practitioners in various countries and contribution to the United Nations on the activities of crime prevention and criminal justice, and (iv) legal technical assistance to developing countries, mainly in the Asian region (drafting legislation and regulations, improvement of legal and judicial systems, and capacity-building of legal practitioners).

Publication of the White Paper on Crime and its English Version

The White Paper on Crime is published once a year. It consists of a routine part and a special feature part. The routine part covers the general matters of criminal justice such as the crime trend and offenders treatments of the previous year based on the analysis of the related statistics. The special feature part covers the themes according to the criminal policy issues at the time.

Recent Special Feature

2022 Version	(i) COVID-19 Pandemic and Criminal Justice (ii) Attitudes and Values of Offenders and Juvenile Delinquents
2021 Version	Fraud Offenders
2020 Version	Drug Offenses

The White Paper on Crime gives consideration to readability by using many colored charts and we are continuing to work on improving its contents and resources.

Both Japanese and English versions can be easily accessed on the Ministry of Justice website.



[White Paper on Crime Website](#)



[White Paper on Crime \(English version\) Website](#)



Promotion of International Cooperation

The Ministry of Justice provides legal technical assistance to developing countries with a view to establishing the rule of law to realize secure and peaceful societies in these countries.

Promoting and enhancing good governance based on the rule of law in developing countries significantly contributes not only to the sound development of these countries and the stability of the region, but also to the strengthening of countermeasures against transnational crime and the promotion of economic activities, which serves the national interests of Japan in the end.

The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established by an agreement with the United Nations and operated by the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice, has held training courses and seminars in the field of crime prevention and treatment of offenders for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries around the world since 1962.

Many UNAFEI alumni are playing leading roles in the field of criminal justice in their respective countries and regions. UNAFEI's alumni network is the foundation of successful relationships among criminal justice practitioners in Japan and many other countries.

The International Cooperation Department (ICD) cooperates with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and academia in accordance with the government's policy.

The ICD contributes to the establishment of the rule of law and the improvement of the business environment by providing legal technical assistance (such as drafting legislation and regulations, improvement of legal and judicial systems, and capacity-building of legal practitioners) mainly in Asian countries.

[UNAFEI Website](#)



[ICD Website](#)



UNAFEI alumni promoted to high-ranking positions



International Training Course (UNAFEI)



Group Workshop for Youth International Training Course (UNAFEI)

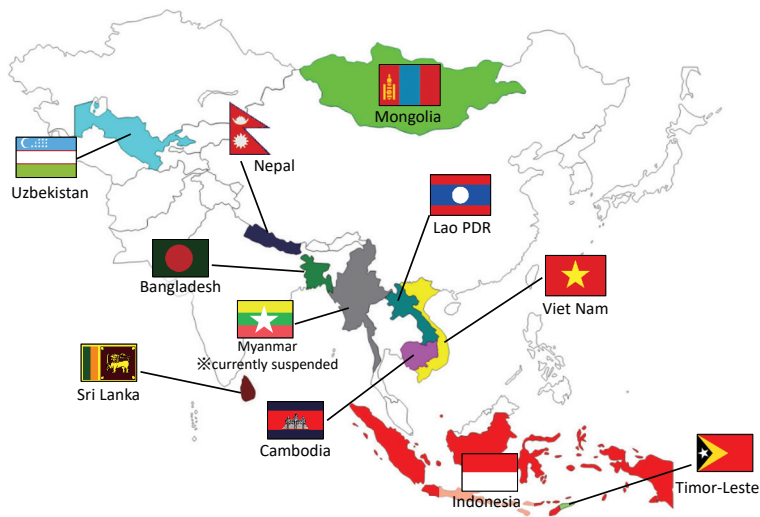


Workshop (Group Discussion) with Sri Lankan legal Practitioners (ICD)



Local Seminar with Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Indonesia (ICD)

Recipient countries assisted by ICD



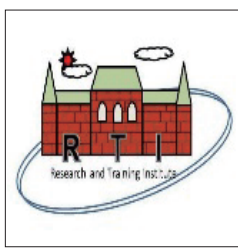
UNAFEI & ICD

Please refer to the following brochures for details of the work of the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice.

- Brochure of the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice
- Brochure of UNAFEI
- Brochure of ICD

Visit the MOJ website.

https://www.moj.go.jp/hisho/kouhou/hisho06_00036.html



Qualification Examinations

National Bar Examination

The national bar examination is designed to determine whether those who wish to become judges, public prosecutors, or attorneys have the necessary knowledge and practical abilities. The present national bar examination has been administered since 2006.

Until now, in order to take the bar examination, it was prerequisite to complete a law school or pass the preliminary bar examination. However, from the bar examination in 2023, students of law schools will be allowed to take the bar examination, if they meet the certain conditions (eligibility to take the examination while you are still in school).

But there is a time limit, and candidates can take the examination within a five-year period from the first day of April after gaining qualifications. (Students of law schools who gains the eligibility can take the examination until they complete or withdraw from a law school, but the period until that day from the first day of April in the year when applicants first take the examination under the same eligibility should not exceed a five-year period.)

The examination consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions) and an essay test, and all candidates take both tests at the same time.

The successful candidates will be qualified to enter the legal profession as judges, prosecutors, and attorneys after training at the legal training center of the Supreme Court. (For details on the training, please contact the Recruitment Division, Personnel Affairs Bureau, Supreme Court.)

Results of the National Bar Examination

	Candidates	Successful candidates	Average age of successful candidates	Successful percentage
2018	5,238	1,525(375)	28.8	29.11%
2019	4,466	1,502(366)	28.9	33.63%
2020	3,703	1,450(367)	28.4	39.16%
2021	3,424	1,421(395)	28.3	41.50%
2022	3,082	1,403(389)	28.3	45.52%

Note) Numbers inside () mean female successful candidates.

Preliminary Bar Examination

The purpose of the preliminary bar examination is to judge whether a person who intends to take the national bar examination has the knowledge, practical ability, and a basic grounding in legal practices equal to those who have completed law school, and consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions), an essay test, and an oral test. There are no qualification requirements for candidates.

◆For further information, please contact the National Bar Examination Commission

Address: The Ministry of Justice, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8977 Tel: 03-3580-4111

Results of the Preliminary Bar Examination

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2018	11,136	433 (81)
2019	11,780	476 (85)
2020	10,608	442 (75)
2021	11,717	467 (102)
2022	13,004	472 (73)

Note) Numbers inside () mean female successful candidates.

Judicial Scrivener Examination and Land and House Investigator Examination

A judicial scrivener represents a client in procedures such as or deposition, and with authorization from the Minister of Justice, may also represent a client in summary court trial. A land and house investigator performs investigations, surveying, and application procedures needed for registration of real estate.

Judicial Scrivener Examination and Land and House Investigator Examination are national examinations that determine whether candidates have the necessary knowledge and ability to enter into

these professions, and are administered by the Minister of Justice. Both examinations consist of written and oral tests, and those who pass the written test are entitled to take the oral test. The successful candidates can start work immediately after registration as a judicial scrivener or a land and house investigator respectively.

◆For further information, please contact the Civil Affairs Second Division, Civil Affairs Bureau

Results of the National Examination for Judicial Scriveners

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2018	14,387	621
2019	13,683	601
2020	11,494	595
2021	11,925	613
2022	12,727	660

Results of the National Examination for Land and House Investigators

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2018	4,380	418
2019	4,198	406
2020	3,785	392
2021	3,859	404
2022	4,404	424

◆ Employment Examination for Services

The Ministry of Justice employs officials who have passed the Examination for Comprehensive Service, Examination for General Service, Employment Examination for the Ministry of Justice Specialized Staff (Human Sciences), Prison Officer Employment Examination and Immigration Control Officer Employment Examination.

Examination for Comprehensive Service

◆Contact: Personnel Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice

Those employed in the category of public administration, judicial affairs, politics and international matters, law, economics, engineering, and culture are generally assigned to various departments of the Ministry and are involved in planning measures and policies.

Those employed in the human sciences category are assigned to local offices to make the most of their specialized knowledge.

Examination for General Service

◆Contact: General Affairs Section, Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat (architecture, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering)

Local offices intending to employ officials (public administration)

Those employed in the public administration category, excluding in the Facilities Division of the Minister's Secretariat (architecture, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering), are generally assigned to local offices outside the Ministry.

Employment Examination for the Ministry of Justice Specialized Staff (Human Science)

Correctional Psychology Profession

◆Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Correctional psychologists work at juvenile classification homes, penal institutions or juvenile training schools as professional staff (MOJ technical official (psychology)) making use of their specialized knowledge and skills to provide guidelines for treatment of detained juveniles based on analysis of the causes of delinquency or criminal acts through interviews and psychological tests, and carry out treatment programs in penal institutions and juvenile training schools.



Ministry of Justice Instructo

◆Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Ministry of Justice instructors work mainly at juvenile training schools or juvenile classification homes, providing specialized education (correctional education), including lifestyle guidance and school course guidance, as well as observation of juveniles to develop the juveniles' individuality and abilities and ensure their smooth return to society based on the instructors' broad perspective and expertise. MOJ instructors also provide employment support instruction and course instruction at prisons.

Probation Officers

◆Contact: General Affairs Divisions of Regional Parole Boards

Probation officers work at probation offices and regional parole boards, providing criminals and juvenile delinquents with instruction through interviews and specialized treatment programs as well as job assistance, based on expert knowledge about psychology, pedagogy, welfare and sociology, and are responsible for preventing recidivism and supporting rehabilitation within society.

Recruitment Examination for Prison Officers

◆Contact: Correction District Official Division

Prison Officers generally work in prisons, juvenile prisons or detention centers.

Prisons and juvenile prisons give the inmates various treatment through instructions to rehabilitate convicts and ensure smooth comeback to society.

Detention centers mainly house suspects and defendants in detention to prevent them from escaping or destroying evidence, and to ensure that they can receive fair trials.



Recruitment Examination for Immigration Control Officers

◆Contact: General Affairs Division, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (Personnel Division, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau and Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau)

General Affairs Division, Immigration Centers

Immigration control officers are assigned to regional immigration services bureaus, district immigration offices, branch offices, and immigration centers. They are responsible for detecting and investigating violations related to illegal entrants or illegal overstayers, and for treating and deporting detainees.



History of the red-brick building of the Ministry of Justice

- the only surviving building from the Meiji government's construction plan to concentrate the government offices -



Red-Brick Building and Central Government Office No.6-A

The original red-brick building, designed by the two German architects W. Böckmann and H. Ende, was completed in December of 1895 (the 28th year of Meiji) after about seven years of construction to serve as the Ministry of Justice building. The roofs and floors of the building were destroyed by fire during World War II, but the red-brick walls remained intact. When the structure was renovated through the restoration work conducted from 1948 to 1950, some alterations were made in the materials and the shape of the roof. The present red-brick building has, however, been restored completely to its original 1895 appearance after the restoration work from 1991, and its exterior was designated as a national important cultural property on December 27, 1994.



Building-construction techniques

Red brick building at the time of its founding





German architects
Left : W. Böckmann
Right : H. Ende

The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery

The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery inside the red-brick building of the Ministry consists of a room restored to its original appearance (formerly the dining hall of the Justice Minister's official residence) which retains the atmosphere of the Meiji era, and an adjacent room with brick walls, and exhibits various historical documents and data on the modernization of the judiciary and architectural modernization.

In addition, the Museum displays materials about major public relations promoting deeper understanding of the judicial system and the Ministry of Justice among citizens, and currently exhibits materials relating to the Saiban-in (Lay Judge) System and the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu).



Judicial Legislation

Modernization of the Judiciary

The Museum exhibits materials concerning the activities of the old Ministry of Justice, including basic legislation requiring urgent enactment in the first half of the Meiji era, such as the laws on the organization of the judiciary and criminal laws, and records of the contributions of the foreign government advisors, in addition to displaying historical records of sensational cases in the Meiji era as well as those related to the administration of justice.



The Ministry of Justice Museum



G. Boissonade, a French jurist, and a draft of the old Japanese Penal Code



Dining hall of the old Justice Minister's official residence

Architectural Modernization

The red-brick building is the only building that still exists among all the buildings constructed as part of the Central Government Building Concentration Project promoted by the Meiji government, and exhibits materials concerning the establishment of the building, which has now been designated as a cultural asset symbolizing the modernization of Japanese architectural techniques, as well as the project to repair and restore it to its original appearance.

Tour Guide The Ministry of Justice Museum

Location	3F Ministry of Justice Red-Brick Building, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	Reservations	Please make a reservation by phone or online when arriving in a group of ten or more. Reservations will be accepted three months in advance.
Access	Please refer to Access on back cover page.		
Open days	From Monday to Friday (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays/Free admission)	Contact information	Direct Phone Number: 81-3-3592-7911 Email: renga1@i.moj.go.jp
Open Hours	From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (No admission after 5:30 p.m.)		

Ministry of Justice Website "The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery"

https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/tosho-tenji/housei06_00004.html



Visiting the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice provides tours on request from students and children to deepen their understanding of the role and the duties of the Ministry. You can hear an explanation of the duties of the Ministry, have your questions answered by officers, and take a look around the Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery located inside the red-brick building.

Requests for tours done here.



Event
2023.4
▼
2024.3

“Houmu Show” Event Calendar

Introduction of the Ministry of Justice's
anniversaries and various events



2023

4

- Houterasu Day (April 10)
- The System of Vesting Inherited Land in the National Treasury will start! (April 27)



Real Property Registration
Promotion Mascot “Toukit-sune”

5

- Constitution Week (May 1-7)

6

- Human Rights Volunteers Day (June 1)



Nationwide activities related
to human rights

7

- Month to Promote Proper Employment of Foreign Nationals for the Realization of an Inclusive Society
- Offender Rehabilitation Day (July 1)
- Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month



JFY 2022
Recidivism Prevention
Information Poster

7

- “Yellow feather Campaign” Enhancement Month



“Yellow feather Campaign” # live a difficult life

8

- Opening of Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) (July 6)
- Starting Houmu Show Twitter account (July 26)
- Starting Houmu Show Instagram account (July 28)
- ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers (July 6)
- G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting (July 7)
- Renamed from Homufu to the Ministry of Justice (August 1)
- Kasumigaseki Open Day for Children (tentative)



Host an event for elementary and junior high school students during the summer vacation to deepen their understanding about the work of the Ministry of Justice

- Nationwide Children's Rights Hotline Promotion Week
- Law-Related Education Seminar for Teachers (tentative)

What is "Houmu Show"?

The editorial department of "Houmu Show" was established in April 2021 with the aim of transmitting information from new perspectives in order to widely inform both Japan and overseas about the Ministry of Justice and its measures.



Official website

Official Twitter account

Official Instagram account

9

10

- Safe and Secure Community Development Day (October 11)
- Japan Law Day Week (October 1-7)
- Japan Law Day Festa (First Saturday in October)



Scene of visiting the Ministry of Justice Museum

- Notarization Week (October 1-7)

11

- "Houmu Show" website launched (November 26)
- Nationwide Week for Strengthening the Women's Human Rights Hotline



Human rights Campaign characters
Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun & Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan

12

- ADR Day (December 1)
- ADR Week (December 1-7)
- 63rd National Correction Exhibition (Exhibition and Sale of Products by Prisoners in Japan) (December 9-10)



JFY 2022 national correction event poster

12

- Human Rights Day (December 10)
- 75th Human Rights Week (December 4-10)



Poster "74th Human Rights Week"

- The North Korean Human Rights Abuses Awareness Week
- Birth Date of Hourisu-kun (December 17)



Law-Related Education mascot

2024
1

2

3

- The inception of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (March 15)



This page is designed to give elementary and junior high school children an easy-to-understand introduction to the Ministry of Justice.

What is the role of the Ministry of Justice?

The Ministry of Justice takes measures to make our society safer and brighter.

For example, the Ministry makes the basic laws (rules) that help people live with a feeling of safety. When someone commits a crime, the Ministry educates him/her in prisons or in juvenile training schools, or supports them to live in the community, so that they can live a better life without committing another crime. In addition, the Ministry takes various measures to make society a comfortable place to live in, such as investigating human violation cases such as bullying, so that it will not re-occur, or conducting immigration examinations for both Japanese and foreign nationals when they enter and depart Japan.

Is the Ministry of Justice in charge of all Japanese laws?

Many people think that the Ministry of Justice is in charge of all Japanese laws, judging from its name, but in reality it is not. For example, the Ministry of Finance is responsible for laws related to taxes and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is responsible for laws related to the school education.

Likewise, each ministry is responsible for laws related to the duties of those ministries and agencies. In some cases, several ministries and agencies work together on a single law.

The Ministry of Justice is in charge of a number of basic social rules, including the Civil Code, which regulates property matters, and the Criminal Code, which regulates crime and punishment. The Ministry works on various issues in order to realize secure and peaceful societies.

What are laws for?

What do you imagine when you hear the word "laws"? It may sound difficult, but laws can make us happier.

Laws are rules that help us all live together through cooperation and respect each other's individuality. By protecting our rights and showing clearly what rules we have to comply, laws make us possible to live and act freely and enjoy a more fulfilling life.

The Ministry of Justice website "Kids Room" provides detailed explanations of the Ministry of Justice's work with figures and photographs.



What is Law-Related Education?

Law-related education aims to help citizens to nurture their necessary social skills, including determining what is good and what is bad, and solving problems well, by thinking about various questions such as "What are the laws and rules for?", "What does it mean to make a promise?", "How can we all have different ideas and live together peacefully?"

The Ministry of Justice makes books so that everyone can participate in law-related education classes happily, and conducts classes at some schools by visiting there.

"Hourisu-kun" on the right is a law-related education mascot character who was selected by popularity vote and is always working hard to spread law-related education. Why don't you enjoy learning with Hourisu-kun?



Law-Related Education mascot, "Hourisu-kun"

The Village With No Rules



What's wrong with the village with no rules?
If we made rules for this village, what sort of rules should they be?



Stop worrying alone!
Talk to us anytime!!

I'm worried about my school, SNS, or my family, but I can't talk to anyone...
The Ministry of Justice accepts such consultations.

Children's Human Rights

If you have any of the problems as follows, don't hesitate to talk to us.

- I don't want to go to school because of "bullying".
- My family do unpleasant things to me.
- I suffer abusive language and violence during club activities.
- It is difficult to talk to teachers and parents about my problems.
- I have no one to talk to about my problems and no idea on what to do with this situation.
- Nobody notices my problems. You can also consult about the problems around you, such as "One of my friends is troubled by such things".

We will promise to keep your secrets.

Contact us by phone

If you would like to talk to us immediately, please dial the following toll-free number.

0120-007-110

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (Monday to Friday)



Human rights Campaign characters
Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun & Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan

Contact us by Mini-Letter

Mini-Letters are distributed at schools between may and July. If you need them right away or if you want more, you can call 0120-007-110 (Children's Rights Hotline) and the Ministry will send additional Mini-Letters (free of charge). You may find them in the infirmary, library, or local libraries.



Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters
(for elementary school students)

Contact us by e-mail



E-mail us through this e-mail address.

https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/PC_CH/0101.html

*it will take several days for a consultation to be answered.



Contact us by LINE

People living in the following areas can also consult us by LINE.

- Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Shizuoka, Yamanashi, Nagano, Niigata, Aichi, Mie, Gifu, Fukui, Ishikawa, Toyama, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Nara, Shiga, Wakayama, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Oita, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Okinawa, Miyagi, Hokkaido and Kagawa prefectures

*Eligible regions are as of March 2023. Please check here for the latest information.



Please register the official account "SNS Human Rights Counseling" as a friend and consult with us.

Please tap "Contact us" before entering the content of the consultation.

ID @snsjinkensoudan



To those who are troubled by the divorce of father and mother



My mother and father are quarreling ... are they going to break up ...

You are having a hard time right now.

Don't put up with your trouble alone and talk to the people around you. There are some places where you can consult about your problems.

The family life may change, but the relationship between you and your father, mother, grandpa, and grandma will not change.

Here are some things you might want to know about your mother and father's divorce.

<https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/top-child.html>

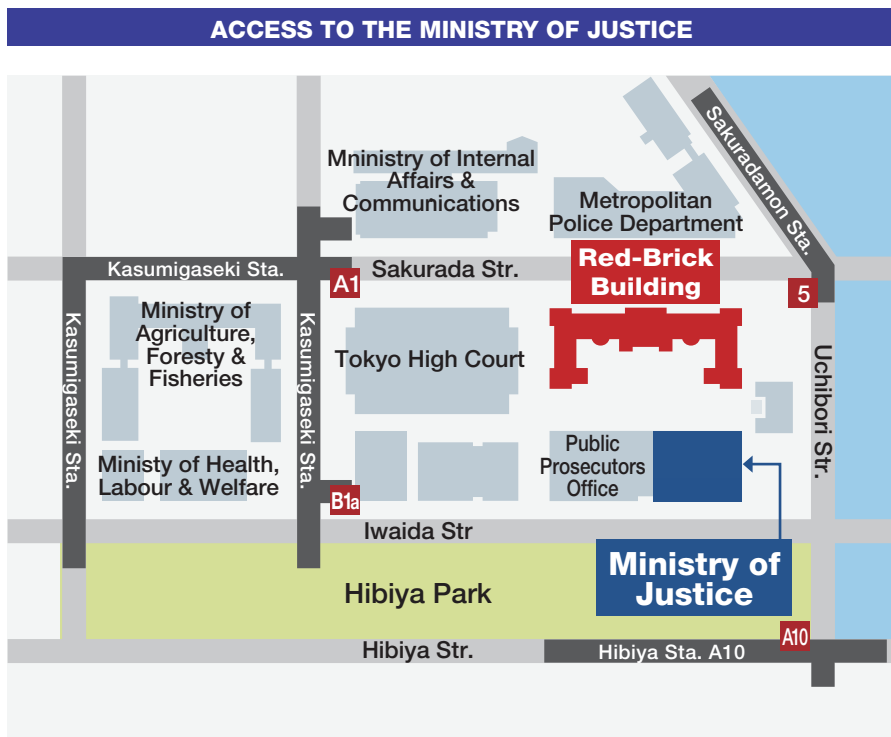




Central Gov't Bldg. No.6

Central Government Office Complex No. 6-A, which houses the Ministry of Justice, consists of 21 floors and 4 basement floors. The building is functionally divided into two zones: the Ministry of Justice zone on the north side (right on the photo) and the Public Prosecutor Offices zone on the south side (left on the photo). The outer wall of the building is covered with dignified red granite from Canada that harmonizes well with the red-brick walls.

The building was completed on June 30, 1990 as the new Ministry of Justice building.



- JR** Yamanote Line / Keihin Tohoku Line..... 10-minute walk from JR Yurakucho Station
- Metro** Yurakucho Line 1-minute walk from Sakuradamon Station
- Marunouchi Line / Hibiya Line 3-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station
- Chiyoda Line 5-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station
- Toei Mita Line 6-minute walk from Hibiya Station

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YouTube Official channel of the Ministry of Justice MOJ Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOJchannel>

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