



2022

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
OF JAPAN**



# 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 or leaving 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.



# Contents

## About the Ministry of Justice

Structure, Historical Background,	3
Number of Personnel of budget base, and Budget	
Outline of the Organization	5
Internal Departments of the Ministry of Justice	
Special Agencies (Public Prosecutors Office)	6
Facilities	
Extra-Ministerial Bureaus	9
(Immigration Services Agency, Public Security Intelligence Agency, Public Security Examination Commission)	

## 01 Toward Japan as “the Safest Country in the World”

Establishing the Safest Country in the World	11
Comprehensive Measures to Prevent Recidivism	
Enhancing Guidance According to Each Offender's Characteristics	12
Creating a Place to Belong and Work in the Community	
Declaring “No Returning to Crime, No Facilitating Other's Return to Crime”	13
-We Will Work Toward a Bright Future in a Society Where We All Support Rehabilitation-	
Emergency Measures to Prevent Recidivism by Persons with Drug Dependencies, Elderly Offenders, and Others	
-Establishment of a Long-Term Support Network to Facilitate Rehabilitation-	
Act for the Prevention of Recidivism & Recidivism Prevention Plan	14
Acceleration Plan for Recidivism Prevention Plan -Toward the Improvement of “Long-term” Support, such as the Countermeasures for Those Released on Completion of their Full Prison Sentence-	
Efforts to Achieve Safety and Security	15
Support for Crime Victims	16
Efforts Concerning Prevention of Child Abuse in the Ministry of Justice	

## 02 Immigration Control and Residency Management

Smooth and Strict Immigration Screening	17
Proper and Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Nationals	
Promotion of Measures against Illegal Residents to Realize a Safe and Secure Society	19
Proper Protection of Refugees	
Development of an Environment of Acceptance of Foreign Nationals to Realize a Society of Harmonious Coexistence	

## 03 Promotion of Judicial System Reform

Ensuring that the Results of Justice System Reforms Take Root	21
Promotion of Translation of Japanese Laws	22
Establishing a New Criminal Justice System that Keeps Pace with the Times	
Enrichment and Development of Law-Related Education	
Saiban-in System	23

## 04 Realization of Basic Rights for People

Legal Affairs Bureau	24
System for Documenting Your Rights	
Development of basic civil laws	28
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	29
(Human Rights Counseling, Investigation and Remedy procedures, Human Rights Awareness Raising, and More)	
Legal Services	31
Implementation of the Comprehensive Legal Support by the Japan Legal Support Center	32

## 05 Enforcement of Proper Criminal Policy

Process of Criminal Cases Committed by Adults	33
Handling Juvenile Crimes and Delinquencies	35
What is Offender Rehabilitation?	37
Medical Treatment and Supervision Measures for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases under the Condition of Insanity	38
Facilitating the activities of cooperating members of the private sector	39
Improvement and Enhancement of Treatment in Correctional Facilities	40
Further Improvement of Juvenile Correction	

## 06 Justice Affairs Diplomacy

Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” by the Ministry of Justice of Japan and its future prospects	41
Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration adopted at the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	
Promotion of International Cooperation	42
International Arbitration in Japan	43
Strengthening efforts in the field of International Dispute Resolution	
Active engagement of officials of the Ministry of Justice in foreign countries	

## 07 Unified and Appropriate Resolution of Disputes Involving Japanese Government

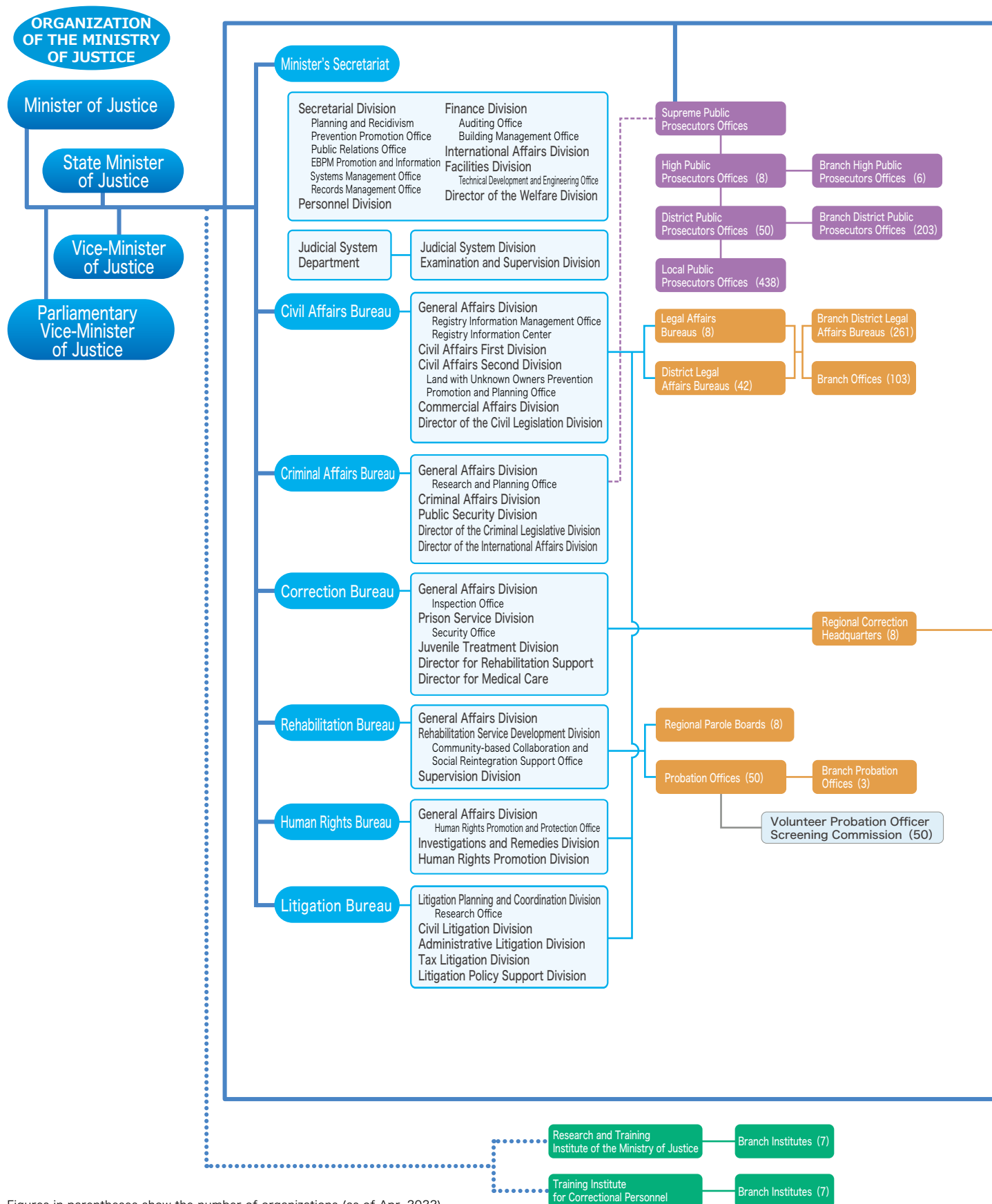
Litigation Bureau	44
<b>Qualifications and Employment</b>	
Qualification Examinations	45
Employment Examination for Services	46
The Ministry of Justice is Connected with Everyone's Life	47

## Making the Ministry of Justice More Familiar

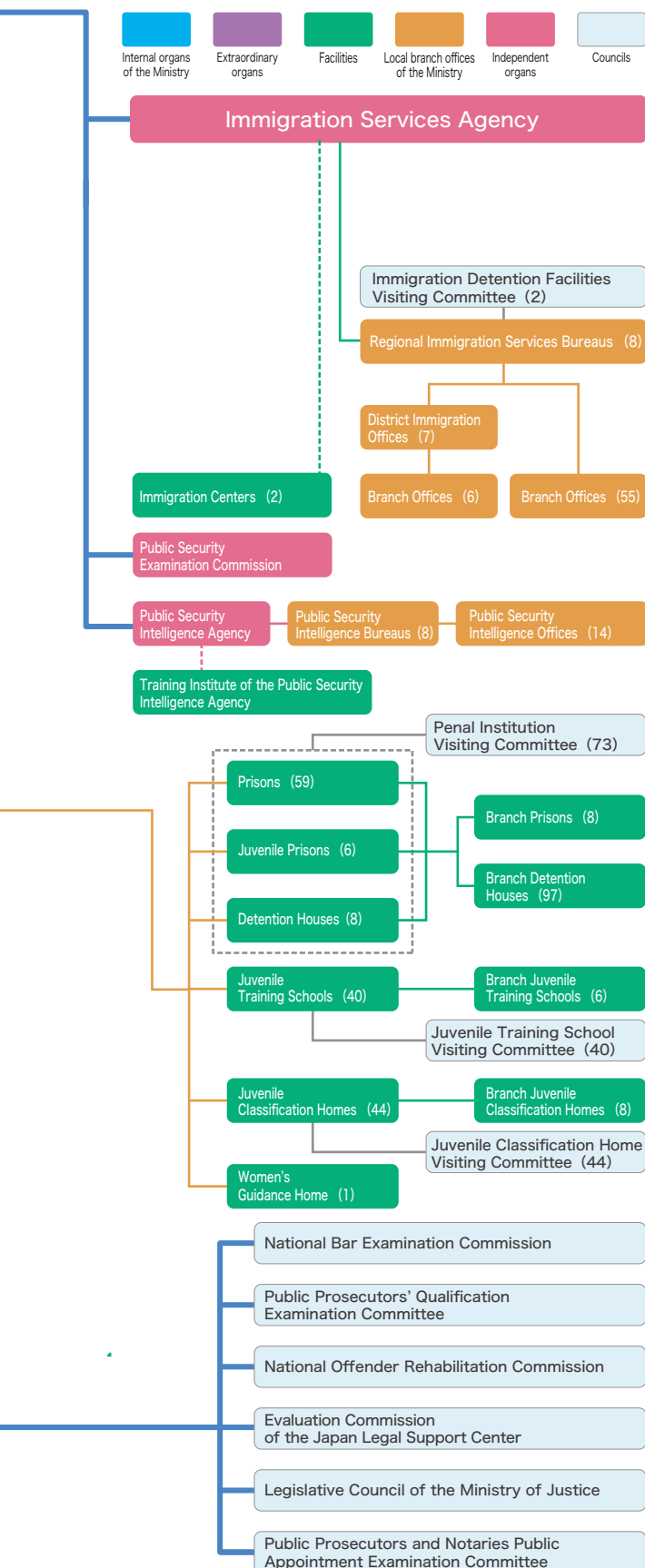
●Visit	
Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery	49
Let's Visit the Ministry of Justice!	50
●Main Weekly and Monthly Events of the Ministry of Justice	51
●Kids Room	53

# 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. 2022)



## Historical Background

- 1871 ● Shihosho established
- 1947 ● Separated from Shihosho, came under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court
- 1948 ● Homucho established (Shihosho abolished)
- 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))

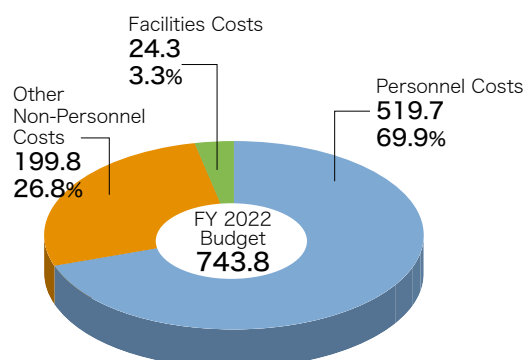
## Number of Personnel of budget base (FY 2022)

Organization Name	
Ministry of Justice	524
Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice	84
Legal Affairs Bureaus	8,918
Public Prosecutors Offices	11,863
Correctional Institutions	23,598
Probation Offices and Regional Parole Boards	1,828
Immigration Services Agency	6,181
Public Security Examination Commission	4
Public Security Intelligence Agency	1,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,040</b>

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

## Budget (FY 2022)

The MOJ FY 2022 Budget comprises a general budget of 743.8 billion yen and 0.2 billion yen for the "Special Account for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake". Personnel costs comprise 69.9% of the general budget.



## Internal Departments of the Ministry of Justice

### Minister's Secretariat

#### ► Secretarial Division

The Secretarial Division is in charge of secretarial and administrative work for the Minister of Justice, overall coordination of administration of each department, clerical work pertinent to the National Diet, public relations, and more.

#### ► Personnel Division

The Personnel Division is in charge of the general affairs of the National Bar Examination Commission and clerical work accompanying its exams, as well as clerical work related to human resources such as the number of regular employees, and the appointment and dismissal of employees.

#### ► Finance Division

The Finance Division is in charge of budget creation, execution, payment, and auditing accounts, as well as the revenues and expenditures of the Ministry of Justice.

#### ► International Affairs Division

The International Affairs Division is in charge of developing basic policy and overall coordination concerning international affairs of the Ministry of Justice, hosting international conferences and arranging courtesy calls for officials from abroad, among other things.

#### ► Facilities Division

The Facilities Division engages in the design, construction work, and maintenance of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, and also cooperates internationally with foreign governments to build correctional institutions.

#### ► Director of the Welfare Division

The Director of the Welfare Division is in charge of clerical work pertinent to mutual aid associations, benefits, and welfare, as well as enhancing the efficiency of pension and accident compensation for employees.

#### ► Judicial System Department

The Judicial System Department 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 administration of the Ministry of Justice Library and the Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery; 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 of private dispute resolution services.

### Civil Affairs Bureau

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.

### Criminal Affairs Bureau

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.

### Corrections Bureau

The Corrections Bureau is responsible for matters concerning the treatment of inmates, including security, prison work, education, classification, medical treatment, and hygiene in correctional institutions (prisons, juvenile prisons, detention houses, juvenile training schools, juvenile classification homes, and the women's guidance homes); the planning and drafting of correctional legislation; the organization and management of correctional institutions; and the international transfer of sentenced persons.

### Rehabilitation Bureau

The Rehabilitation Bureau is responsible for the administration matters concerning community-based offender rehabilitation including the parole examination of correctional institution inmates, probation and parole supervision (for both adults and juveniles), crime prevention activities, pardons, measures for crime victims, and the medical supervision and treatment for persons who have caused serious cases under the condition of insanity.

### Human Rights Bureau

The Human Rights Bureau promotes and protects fundamental human rights, and as such is in charge of investigating and remedy procedures for human rights violation cases, providing human rights counseling services, and conducting human rights awareness-raising activities. As field offices of the Bureau, there is a Human Rights Department in each Legal Affairs Bureau and a Human Rights Division in each District Legal Affairs Bureau. In addition, Human Rights Volunteers, who are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice, are placed in each municipality (including the special wards) across the country.

### Litigation Bureau

The Litigation Bureau deals with civil and administrative lawsuits in which the State is a party. The Litigation Bureau 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"). In addition, it is responsible for dealing with lawsuits involving local public entities, independent administrative institutions, and other public corporations as prescribed by Cabinet orders in cases where such lawsuits are found to be related to the interests of the State.



## ● Special Agencies (Public Prosecutors Office)

### Public Prosecutors Office

The function of the Public Prosecutors Office is to exercise control over all the work handled by public prosecutors, with offices consisting of the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office (Tokyo), the High Public Prosecutors Offices (Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Sendai, Sapporo and Takamatsu), the District Public Prosecutors Offices (one each in the 46 prefectures except Hokkaido, where, because of the large size of its administrative area, there are four offices) and Local Public Prosecutors Offices (one each in major cities, wards or towns). The high public prosecutors offices and the district public prosecutors offices have branches to handle parts of their work as necessary.

Public prosecutors offices are staffed with public prosecutors (Prosecutor-General, Deputy Prosecutor-General, Superintending Prosecutors, Public Prosecutors and Assistant Prosecutors) and public prosecutors' assistant officers.

### Public Prosecutors

In criminal cases, public prosecutors have 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, and furthermore, as representatives of public interest, are given additional authority by the Civil Code and other laws.

Prosecutorial power is exercised for the purpose of maintaining law and order of the nation and society, and the exercise of prosecutorial power is based on principles of strict fairness and impartiality, and cases are handled with due respect to the human rights of suspects.



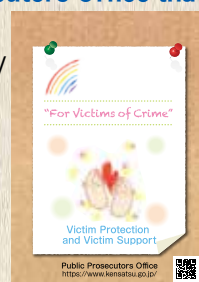
For details, please refer to the Ministry of Justice website  
**A brochure explaining the meaning and role of prosecution**

[https://www.moj.go.jp/keiji1/keiji\\_index.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/keiji1/keiji_index.html)



**A brochure clearly explaining the various systems in the Public Prosecutors Office that support victims of crime.**

<https://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/CRAB/crab-02.html>



## ● Facilities

### Penal Institutions (Prisons, Juvenile Prisons, Detention Houses)

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.

The treatment of sentenced persons aims at their rehabilitation and smooth return to society, and for this purpose, they are taken into the most suitable institution based on psychological examination regarding personality and social adjustment. The institutions draw up treatment plans deemed most suitable for individual sentenced person and perform the various tasks involved, including vocational training, life guidance, educational programs, and more.

In addition, the Ministry is actively introducing new treatment techniques, such as the adoption of "open treatment" measures at some prisons, including Ichihara Prison and Ooi Shipyard Prison Camp (of Matsuyama Prison).

The treatment of defendants awaiting trial is intended to con-

tribute to smooth trial proceedings by detaining and preventing the destruction of evidence, while paying due respect to the defendants' basic human rights.



Fuchu Prison

## 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 based on the home's expertise in medicine, psychology pedagogy and more, in order to provide information relevant to the investigation and family court hearing. Such assessments are conducted by interviews, psychological tests and behavioral observations as well as by psychiatric examinations if necessary; the treatment guidelines for rehabilitation are drawn up through examination and diagnosis of the mental and physical condition of the juvenile and through understanding of the causes of delinquency.

The home also conducts assessments at the request of a superintendent of juvenile training school or a director of probation office for the enforcement of protective measures.

Furthermore, the home provides advice using their expertise and techniques in consultation with the general public and school teachers on delinquency, bullying, and domestic violence, as well as the necessary support, in order to prevent delinquency and crime in the local community.



Osaka Juvenile Classification Home



Photo of a psychological test at a juvenile classification home (image)

## Juvenile Training Schools

Juvenile Training Schools confine juveniles who have been sent from the family court as protective measures that provide correctional education. A juvenile training school creates an Individual Plan for Correctional Education for each individual which determines the goals, content, implementation methods, and terms of correctional education to be implemented according to the juvenile's traits, such as age, physical and mental condition, and criminal tendencies, and provides lifestyle guidance, vocational guidance, school courses teaching, physical education, and special activities guidance according to the characteristics of each juvenile. In addition, in order to ensure smooth rehabilitation in society for juveniles who have difficulties leading independent lives after release, the school provides support for learning and working, securing of a place of residence, and continuous support in collaboration with medical/welfare institutions.



Kakogawa & Harima Juvenile Training School



Photo of guidance on problematic behavior

## Women's Guidance Home

The Women's Guidance Home confines adult women who are sentenced to guidance measures by the criminal court for violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act, and provides living guidance and vocational training according to their rehabilitation needs.



## Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice

The Research and Training Institute is one of the agencies of the Ministry of Justice, and conducts a wide range of work, including (i) research related to criminal justice policies and other Ministry of Justice affairs, (ii) various kinds of training for Ministry of Justice officials, and (iii) international cooperation both in criminal and civil sectors provided for developing countries mainly in the Asian region.

### Activities of Research and Training Institute

#### ■ Research

The Institute conducts research useful for the Ministry of Justice to draft measures for prevention and control of crime and implement policies. The results are summarized in the White Paper on Crime, a foundational document concerning criminal justice policy, as well as the Research Department Reports which are themed on concrete, individual issues concerning criminal trends and treatment of offenders.



Website of White Paper on Crime

#### ■ Training

Various types of training are conducted for the officials of the Ministry of Justice (excluding correctional personnel, officials at the Immigration Services Agency, and those at the Public Security Intelligence Agency). This training adopts various formats, such as lectures, debates, and exercises, so that officials can acquire the knowledge and skills needed as officials of the Ministry of Justice depending on their duties. Through this training, the institute aims to foster officials who can respond appropriately to operations that have become increasingly diverse and complex in recent years.

#### ■ International Cooperation

##### [The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders]

The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established in 1962 by an agreement between the UN and the Government of Japan, regularly organizes training courses and seminars for criminal justice practitioners in developing countries etc., and also cooperates in the formulation and implementation of UN strategies.



UNAFEI's International Training Course; Group Discussion

##### [Technical Assistance in the Legal Field]

The International Cooperation Department (ICD) of the Research and Training Institute invites legal practitioners of selected countries to Japan for training, and has also dispatched Japanese experts to said countries to give counsel and hold seminars. The ICD has so far offered support to such countries as Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia.

See "Promotion of International Cooperation" on page 42 for more about international cooperation.



Seminar in Japan for Indonesian Officers

### 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.

#### History●

The Training Institute for Correctional Personnel, a venerable institute whose predecessor is the Ministry of the Interior Prison Officers Training Institute, established in 1890, has a long history and tradition as a training institution for public officers.



Training Institute for Correctional Personnel



Remote training (lecture)

## ● Extra-Ministerial Bureaus

(Immigration Services Agency, Public Security Intelligence Agency, Public Security Examination Commission)

### Immigration Services Agency

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.

### Immigration Services Agency's Duties

#### ■ Immigration Controls

Foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan are required to provide personal identification information (fingerprints and facial photographs), except for those exempt from this requirement, and must be interviewed by an immigration inspector. The immigration inspector checks whether the foreign national meets the conditions for disembarkation, such as whether the passport and visa held by the foreign national are valid, whether activities to be conducted while in Japan are legitimate and come under the status of residence prescribed in the Appended Tables of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, and for certain statuses of residence, the inspector checks whether the foreign national meets the criteria stipulated in the Ministerial Ordinance, and that the foreign national does not fall under the grounds for denial of entry. If the immigration inspector deems these conditions have been met, the foreign national will be permitted to enter Japan. Foreign nationals who intend to depart from Japan must receive confirmation of departure from an immigration inspector.

Immigration inspectors also verify the fact of departure and return of Japanese nationals.

#### ■ Residency Management of Foreign Nationals

Foreign nationals residing in Japan are allowed to engage in activities based on their status of residence and period of stay, determined when entering the country. If foreign nationals residing in the country intend to obtain permission to change their status of residence, permission to extend their period of stay, permission to engage in activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted, or re-entry permission, they need to go through the necessary procedures at the Regional Immigration Services Bureau. Upon permitting the activities of foreign nationals in Japan, the Immigration Services Agency strives to ensure proper residency management of foreign nationals while paying due consideration to the interests of the Japanese people, maintenance of public order, etc.

Starting from July 2012, a residency management system for mid to long-term residents was introduced, under which foreign nationals residing in Japan mid to long-term are issued a residence card when receiving permission relating to residence, such as landing permission, permission for change of status of residence, or permission for extension of the period of stay. The residence card gives such details as the name, date of birth, sex, nationality or region, place of residence, status of residence, and period of stay of the foreign national.

#### ■ Deportation

Among foreign nationals residing in Japan, there are those considered undesirable for the society such as those who have entered or disembarked illegally, those who obtained landing permission but have overstayed illegally their period of stay or are engaged in activities other than those permitted or those who are imposed certain punishments. With regard to such foreign nationals, the Immigration Services Agency carefully conducts a required series of procedures to verify the facts and understand their circumstances through an investigation into violation, examination and hearing, determines whether the violation serves as a ground for deportation and departs those who are accordingly determined to be liable for deportation.

However, not all foreign nationals who fall under the grounds for deportation defined in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act are subject to deportation from Japan. The Minister of Justice may grant special permission to foreign nationals considering their social background in Japan and family circumstances, etc.

In addition, foreign nationals who are in violation of the Immigration Control Act but satisfy certain requirements may leave the country through simple procedures under the departure order system.

#### ■ Refugee Recognition

Japan has signed the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which went into effect January 1, 1982 in Japan. Various protection measures stipulated in the convention and protocol were granted to refugees.

A refugee is someone who, "owing to 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."

The Agency provides administrative procedures for the recognition of refugee status for people who fall within the refugee definition in the Convention upon the request of foreign nationals residing in Japan, the issuance of refugee travel documents to those who are recognized as refugees, and Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge, which permits a temporary entry into/ stay in Japan, to foreign nationals who apply for asylum at a seaport or airport in Japan and are likely to fall under the refugee definition.

#### ■ General Coordination Functions to Develop the

#### Environment for Acceptance of Foreign Nationals

The planning, policy development, and general coordination needed for unifying the relevant administrative branch policies concerning the development of the environment for acceptance of foreign nationals are the responsibilities of the Ministry of Justice according to "Basic Policy on Work Relating to the Preparation of an Environment of Acceptance of Foreign Nationals (Cabinet decision of July 24, 2018)", and the Immigration Services Agency has been responsible for those functions since April 2019.

Specifically, the Agency is responsible for holding "Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals" in cooperation with the Cabinet Secretariat and for compiling "Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals."

## Public Security Intelligence Agency

The Public Security Intelligence Agency is an administrative institution that deals comprehensively with intelligence activities and requests for dispositions regarding the control of subversive groups and other organizations based on the Subversive Activities Prevention Act and the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder.

Furthermore, as a core member of the Japanese intelligence community, the Agency contributes to the promotion of relevant key governmental policies in various spheres including crisis management, foreign policy, and national security, by providing, in a timely and appropriate manner, the relevant organizations with domestic and foreign intelligence/materials related to the public security of Japan that have been collected and analyzed in the process of investigation.

### Operations of the Public Security Intelligence Agency

#### ■ Control of Subversive Organizations

In Japan, there are many organizations and forces which may pose a security risk to the public, including Aum Shinrikyo, which carried out the subway sarin gas attacks; leftist extremists, which have repeatedly conducted illegal activities including terrorist and guerilla attacks; right wing groups; and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan. Based on the "Subversive Activities Prevention Act", the Agency conducts intelligence activities regarding those organizations which have a potential for subversive terrorist activities, and when it is deemed necessary to take control measures as a result, the Agency files an application with the Public Security Examination Commission (see page 10) in order to take control measures, such as restricting their organizational activities or giving them a dissolution order. Also, in accordance with the "Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder", the Agency files applications with the Commission against organizations that have committed indiscriminate mass murder in the past and are still considered dangerous in order to take surveillance disposition or other measures to prevent a recurrence, as well as collects reports from these organizations under the Commission's order for surveillance, conducts on-site inspections at the facilities of these organizations, and also carries out necessary investigations.



An on-site inspection

#### ■ Current State of Surveillance Disposition

In order to uncover the actual activities of so-called Aum Shinrikyo (continuing its activities centered on "Aleph" and the "group led by Yamada" and "Hikari-no-Wa"), the Agency conducts surveillance of the organization in an appropriate and rigorous manner. Investigations and on-site inspections of Aum Shinrikyo have revealed that the organization still maintains a risk of committing an act of indiscriminate mass murder: the organization has increased the number of new members through recruitment activities that do not mention its name; the organization also has maintained teachings designed to increase the followers' absolute faith in Chizuo Matsumoto, who is the mastermind of the organization's indiscriminate mass murder and popularly known as Shoko Asahara.

## ■ Intelligence Contributions

There are many challenges to the security of Japan and its people, such as North Korea's nuclear and missile development, and abductions of Japanese nationals; China's extensive and rapid modernization of military strength; threats posed by international terrorism and cyber attacks; and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; information theft by countries of concern, that need to be monitored carefully. In particular, Japan has repeatedly faced situations of heightened tensions with its neighboring countries regarding the territorial and maritime interests of Japan, and has also faced challenges in the field of economic security, for instance, advanced technology leaks through various channels and acquisitions by foreign capital of real estate located near critical facilities. These situations and challenges have become matters of great concern to the government and relevant organizations of Japan. It has become one of the most important missions of the Agency, which is tasked with protecting public security, to collect and analyze relevant information with regard to these challenges, thus contributing to the government's policies by providing relevant organizations, including the National Security Council, with intelligence.

#### ■ Efforts toward Public-Private Collaboration

As the Agency is strengthening its measures of providing intelligence regarding, among other issues, outflow of technologies to countries of concern and international terrorism, the Director-General and other officials of the Agency deliver lectures for private corporations and economic associations. In addition, the Agency actively publicizes (see p.15) and distributes relevant materials such as brochures on economic security and threats posed by cyber-attacks, as well as the "Handbook of International Terrorism," as part of the effort to promote awareness among these corporations and others.

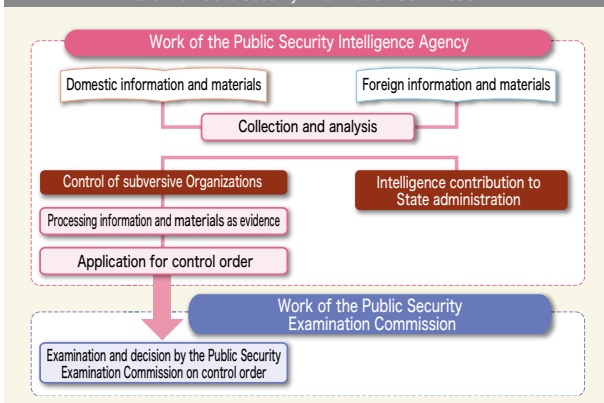


Lecture at an outside seminar

## Public Security Examination Commission

The Public Security Examination Commission is an extra-ministerial agency of the Ministry created to maintain public security. 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







## Featured Article!

### Establishing the Safest Country in the World

Ensuring favorable public security is an important basis to enable women and the young to live comfortably and with assurance in the community. It is also an important issue that can be the “foundation” for development of the localities. Also, with the emergence of new threats such as cybercrime and, international terrorism, we aim to further reduce crime and foster a sense of confidence in public security.

Under such circumstances, at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in December 2013, the “Strategy to Make Japan ‘the Safest Country in the World’” was approved. And while efforts for comprehensive Penal Code offenses control were made by the government as a whole based on the strategy, the number of reported crimes was halved from 2013

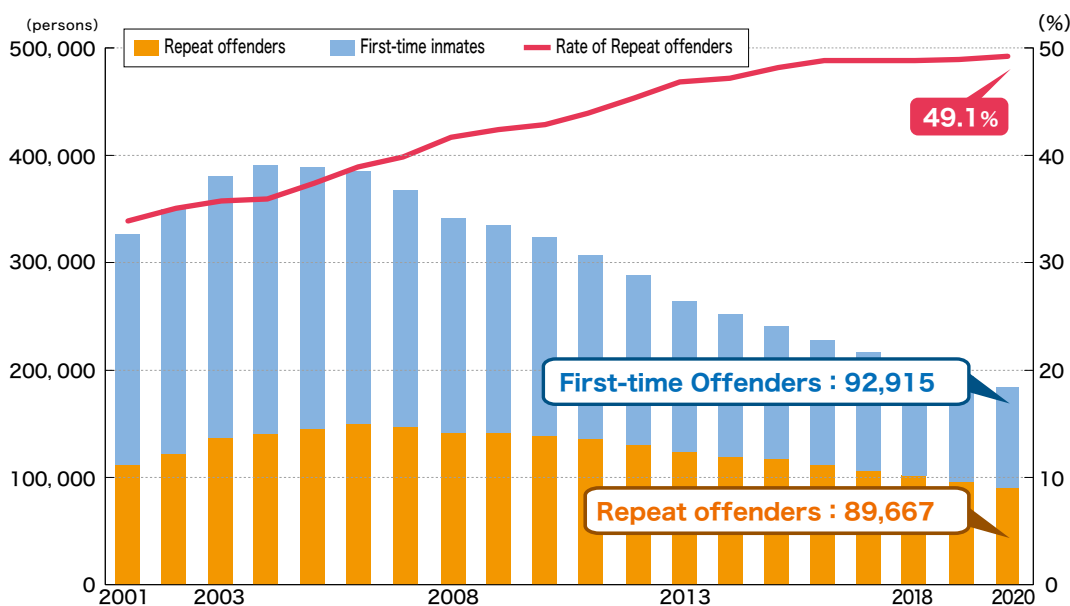
(1,314,140) to 2020(614,231), proving that an improvement has been seen in the public security of Japan.

However, roughly 50 percent of the cleared persons for Penal Code offenses was repeat offenders in 2020, and the rate of re-imprisoned inmates among new inmates reached about 60 percent. Taking the above facts into consideration, the question of how we should prevent the repetition of crimes and delinquencies (=preventing recidivism) is a major challenge.

The Ministry of Justice carries out various measures to ensure the safety and security of citizens, including countermeasures for repeat offenses.



The Number of Repeat Offenders Among non-traffic penal code Offenses /Changes in the Rate of Repeat Offenders (2001-2020)



(Note 1) Annual Report of Statistics on Correction

(Note 2) “Repeat offenders” refer to people who are arrested for the second criminal offence, excluding any violations of the Road Traffic Law.

## Comprehensive Measures to Prevent Recidivism

At the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in July 2012, the Comprehensive Measures for the Prevention of Recidivism stipulating the mid- to long-term government efforts toward preventing recidivism were established.

In this strategy, a numerical target to “decrease the proportion

of persons who are re-imprisoned within two years of their release from prison by at least 20% by 2021” was set as the first ever government efforts toward preventing recidivism. As of 2021, the government has achieved this target and the latest value is 15.7%. Details are presented in the following.

## Enhancing Guidance According to Each Offender's Characteristics

As various factors underlie crime and delinquency, prevention of re-offending needs treatment focused on each offender's characteristics.

Therefore, prisons, juvenile training schools, and probation offices seek to enhance effective and seamless guidance based on empirical studies, according to the individual characteristics.

### Guidance Provided at Prisons and Probation Offices

For inmates who have difficulty in rehabilitation or smooth return to society for specified reasons such as drug dependency, the following programs are conducted at prisons:

- Guidance for Overcoming Drug Addiction
- Guidance for Withdrawal from Organized Crime Groups
- Re-offending Prevention Guidance for Sexual Offenders
- Education from Victims' points of view
- Traffic Safety Guidance
- Job Assistance Guidance



Group session at a Prison

Treatment in juvenile training schools takes into consideration the problem of each individual inmate. For inmates with specific needs, the following programs are conducted:

- Education with the Victim's Point of View
- Education for Drug and Delinquency Prevention
- Education for Prevention of Sex Offense
- Education for Prevention of Violence
- Education for Improvement of Family Relationships
- Education for Improvement of Peer Association

In addition to specialized treatment programs such as sex offender treatment program, drug relapse prevention program, violence prevention program or alcohol-impaired driving prevention program, probation offices implement social contribution activities as well.

#### Examples of social contribution activities



Helping serve lunch at a welfare facility



Cleanup activity at a riverside

## Creating a Place to Belong and Work in the Community

### Securing Work to Lead an Independent Life

Approximately 70% of persons who have been re-imprisoned were unemployed at the time they reoffended. Employment provides not only steady income, but is also expected to establish interpersonal relationships through work that will then lead to greater opportunities to re-establish oneself as an independent member of society.

However, those who have committed crimes or delinquency

tend to have difficulty obtaining jobs due to insufficient vocational abilities or criminal records.

The Ministry of Justice has made effort toward work assistance in cooperation not only with prisons and probation offices, but with various organizations as well as private citizens such as cooperative employers in the community.

### Vocational Training that Meets the Needs of Society

Prisons and juvenile training schools conduct vocational training that leads to employment in industries with high social needs, such as construction and nursing care.

In addition to providing inmates technique and skills, we also give training for them to acquire the attitudes and abilities required for work, such as social manners as a member of society and communication skills in the workplace.



Nursing Care and Welfare Division

### Efforts in the Community

Business owners that employ ex-offenders/ juvenile delinquents and help them become independent and rehabilitated are called "cooperative employers" (see page 38).

The Ministry of Justice promotes financial aid for cooperative employers as well as support systems that employers can continue to employ ex-offenders and juvenile delinquents with an easy mind.

The Ministry of Justice is recruiting business owners to serve as cooperative employers.



Cooperative employers



### **ACTION!** Providing Employment Information for Inmates

In order to match inmates with job offers from companies willing to employ released inmates, the Ministry of Justice promotes measures that allow companies to post job offers in particular correctional institutions through Hello Work.

Further, Employment Support Information Center for Correction (commonly known as "CORRE-Work") was established in Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, Takamatsu and Fukuoka Regional Correction Headquarters. CORRE-Work collectively manages information on such things as place of return and acquired qualifications for inmates across the country, and provides companies willing to employ released inmates with information on institutions housing inmates who meet their needs.

# 1 Toward Japan as “the Safest Country in the World”

## ■ Ensuring a Place to Belong in the Community

For inmates who can rely on relatives, arrangements are made so that they can receive support from their relatives after release.

Meanwhile, for offenders whose repeated criminal behavior has estranged them from relatives, have become isolated with no one to support them, and have no place to return to, efforts are made to provide them with temporary housing, such as offender rehabilitation facilities (see page 37).

In addition, efforts of providing life counseling and support by offender rehabilitation facility staffs are made for offenders who have no place to return to, to live in the community after leaving offender rehabilitation facilities.

Moreover, for inmates who have difficulty in leading independent lives such as the elderly or disabled, improvements have been made to the systems in cooperation with correctional institutions/probation offices and local public authorities so that they can receive appropriate welfare services after their release.



A room of an offender rehabilitation facility

## Strengthening Function of Offender Rehabilitation Facilities and Securing a Variety of Housing

To enhance treatment for inmates who have difficulty leading independent lives, such as the elderly, the disabled, or those dependent on drugs, the Ministry has stationed officials with professional qualifications in the fields such as welfare or psychology, etc. to strengthen the ability of offender rehabilitation facilities to accept inmates.

In addition, the Ministry has striven since 2011 to secure a variety of places that can accept inmates using housing managed by NPOs (self-reliance support homes) .



Treatment at an offender rehabilitation facility

## Declaring “No Returning to Crime, No Facilitating Other's Return to Crime”

—We Will Work Toward a Bright Future in a Society Where We All Support Rehabilitation—

To make Japan “the Safest Country in the World”, without repeated crime and, above all, with no new victims, where citizens can live in safety and peace, it is essential to create a social environment in which those who once committed crimes or delinquency can be accepted naturally as responsible members of society without rejection and isolation (re-entry).

To achieve such a society, the declaration “No Returning to Crime, No Facilitating Other's Return to Crime” was approved at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime held in December 2014.

Aimed at securing employment and housing, which are key to preventing recidivism, this declaration asks for the effort of the

nation and support from citizens by setting the following two numerical targets that to be achieved by 2020.

- ① triple the number of business owners willing to employ persons who have committed crimes or delinquent acts after gaining an understanding of their conditions
- ② reduce the number of people returning to society from prisons who have no place to go back to by at least 30 percent.

As of October 1, 2019, the government has achieved both of these targets and is continuing its efforts to secure employment and housing.

## Emergency Measures to Prevent Recidivism by Persons with Drug Dependencies, Elderly Offenders, and Others

—Establishment of a Long-Term Support Network to Facilitate Rehabilitation—

Many drug addicts who have had difficulty recovering and many elderly or disabled who have committed crimes fall between the gaps of criminal justice and local community, and return to crime without receiving necessary support.

For this reason, the Emergency Measures to Prevent recidivism in Drug Addicts and Elderly Offenders, which focuses on drug addicts and elderly offenders, were formulated in July 2017 at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime.

These measures promote the following three policies and aim to establish a nationwide network that supports the recovery of drug addicts and elderly or disabled persons who have committed crimes.

- ① An integrated system of guidance provided by correctional institutions and probation offices, as well as medical treatment by medical facilities to aid drug addicts in their recovery
- ② The provision of guidance and support through all stages of the criminal justice system in conjunction with the local community
- ③ Promotion of long-term civic support initiatives to facilitate rehabilitation

Implementing these initiatives in an integrated manner will ensure that the Comprehensive Measures to Prevent Recidivism will achieve their numerical targets, and will make efforts to help make Japan “the Safest Country in the World,” a country in which crimes are not repeated and in which people can live with safety and peace of mind.



## Act for the Prevention of Recidivism & Recidivism Prevention Plan

The Act for the Prevention of Recidivism, which, along with clarifying the responsibilities of the national and local governments, as to preventing recidivism sets basic measures and stipulates the comprehensive and systematic promotion of measures to prevent recidivism in order to create a society where citizens can live in safety and peace, was announced and took effect in December 2017.

Moreover, the Review Committee for the Recidivism Prevention Plan, chaired by the Minister of Justice, was established in February 2018 to discuss the matters listed in the Recidivism Prevention Plan Draft created by the Minister of Justice based on the said law, resulting in many meetings with relevant ministries and committees of private experts. A review committee was then held to compile a plan proposal, and after passing through the public comment, the Cabinet decided on the Recidivism Prevention Plan in December 2018.

Under the five basic policies, regarding seven priority issues, 115 measures are stipulated in this plan.

Seven priority issues in "Recidivism Prevention Plan"

- ① Securing Employment and Housing
- ② Facilitating the Use of Health, Medical, and Welfare Services
- ③ Implementation Educational Support in Collaboration with Schools, and Others
- ④ Implementation Effective Guidance That is Tailored to the Individual Attributes of Persons Who Have Committed Offences
- ⑤ Facilitating the Activities of Cooperating Members of the Private Sector Advancing Public Relations and Awareness-Raising Activities
- ⑥ Strengthening Collaboration with Local Governments
- ⑦ Development the Personnel and Physical Systems of the Relevant Organizations

## Acceleration Plan for Recidivism Prevention Plan

-Toward the Improvement of "Long-term" Support, such as the Countermeasures for Those Released on Completion of their Full Prison Sentence-

Offenders are divided into "Those released on completion of their full prison sentence" and "Those released on parole" who were released on parole in the middle of their prison term and live in the community while under probation. When their re-imprisonment rates within two years (the rates of inmates who become re-imprisoned within two years of release from prison) are compared, the present status is that those released on completion of their full prison sentence is two or more times than those released on parole, and thus how recidivism by those released on completion of their full prison sentence should be prevented is a major issue.

Those who committed crimes and delinquencies, such as those released on completion of their full prison sentence, have various issues toward rehabilitation and "Long-term" support in the community, including after the completion of criminal procedures is needed. To do so, strengthening cooperation with local governments that provide welfare services, etc. and cooperators from the private sector that locally support those who committed crimes and delinquencies is important.

To respond to these issues, the "Acceleration Plan for Plan" was established at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in December 2019.

This plan accelerates the following three issues.

- ① Improvement and enhancement of the countermeasures for those released on completion of their full prison sentence;
- ② Promotion of the strengthening of cooperation with local governments
- ③ Promotion of activities by cooperating members of the private sector.

The Plan also newly upheld the following two performance goals of

- ① Decrease the number of those released on expiry of their full prison sentence who are re-imprisoned within two years by 20% or more to 2,000 or less by 2022; and
- ② Support 100 or more local governments to allow the development of a local recidivism prevention plan by the end of fiscal 2021.

The various government departments unite as one to tackle the various challenges involved in the Plan to improve and strengthen the countermeasures to prevent recidivism among those released on completion of their full prison sentence, strongly support various recidivism prevention challenges by local governments and cooperating members of the private sector, and improve the support system in communities.

## White Paper on Recidivism Prevention

Based on the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism, the Ministry of Justice annually organizes the measures for the prevention of recidivism, etc. taken by the government and releases the "White Paper on Recidivism Prevention."

The FY 2021 edition of the White Paper covers the efforts implemented by the relevant ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of Justice, until the end of FY 2020, as well as introducing activities by cooperating members of the private sector.

The White Paper is viewable on the website of the Ministry of Justice and can be purchased at bookstores/Government Publications Centers, etc. across Japan. Please take a look at it.



Website of the Ministry of Justice Measures to Prevent Recidivism ▶▶▶

[https://www.moj.go.jp/hisho/seisakuhyouka/hisho04\\_00038.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/hisho/seisakuhyouka/hisho04_00038.html)



## Efforts to Achieve Safety and Security

### ■ Cooperation Between the Foreign Investigative Authorities and Japan

In order to deal effectively with the frequent occurrence of violent crimes by foreign nationals as well as the increasing number of international 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 Treaty between Japan and the United States of America on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on July 21, 2006), the Treaty between Japan and the Republic of Korea on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on January 26, 2007), the Treaty between Japan and the People's Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on November 23, 2008), the Agreement between Japan and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on September 24, 2009), the Agreement between Japan and the European Union on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on January 2, 2011), the Treaty between Japan and the Russian Federation on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on February 11, 2011), the Convention on Cybercrime (entered into force on November 1, 2012), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (entered into force on August 10, 2017) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (entered into force on August 10, 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.

### ■ Measures at the Border

In order to protect the lives and safety of the public, it is highly important to prevent those who intend to enter Japan for illegal purposes, such as terrorists and criminals who disguise themselves as tourists, from entering Japan at the border and ports of entry. To ensure that such illegal entrants are identified, the Immigration Services Agency conducts strict and effective immigration examinations and implements surveillance and monitoring through the methods below.

- Immigration Examinations utilizing Biometric Information (Fingerprints and Facial Photographs)
- Utilization of Database of Stolen and Lost Travel Documents provided by the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)
- Utilization of API (Advance Passenger Information) and PNR (Passenger Name Record)
- Reinforcement of Information Collection and Analysis on Immigration Control
- Patrolling and Other Activities at Airports and Seaports



Immigration examinations through the use of biometric information



Scene of patrolling a seaport

### ■ Measures Against Illegal Foreign Residents

Along with measures at the border, reducing the number of illegal foreign nationals currently residing in Japan is important in restoring security. The Immigration Services Agency strives to reduce the

number of illegal foreign residents by reinforcing investigations, implementing safe and secure deportation, preventing illegal employment, and publicizing the Departure Order System more widely.

The Agency is also actively engaged in taking measures and developing a society free from illegal foreign residents, analyzing information on foreign residents obtained through the Residency Management System, understanding the situation of disguised residents, and appropriately conducting procedures for revocation of status of residence.

### ■ Efforts by Public Security Intelligence Agency

Public Security Intelligence Agency collects and analyzes information related to economic security. The Agency provides key government apparatuses and other relevant bodies with information on, for instance, advanced technology leaks through various channels and acquisitions by foreign capital of real estate located near critical facilities. It also aims to promote awareness among private companies and universities by preparing and publishing awareness-building movies and leaflets on preventing technology and data leaks.

In addition, to strengthen counter-intelligence functions and prevent the proliferation of materials and technology related to weapons of mass destruction, the Agency also diligently pursues the gathering and analysis of relevant information. In addition, to counter increasingly serious threats to the cyberspace, the Agency gathers and analyzes information and provides intelligence to relevant organizations in a timely manner, contributing to the government's measures against cyber attacks and cyber intelligence.

Regarding international terrorism, the threat of terrorism still continues to exist as demonstrated by the serial terrorist bombing attacks in Sri Lanka in April 2019, which involved Japanese nationals as victims, as well as the series of attacks in Europe committed by those influenced by international terrorist organizations. Furthermore, the situation in Afghanistan requires close attention as there is a concern that the country may become a breeding ground for terrorism after the Taliban, which has provided sanctuary for al-Qaida, took power. Meanwhile, extremist groups in Japan have carried out illegal activities and have cooperated with anti-globalization forces. In order to deal appropriately with these situations, the Agency is strengthening collection and analysis of information related to international terrorist groups and these domestic groups, as well as strengthening systems for providing pertinent information to Japanese citizens traveling or living abroad. In addition, the Agency is promoting and enhancing its efforts as a core member of the intelligence community of Japan by for instance actively providing the International Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Collection Unit of Japan (CTU-J) and Counter-Terrorism and -Intelligence Information and Data Exchange Center of Japan (CTH-INDEX), among others, with relevant intelligence.

The Agency has verified the danger and anti-social nature of Aum Shinrikyo, as there are still believers who place absolute faith in Chizuo Matsumoto, the mastermind of the group's indiscriminate mass murder and popularly known as Shoko Asahara, even now after his execution. The Agency continues to conduct surveillance on the group with appropriate diligence and provide relevant local authorities upon request by their heads with the investigation results based on this surveillance in order to protect public security and also to remove and alleviate fear and anxiety of local residents.



**Leaflet, movie and contact information on economic security**  
<https://www.moj.go.jp/psia/keizaiampo.top.html>



**Overview of Threats in Cyberspace 2021**  
<https://www.moj.go.jp/psia/20130807.html>



**"Handbook of International Terrorism" (Web version)**  
<https://www.moj.go.jp/psia/ITH/index.html>



## Support for Crime Victims

### Basic Act on Crime Victims and The Basic Plan for Crime Victims

Basic Act on Crime Victims was established in 2004, stating that "As everyone in society is vulnerable to becoming a Crime Victim, policies from the viewpoints of Crime Victims are required. These steps must be taken into account to realize a society where the Crime Victims' interests and well-being are protected".

Pursuant to the Basic Act on Crime Victims, the Government must establish a basic plan concerning policies for crime victims, etc. in order to promote policies for crime victims, etc. in a comprehensive and planned manner. In 2021, the Fourth Basic Plan for Crime Victims, whose duration was set as five years from April, 1, 2021 until the end of the fiscal year 2025 was formulated, and measures for crime victims are promoted through collaboration between relevant government ministries.

### Efforts by Ministry of Justice –Aiming for seamless and continuous support for crime victims

The Ministry of Justice promotes various support measures aiming for seamless and continuous support to crime victims.

For example, Victim Notification System is in place. The public prosecutor's office notifies crime victims of information related to their cases, including decisions on prosecution, trial outcomes, and the dates of offenders' release, as well as information on offenders,

#### Five priorities in the Fourth Basic Plan for Crime Victims

- ① Efforts to recover the victims' damages and to provide them with economic support
- ② Efforts for the victims to recover from or to prevent mental and/or physical damage
- ③ Efforts to broaden the opportunity for victims to participate in criminal procedures
- ④ Efforts to improve the systems to support crime victims, etc
- ⑤ Efforts to foster the understanding among citizens and to earn their consideration and cooperation

such as treatment of offenders after the judgement became final and binding, and under the disposition for rehabilitation, upon victims' request and in collaboration with relevant organizations.

Besides this, the Ministry of Justice promotes support measures that can be taken at the time of trial or hearing and after trial or hearing ends.

#### Support measures at the time of trial

##### Victim participation system

The victims of crimes such as murder or injury may, when they so wish and with the court's permission, attend the trial dates, and engage in activities such as questioning the defendant under certain requirements.

#### Support measures at the time of hearing

##### Victims' attendance at the juvenile hearing

Victims of serious cases, such as murder, can attend the juvenile hearing with the permission of the court.

#### Support measures after trial or hearing ends

##### Opinion hearing system in parole examination

A system is in place that allows crime victims to express their opinions regarding the parole and other releases of the person subject to proceedings and their sentiment on damage caused by the crimes or delinquency during parole examinations by Regional Parole Boards.

##### Communication system of victims' sentiments to probationers/parolees

A system is in place that, during the probation or parole, crime victims may communicate their sentiments regarding damage, the current situation of the victims and their opinions toward the life or behavior of the probationer or parolees to the parole office, and the relevant probation office conveys them to the probationer or parolee.

##### Remission payment system

Under the Act on Issuance of Remission Payments Using Stolen and Misappropriated Property it is now possible under certain conditions to confiscate property obtained by offenders through property offenses or other offenses, and to use this confiscated property in the recovery of financial damages suffered by the crime victims of relevant cases.

\*Remission Payment System is for victims of criminal acts such as property criminals who were certified in criminal trials.

#### The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) nominates candidates to act as court-appointed attorneys for participating victims and notifies the court, as well as pays travel expenses, etc. to participating victims, provides information to support crime victims, introduces attorneys with experience and understanding of crime victims assistance, and provides legal consultation aid for victims of domestic violence, stalking, and child abuse.

## Efforts Concerning Prevention of Child Abuse in the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice has been proceeding with various efforts concerning the prevention of child abuse. For example, the Ministry has been striving for the early detection of child abuse through counseling on children's rights the human rights bodies (p.29), juveniles and their parents' consultations with the Juvenile Classification Homes (p.40), etc.

As a response when child abuse occurs, the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) is implementing various efforts, such as providing legal consultation assistance for abused children (p.16), and conducting hearings by its representatives when the public prosecutor, police, or Child Guidance Center conducts hearings concerning an abused child, in order to secure the credibility of statements while mitigating the child's burden.





## Smooth and Strict Immigration Screening

With the aim to be a leader in the field of tourism, Japan has been implementing a range of measures to carry out smooth entry screening for foreign nationals with legitimate reasons for coming to the country, and strict entry screening to apprehend those suspected of intending to break the law, such as working illegally.

For smooth entry screening, a device commonly known as Bio Cart has been used since October 2016 to shorten the time taken to collect personal identification information from foreign nationals during their landing inspections. This device makes it possible to collect their fingerprints and facial photographs while they wait for arrival screening. This device is operated at 20 air and sea ports as of December 31, 2021. Automated gates (fingerprint authentication gates) have also been introduced at Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Chubu Airport, and Kansai Airport. These gates can automatically perform the departure and entry (return) procedures by collating passports and fingerprints. They are used by Japanese nationals who have registered in advance to use the gates and foreign nationals who meet certain requirements (the Trusted Traveler Program launched in November 2016 has expanded the scope of eligible foreign users; in March 2020, the scope of users eligible to be registered in the same program was expanded).

Furthermore, the decision was made to streamline the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals through applying face recognition technology. As such, since October 2017 facial recognition automated gates that do not require prior registration procedures have been implemented as part of the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals.

To streamline the departure procedures for foreign nationals as well, facial recognition automated gates have gradually been phased in to departure procedures for them since July 2019.

In response to the increasing number of foreigners visiting Japan by cruise ship, the entry inspection procedures for foreign passengers on cruise ships have also been simplified. Through introducing the "Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists" system, foreign passengers on cruise ships designated by the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency are allowed to land with simple procedures.

With regard to strict entry screening, on the other hand, efforts have been made to prevent terrorists and other foreigners undesirable to Japan from entering. This is being achieved by using Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) reported by airlines, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization's (ICPO) Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database (SLTD database). In principle, foreign nationals who wish to enter Japan are also required to provide personal identification information (fingerprints and facial photographs).



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 within the scope of their status of residence and period of stay, which is determined at the time of their landing. Those who desire to change their status of residence or extend their period of stay are required to obtain permission at the Regional Immigration Services Bureau in accordance with Japanese laws and regulations. Through the examination process, Japan seeks to implement proper residence management of foreign nationals, guarantee their activities and stay in Japan, as well as protect the interests and security of Japanese nationals.

### Online Residence Procedures

At the request of a foreign national, staff members of the organization of affiliation (that is accepting the foreign national) who meet certain requirements, or Attorneys and certified administrative procedures legal specialists who have been requested by the organization, can apply online for a residence procedure for the foreign national. (In order to use the online residence application system, they must apply for the system use by mail, etc. and receive approval from a regional immigration services office in advance.)

Besides, from March 2022, a foreign national can personally make online residence application, verifying the identity with the personal authentication function of the Individual Number Card.

Please refer to the Immigration Services Agency's website for details on how to use the online residence application system and the information about application types and statuses of residence available for online application.

The Immigration Services Agency plans to expand the scope of applicable online procedures in the future. As soon as decided, the details will be posted on the Immigration Services Agency's website.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, please take advantage of the online residence application system.



The mascot of Online Residence Procedures "Rasuppi"



For the details about the online residence application system, please visit the website. ▶▶▶



<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/guide/onlineshinsei.html>

## ■ Establishment of the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”

In order to respond to a growing labor shortage, for industries that face difficulties in securing human resources even after national efforts to improve productivity and to secure domestic human resources, on April 1, 2019, the status of residence

“Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” were established to accept foreign nationals who have a certain level of expertise and skill in the industrial fields and who are immediately ready to work.

### System Outline Status of Residence

- In order to cope with the worsening labor shortages, the statuses of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” were established for the acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals who have a certain degree of expertise and skills in the industrial fields where it is still difficult to secure human resources even if efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources. (Started on April 1, 2019)
  - **Specified Skilled Worker (i):** Status of Residence for foreign nationals engaging in work requiring skills which need considerable degree of knowledge or experience belonging to a specific industrial field.
  - **Specified Skilled Worker (ii):** Status of Residence for foreign nationals engaging in work requiring proficient skills belonging to a specified field
- Specified Industry Fields (14 Fields) : Nursing care, Building cleaning management, Machine parts & tooling industries, Industrial machinery industry, Electric, Electronics and information industries, Construction industry, Shipbuilding and ship machinery industry, Automobile repair and maintenance, Aviation industry, Accommodation industry, Agriculture, Fishery & aquaculture, Manufacture of food and beverages, Food service industry
- (Specified skilled workers (ii) can only be accepted in the two underlined fields.)
- Number of Specified Skilled Workers (i) residing in Japan : 38,337 people (as of the end of September, 2021)

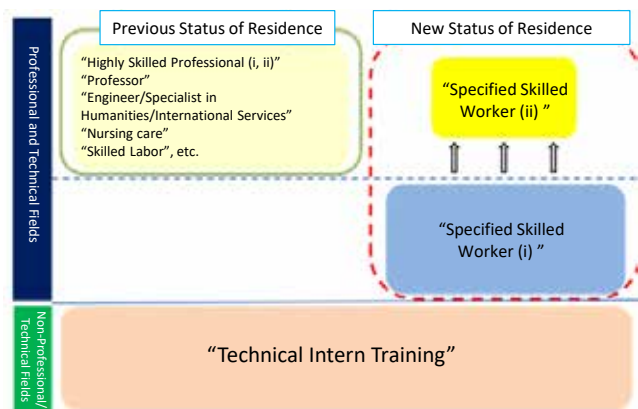
#### Major Points for Specified Skilled Worker (i)

- Period of stay: Renewed every 1 year, 6 months or 4 months, up to 5 years in total
- Skill Standards: Confirmed by exams, etc. (those who have completed Technical Intern Training (ii) are exempted from exams, etc.)
- Japanese language level: Proficiency in Japanese language required in daily life and at the workplace needs to be confirmed by exams, etc. (those who have completed Technical Intern Training (ii) are exempted from exams, etc.)
- Accompanied by family members: basically not permitted
- Eligible for support by Accepting Organizations or Registered Support Organizations

#### Major Points for Specified Skilled Worker (ii)

- Period of stay: Renewed every 3 years, 1 year or 6 months
- Skill Standards: Confirmed by exams, etc.
- Japanese language level: No need for confirmation by exams, etc.
- Accompanied by family members : Possible if requirements are met (spouse, children)
- Not eligible for support by Accepting Organizations or Registered Support Organizations

#### [Skill Level for Status of Residence Eligible to Work]



### System Outline Accepting Organizations and Registered Support Organizations

#### About the accepting organizations

##### 1. Criteria for accepting organizations to accept foreign nationals

- ① Employment contract entered into with the foreign national is appropriate (e.g., the amount of remuneration is equivalent to or greater than that a Japanese national would receive for the same kind of work)
- ② The organization itself is appropriate (e.g., no violation of the immigration or labor-related laws within the past 5 years)
- ③ There is a system in place to support foreign nationals (e.g., able to offer support in a language understood by foreign nationals)
- ④ The plan to support foreign nationals is appropriate (e.g., includes general living orientation, etc.)

##### 2. Obligations of the accepting organization

- ① Reliable fulfillment of the employment contract entered into with the foreign national (e.g., payment of appropriate remuneration)
  - ② Provision of appropriate support for foreign nationals → possible to outsource support to a registered support organization  
If all support is entrusted, 1 ③ has already been satisfied
  - ③ Submission of various notifications to the Immigration Services Agency
- Note. Failure to do ① to ③ will result in permission being denied for acceptance of foreign nationals, and the organization may be subject to guidance and improvement orders from the Immigration Services Agency.

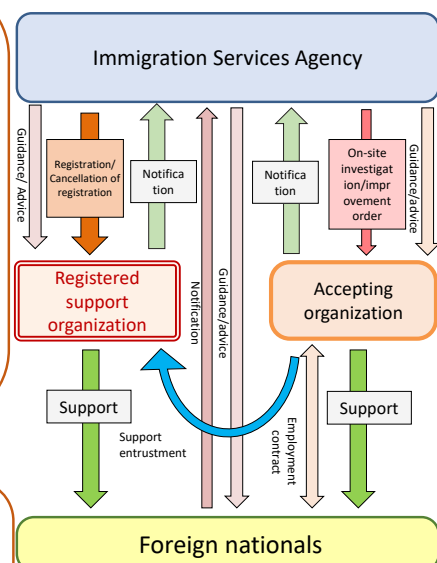
#### About the registered support organizations

##### 1. Criteria for registration

- ① The organization itself is appropriate (e.g., no violation of the immigration or labor-related laws within the past 5 years)
- ② There is a system in place to support foreign nationals (e.g., able to offer support in a language understood by foreign nationals)

##### 2. Obligations of the registered support organization

- ① Implementation of appropriate support for foreign nationals
  - ② Submission of various notifications to the Immigration Services Agency
- Note. Failure to do ① and ② may result in registration being revoked.



### Promotion of Measures against Illegal Residents to Realize a Safe and Secure Society

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

The number of foreign nationals illegally staying beyond their authorized period of stay in Japan peaked in 1993 (about 299,000). Although the increase has been halted, the number still stands at about 83,000, and most of them are thought to be working illegally.

The presence of foreign nationals working illegally undermines the legal system for accepting foreign nationals, and not only negatively affects the Japanese labor market, but also causes a multitude of problems in various areas such as public morals and public safety. On the other hand, there have been cases where foreign nationals are forced to work under poor conditions.

In deciding whether to deport or not, the process of ascertaining the facts and considering the circumstances of the foreign nationals through investigation, examination into violation, and hearing is carefully carried out.

This series of steps is called the “deportation procedures.”

Foreign nationals who fall under the grounds for deportation will be subject to deportation procedures. In Japan, however, not all foreign nationals who fall under the grounds for deportation stipulated in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act will be deported. The Minister of Justice may grant special permission to stay in Japan to some foreign nationals, considering their social background in Japan and family circumstances, etc.



Immigration Control Officers

### 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.”

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 2020, the number of those who made applications for recognition of refugee status totaled 3,936 persons, a decrease of 6,439 persons, or about 62%, from the previous year. The number of those who were recognized as refugees in 2020 was 47 (of whom 1 was recognized as a refugee after filing an objection). The number of those who were not recognized as refugees but were allowed to stay in Japan owing to humanitarian grounds was 44.

In addition, Japan accepts refugees through resettlement. Between FY2010 and FY2014, Japan accepted a total of 18 Myanmar families constituting 86 Myanmar refugees, who had been given temporary asylum in Thailand, as a Pilot Project for third-country resettlement, and provided settlement support. In FY2015, Japan started to accept Myanmar refugees, who had been given temporary asylum in Malaysia, and 32 families constituting 108 Myanmar refugees were accepted from Malaysia between FY2015 and FY2019 (In FY2020, the spreading scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic made third-country resettlement of refugees impossible.). 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.

Since accepting Indochinese refugees from 1978, Japan has accepted not only refugees under the Refugee Convention but also refugees for resettlement and people deserving humanitarian consideration. As of the end of 2020, the total number of such people (those who were offered asylum) was 15,063.

### Development of an Environment of Acceptance of Foreign Nationals to Realize a Society of Harmonious Coexistence

#### Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals (Adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals)

In December 2018, the government formulated “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Comprehensive Measures”) which include measures related to scenes in daily life such as work environment, education, medical care and housing from the perspective of more strongly and comprehensively promoting the measures for acceptance

and coexistence of foreign nationals based on establishment of the Specified Skilled Worker system (enforcement of April 2019). The government has so far made three revisions of the Comprehensive Measures, and the latest revision, formulated in June 2021, was made from the standpoint of further enhancing the environment of accepting foreign nationals, also based on the issues identified due to e.g. the



spread of COVID-19.

#### Highlights of the Comprehensive Measures (FY2021 revised)

- Formulation of work schedule for medium to long-term challenges and measures which should be addressed to realize a society of harmonious coexistence
- Implementation of screening by utilizing simple antigen kits in education institutions and workplace where many foreign nationals are enrolled, and implementation of prompt and

flexible PCR testing, etc.

- Dissemination and publicity of vaccination to foreign residents, ensured delivery of vaccination notice, and securing consultation and response systems in multiple languages
- Preferential treatment of implementing organizations that secure living environments for the technical intern trainees in consideration of their privacy and prevention of infection

## Main Policies of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan

### 1 Support for One-stop Consulting Counters

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 governments 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/she will be able to receive appropriate information or will be able to quickly reach a place that offers advice and consultations. In FY2021, there have been applications for subsidies from 214 local governments as of April. 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.

### 2 Collaboration and Cooperation with Local Governments through "Accepting Environment Coordinators"

In April 2019, "Accepting Environmental Coordinators", who are in charge of adjusting the environment surrounding the acceptance of foreign nationals, were assigned to the regional immigration services bureaus, and officers of the regional immigration services bureaus are sent to the one-stop consulting counter based on a request from local governments and information and training will be provided to the officers of the local governments engaging in consultation services.

By promoting multicultural coexistence policies in each region through facilitating the establishment of councils for the realization of a harmonious society of coexistence with foreign nationals in each prefecture, useful information such as good practices obtained through efforts by Accepting Environmental Coordinators is deployed through local governments.

### 3 Foreign Residents Support Center

The Foreign Residents Support Center (\* FRESC) was opened in July, 2020.

At the Resident 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 "Houterasu" 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 consultation counters at local government offices, hold training sessions for administrative officers of local governments through close cooperation among them.

These efforts to effectively support foreign residents have produced steady improvements in the environment of harmonious coexistence between Japanese and foreign nationals.

\* Foreign Residents Support Center ("FRESC")



URL: <https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/fresc/fresc01.html>

### 4 Immigration Information Center

The Immigration Services Agency has set up the "Immigration Information Center" with a single nationwide phone number to help procedures related to entering and residing in Japan, to provide information about how to fill in relevant documents, etc., in multiple languages.

Moreover, the agency has placed counsellors at each regional immigration services bureau and district offices excluding airport offices, to cope with visitors' inquiries.

### 5 Guidebook on Living and Working

The Immigration Services Agency has prepared a cross-government "Guidebook on Living and Working" compiling basic information necessary for safe and secure living and working in Japan (residence procedures, labor-related laws and regulations, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) , and has published this guidebook in 14 languages\* on the "Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals" website.

\*Japanese (including Plain Japanese), English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Thai, Indonesian, Myanmar, Khmer (Cambodian), Filipino, Mongolian



URL: [https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/guidebook\\_all.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/guidebook_all.html)

### 6 Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support

In order to promote the use of plain Japanese by the national government, local governments, and other entities, expert meetings on the "Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support" have been held since February 2020, and the "Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support" were prepared in August 2020.

These guidelines are available on the "Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals" on the Immigration Services Agency website. Efforts will be made to promote the use of plain Japanese, such as providing information to local governments and the relevant ministries and agencies, and holding training for local government staff members.



URL: [https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/plainjapanese\\_guideline.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/plainjapanese_guideline.html)

# 3 Promotion of Judicial System Reform



## Ensuring that the Results of Justice System Reforms Take Root

The justice system has been expected to play an even larger role in the 21st century due to various social changes, including change from a society of ex-ante regulation and coordination to one of ex-post facto checks and remedies, making it necessary to continue strengthening judiciary function and establish a new legal system that is readily accessible to the general public.

To achieve a justice system that is faster, more reliable, and more familiar to the public, the Ministry has implemented reform based on the following three fundamental principles: (1) construction of a justice system that meets the expectations of citizens; (2) reform of the legal community to support the justice system; and (3) estab-

lishment of the foundations of justice among citizens (citizen participation in the justice system). A total of 24 acts related to judicial system reform were enacted and implemented in the three years from 2002 to 2004.

Now, we must work to establish this judicial system reform so that the justice system can fully exercise its function and the public can share in the fruits of reform, while amending the system if necessary.

Being in charge of the justice system, the Ministry of Justice is ready to take appropriate measures to meet the demands of a new age while giving due regard to the aims of judicial system reform.

### History of Reform

July	1999	Justice System Reform Council (JSRC) within the Cabinet established
June	2001	Recommendations of the JSRC to the Cabinet submitted
December	2001	Office for Promotion of Justice System Reform (OPJSR) within the Cabinet established (time limit for establishment: November 2004)
March	2002	Plan for Promotion of Justice System Reform approved by the Cabinet
December	2004	Office for Promotion of Justice System Reform established within the Cabinet Secretariat (until: December 2009)

### The Three Pillars of the Reform

#### Construction of a Justice System that Meets the Expectations of the People

##### ● Establishment of the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The Center aims to enable people throughout the country can get the information and services they need to have recourse to the law in resolving disputes. (Concerning the Japan Legal Support Center, please see page 32 of "Implementation of the Comprehensive Legal Support by the Japan Legal Support Center")

##### ● Enhancement of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The function of ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), which allows for autonomous and flexible dispute settlement, will be enhanced in addition to enhancing its functions of adjudication. (For enhancement of ADR, please see page 31 of "Legal Services" )

##### ● Improvement and Acceleration of Criminal Trials

Punitive authority shall be exercised more appropriately and expeditiously through the introduction of pretrial arrangement proceedings and state-appointed counsel.

##### ● Promoting Translation of Japanese Laws

Translation of Japanese laws shall be promoted in order to build a foundation for facilitating international transactions and promoting direct foreign investment.

#### Reform of the Legal Community

##### ● Education System Reform for the Legal Community

Cultivate the legal community through law schools, the national bar examination, and legal training.

##### ● Increasing the Number of Legal Professionals

Cultivate the legal community in terms of both quality and quantity, and increase the number of legal professionals.

#### Establishment of the Foundations of Justice Among Citizens

##### ● Lay Judge System -"Saiban-in System"

A system in which citizens participate in criminal trials. commenced May 21, 2009

##### ● Promotion of Law-Related Education

Promote Law-Related Education which aims to understand laws, the judicial system, and the values that underlie them for cultivating people to maintain a free and just society.

## Promotion of Translation of Japanese Laws

In order for Japanese laws to be broadly and correctly understood, the Ministry of Justice is actively translating Japanese laws into foreign languages and making them available on the Ministry's website. Over 800 English translations of the laws, including the Civil Law and Companies Act, are published on the Japanese Law Translation website (link on the right), along with English translations of outlines of amended laws in an easy-to-follow and timely manner. In addition to this, the Standard Legal Terms Dictionary and other material serving as a guideline for legal translation are also available on the site.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to publish information on English translation of priority laws, and revisions to the Standard Legal Terms Dictionary.



### The Japanese Law Translation website

<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp>



Japanese Law Translation  
Promotion Mascot

YAKU



## Establishing a New Criminal Justice System that Keeps Pace with the Times

With regard to the criminal justice system, a variety of reforms, such as the Saiban-in (lay judge) system, had been advanced as part of judicial system reform. On the other hand, discussions on reform had highlighted problems, such as procedural methods for investigations and trials suitable to this new era, which remained on the agenda to be examined in the future.

Under those circumstances, questions had been raised about whether the criminal justice system methods for investigations and trials might be too dependent on interrogations and confession statements. In order for the system to fully achieve its goal of ensuring the safe and secure livelihood of citizens, it was necessary to examine diverse issues and to build a new criminal justice system based on such suggestions.

In May 2011, in order to establish a new criminal justice system that keeps pace with the times, the Minister of Justice called on the Legislative Council of the Ministry of Justice to deliberate ways to develop substantive criminal and procedural law relating to criminal cases, and in a report submitted to the Minister in September 2014, the Council delivered two principles: (1) the moderation and the diversification of evidence-gathering and (2) the improvement of trial procedure.

Based on this report, the Ministry of Justice prepared and submitted a proposal for a bill to revise the Code of Criminal Procedure and other codes to the 189th session of the Diet. The bill was enacted in May 2016.

This act includes nine items necessary for the new criminal justice system: i) introducing audiovisual recording systems for interrogations, ii) introducing a prosecutorial agreement system for cooperation in investigations and trials, iii) rationalizing and streamlining the interception of electronic communication, iv) clarifying elements for consideration concerning whether to admit discretionary bail, v) improving legal assistance by defense counsels, vi) broadening information disclosure systems, vii) introducing measures for protecting victims and witnesses, viii) raising statutory penalties of crimes related to obstruction of justice, and ix) introducing measures to simplify and accelerate trials when defendants admit their guilt. The act incorporates all the items mentioned above into the present criminal justice system and aims to establish a more moderate and more effective criminal justice system.

The provisions of this act were enforced sequentially by June 2019.

## Enrichment and Development of Law-Related Education

### 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.

### The Importance of Law-Related Education

Following the reforms in various fields and deregulation in Japan, it has become even more crucial to prevent disputes and solve them fairly based on law once they occur. Furthermore, as the lay judge system (see page 28) symbolizes, it is essential for every citizen to take an active role in the judicial system so that it is supported nationally.

The Courses of Study, the national curriculum standard, provides that students study the basic concepts of laws, the significance of public involvement in judicial proceedings, and the importance of contract. In addition, Law-Related Education is becoming more important with various changes in the social environment such as lowering the legal age.

Considering the importance of Law-Related Education, the Ministry of Justice is working on its improvement and development, and will continue efforts to improve the content of Law-Related Education at schools and other places in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and other relevant organizations.



### 3 Promotion of Judicial System Reform

#### ■ The Law-Related Education Promotion Council

The Law-Related Education Promotion Council established by the Ministry of Justice aims to increase opportunities to learn about law and the judicial system and to promote Law-Related Education in schools through such activities as developing teaching materials for Law-Related Education.

The Ministry of Justice will continue its efforts to enhance and develop Law-Related Education for citizens, especially those involved in education.

Law-Related Education mascot,  
“Hourisu-kun”

Hourism-kun plays an active role in various law-related events to make Law-Related Education more familiar to the general public.



## Saiban-in System

Commenced May 21, 2009, Saiban-in System is a system in which jurors selected from the general public participate in the criminal trials for serious cases. The jurors, along with professional judges, determine whether the defendant is guilty and what the sentence should be.

This system will make the justice system more familiar to citizens.

The Ministry of Justice has conducted public relations in order to deepen citizen understanding of this system.

#### Appointment Procedure

##### Around November

Persons selected by lot as next year's candidates for jurors are notified of their selection.

※At this stage the candidates do not need to appear in the court.

##### About six weeks before the trial

The candidates who have been further selected by lot for each trial will be notified of the date of their court appearance by writ of summons.

##### The day of the appointment procedure

Six jurors will be appointed through procedure at court.

#### Duties of jurors

##### Trial

Jurors hear witness testimonies and examine the evidence.

##### Deliberations

Jurors and professional judges deliberate and determine together whether the defendant is guilty and what the sentence will be.

##### Judgment

The presiding judge renders the judgment.



A courtroom for jury trials



Deliberation room



For more information  
about the system,  
please refer to  
our website

[https://www.moj.go.jp/  
keiji1/saibanin\\_index.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/keiji1/saibanin_index.html)





## Legal Affairs Bureau

### 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 further details, please check the Legal Affairs Bureau website.

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



### 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

## System for Documenting Your Rights

**Registration** (This system creates a public register on property and rights for the Legal Affairs Bureau and announces it to the public.)

### Protecting Assets:

#### Real Property Registration

Real Property Registration is a system that records the actual condition of our important property, including the location and area of land and buildings, the name and address of the owner, and the rights involved in a public book called a registry in a way that anyone can understand so as to create safe, smooth real estate dealings.

#### If it is not possible to identify the owner by checking the register...

Q

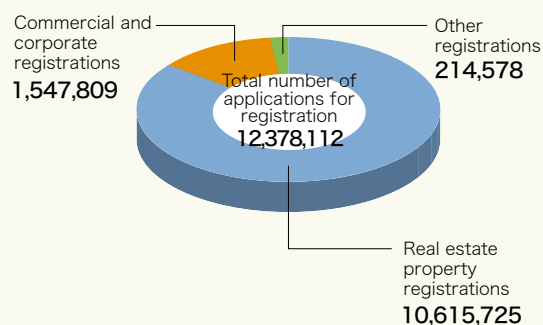
After years of saving, I have finally bought my dream home and moved in. However, there is a vacant plot of land in the neighborhood which has been illegally dumped on, and the smell is annoying. When we checked the register, we found out that the owner of the land is a person who bought the land a long time ago and has passed away, and we don't know who inherited the land. I heard that the number of land whose owner is unknown is increasing recently, is this true?

A

In recent years, due to the lack of inheritance registration and other reasons, there has been an increase in the number of lands whose owners cannot be immediately identified from the register, or cannot be contacted even if they are identified (unclaimed land), which is said to have reached an area equivalent to the Kyushu region. As a result, public works and private transactions do not proceed smoothly, and the land is not managed, which has a negative impact on the neighborhood and has become a social problem.

In order to solve the problem of unclaimed land, legislation has been introduced to make it compulsory to apply for inheritance registration (p.28).

#### Total Number of Registrations (2020)



### Registering your inheritance for the future

If you have acquired real estate, you can assert your rights against third parties if you have a registration showing that you have done so.

In addition, as shown in the Q&A on the left, for the proper management of the land, it is extremely important to make sure that the inheritance is registered when you inherit the real estate. If you do not register the inheritance, the land will become an unclaimed land, which may cause various problems. Conflicts on the inheritance in case there are other heirs besides you may take a lot of time and effort in order to find out who the heir is, making it difficult to dispose of the land immediately even if you want to.

Why not secure your rights and register inheritance, passing it along to the future of the next generation of children?

## 4 Realization of Basic Rights for People

### ■ Define Your Parcel of Land Clearly: Creating a Registry Office Designated Map

In order to clarify the exact location and dimensions of registered land, the registry office includes in the registration documents a map called a Registry Office Designated Map, created by high-precision surveying. However, since maintenance of Registry Office Designated Maps is insufficient because many registry offices use old maps created in the Meiji era, experts with specialized knowledge and many years of experience in the registry office have promoted the creation of Registry Office Designated Maps around the country.



Old Map



Registry Office Designated Map

### Economic Activity and Registry Office Designated Maps

When the land around Roppongi Hills was redeveloped, it took considerable time and money to define land parcel boundaries because only the old map existed.

In order to prevent such problems, a highly accurate Registry Office Designated Map is required. The development of Registry Office Designated Maps supports smoother economic activities such as land development.

### ■ Solving Boundary Disputes -Parcel Boundary Demarcation-

Parcel Boundary Demarcation is a system in which, based on requests from registered landowners, Registrars for Parcel Boundary Demarcation specify the location of land boundaries on-site based on the opinion of external experts called Parcel Boundary Examiners. Registrars for Parcel Boundary Demarcation do not make decide new boundaries, but rather clarify original boundaries set at the time of registration after conducting a range of investigations, including field research and surveys.

When issues regarding parcel boundaries arise, use of this system makes it possible to resolve of the problem without filing for litigation promptly.



Public awareness poster for the Parcel Boundary Demarcation system

### What is a Parcel Boundary?

A parcel boundary is a line that defines the position and dimensions of the land at the time of registration. The parcel boundary cannot be changed through agreements between the owners.

### ■ Ensuring safe economic activities -Commercial and Corporate Registration-

Commercial registration is a system for publicly notifying names, addresses and board members of companies (stock companies, general partnership companies, limited partnership companies, and limited liability companies), while corporate registration is a system for publicly notifying those of corporations other than companies (including general incorporated associations, general incorporated foundations, NPOs, and social welfare corporations).

Companies and corporations can obtain legal personality only after they register their establishment and maintain the public's confidence by registering their basic information. Commercial registration also helps them ensure safe and smooth transactions through being publicly notify by certificate of register etc., As information must be correctly registered in line with the actual information of the companies, they must attach supporting documents upon registration application. False statements and negligence in applications will result in legal punishment.

Furthermore, to improve the entrepreneurial environment, we are working on expediting the registration process of company incorporation (fast-tracking) and the processing of incorporation registrations within 24 hours for fully online applications.

### ■ Achieving a highly transparent registration -Arrangement of dormant companies/dormant general corporations-

With regard to dormant companies (stock companies for which 12 years have passed since the last registration)/dormant general corporations (general incorporated associations/foundations for which 5 years have passed since the last registration), it is highly likely that their business has already been discontinued and they do not exist as an entity, and they may be used for crime and cause damage the public confidence in the commercial registration system if their registrations remain unchanged. Accordingly, the Minister of Justice makes a public announcement for dormant companies etc. every year. If the dormant companies/dormant general corporations do not register a change in directors, etc. or notify the fact that it has not abolished its business within two months, they will be deemed to be dissolved and to be registered ex officio.

### ■ Infrastructure of Digital Society -Electronic Certification System Based on Commercial Registration-

The Legal Affairs Bureau issues commercial registration electronic certificates to representatives of companies and corporations based on the commercial registration information. A commercial registration electronic certificate is an electronic proof of the identity of the representative of a company/corporation, and is an alternative to a seal-registration certificate in written documents. Commercial registration electronic certificates are essential to a digital society, so that they can be used in several online administrative procedures and electronic commercial transactions, and are proof for the recipient of the electronic document that the person who created the document is the representative of the company/corporation, and also proves that the electronic document has not been tampered or others.



## ■ Adult Guardianship System and Adult Guardianship Registration System

The Adult Guardianship System is designed to protect and support those unable to make decisions for themselves due to conditions such as dementia, intellectual disability, or psychiatric disorders, by appointing adult guardians to handle affairs, such as managing assets or entering into contracts, on their behalf.

In the Adult Guardianship Registration system, a registrar registers the authority of the adult guardians appointed by the court, and registers the details of voluntary guardian contracts made by notarial deed, and this information is made public in the form of a certificate.

## ■ Efforts to Implement Registration

In addition to the above-mentioned legal systems, we have promoted various measures to establish a registration system appropriate to today's advanced information society, including enhancing the organization of personnel working in clerical registration, establishing work processing systems such as mechanization and streamlining of office work, optimizing registration office placement, and improving government buildings.

Also, in order to meet the needs of today's IT advances, we have introduced a registry information service through which registered information can be verified online and have also made available online registration applications for real property, commerce and incorporation, transfer of assigned movables, transfer of receivables, and adult guardianship registration.

## ◆ Family Registration

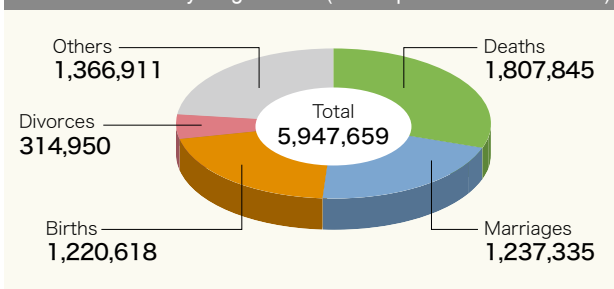
Family registration is a system that notarizes kinship of a person from birth until death. A family register is made for every Japanese national. A transcript of a family register is the only public document that notarizes a person's Japanese nationality. Family registration is handled by each city, town or village, but the State (Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau or the District Legal Affairs Bureau) gives advice, suggestions or instructions to ensure that registration is performed in a smooth, proper, and uniform manner throughout the country.

In recent years, the existence of people for whom a birth certificate has not been issued and are thus not entered in a family register has become social issue. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice has posted an explanation of the procedure for entering such persons in a family register on the Ministry of Justice website.

([https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/minji04\\_00034.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/minji04_00034.html))

Furthermore, we (Ministry of Justice) plan to construct a new system to make it possible to omit transcripts or extracts of family registers in some administrative procedures due to participate in the My Number System and to issue transcripts or extracts of one's own family registers and of their lineal relatives and their spouse outside the municipality of registered domicile (The new system operation will begin in 2024.).

Statistics on Family Registration (from Apr. 2020 to Mar. 2021)



[https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/toukei/toukei\\_ichiran\\_koseki.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/toukei/toukei_ichiran_koseki.html)

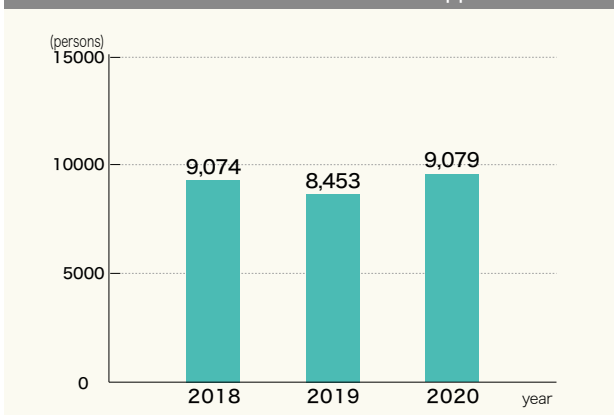
## ◆ Nationality (Citizenship)

Nationality is the qualification of an individual to be a national of a particular country. The Ministry of Justice performs various functions related to Japanese nationality, including the following.

- ① Work related to naturalization when a foreign national wishes to acquire Japanese nationality
- ② Work related to applications for acquisition of Japanese nationality
- ③ Work related to applications for renouncement of Japanese nationality
- ④ Work related to recognition of Japanese nationality
- ⑤ Consultation concerning nationality

\*An amended Civil Code was enacted on April 1, 2022, which changed the age of majority. Due to this, in Nationality Act, the age was lowered from "20 years old" to "18 years old" (from "22 years old" to "20 years old").

Total Number of Naturalizations Approved



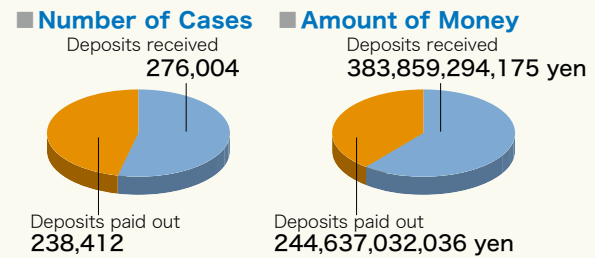
## 4 Realization of Basic Rights for People

### ◆ Deposits

The deposit system is designed to accomplish certain legal objectives by submitting money or negotiable securities to national organizations called deposit offices, entrusting management to the deposit office, who ultimately allows the rights holder to acquire the assets.

An online deposit application system has been implemented in response to IT advances in today's society, and in an effort to reduce the burden on applicants, deposit applications for pending cases can be made easily by presenting a deposit card, and a large number of deposit applications can be made at the same time using a dedicated application system tool.

Number of Deposits (from Apr.2020 to Mar.2021)



### ◆ Storage of will

The storage of will system is a system related to the storage of wills made by holograph document of Article 968 of the Civil Code (Act No. 89 of 1896) at 312 will archives nationwide (the headquarters and branch offices of the Legal Affairs Bureau and District Legal Affairs Bureau). A will made by holograph document of Article 968 of the Civil Code (Act No.89 of 1896) 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 does 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 risk, because when applying for storage, a holographic will is externally verified though 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 , storage 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 noticed 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 noticed 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

### ◆ Notary System

Notarization is a system under which a notary, a State agent whose function is to officially certify legal matters related to the legal life of a private person, such as contracts, certifies matters as prescribed by law by such means as creating documents. By having a notary participate in the preparation of the contract in advance and check the legality and the validity of the contents, this system guarantees the protection of individual's rights and helps prevent possible future legal disputes, and in this sense, is a preventive justice system.

Notaries are commissioned by the persons or parties involved to create notarized documents such as wills, certify private documents and articles of incorporation, and attaching a certified date.

With regard to digital documents, notaries can certify private documents, articles of incorporation, attach certified dates, and save or certification of digital information (electric notary system).

Notaries are appointed, instructed, and supervised by the Minister of Justice (Legal Affairs Bureau directors, District Legal Affairs Bureau directors). About 500 notaries are working in about 300 notary offices throughout the country.



## Development of basic civil laws

### Q How have the basic civil rules been progressed as our lifestyle and environment changes rapidly?

**A** There are various fundamental laws on civil affairs, such as the Civil Code, the Commercial Code, the Companies Act, and the Code of Civil Procedure, which stipulate the basic rules for citizens' daily lives and economic transactions, the family system, and judicial proceedings. Recently in Japan, socioeconomic circumstances have changed significantly, with great diversification in the public, which is why the Ministry of Justice is conducting necessary examinations and reviews to make the fundamental civil laws that can handle these changes and are well-suited to the current era. The Ministry also delivers its views on bills governed by other ministries and agencies regarding consistency with fundamental law from a position of jurisdiction over basic civil law.

#### ●The legal age of adulthood has been lowered to 18.

The legal age of adulthood has been lowered to 18 on April 1, 2022.

By lowering the age of adulthood, those who are 18 and 19 years of age have been able to conclude various contracts without parental consent.

For instance, they can buy a mobile phone or rent an apartment to live alone.

Meanwhile, some age limits on drinking alcohol, smoking, buying betting tickets for horse and bike races have remained at the age of 20.

#### ●Civil Code

In 2017, the Civil Code was revised, reviewing the overall regulations related to credit.

In 2018, a partial amendment was made to the Civil Code to lower the age of majority to 18 years and raise the marriageable age for women to 18 years (making the marriageable age 18 years for both men and women).

In addition to these revisions, provisions of the Civil Code concerning inheritance have been amended, and the new procedure in which testators can deposit their holograph wills with the Legal Affairs Bureaus has also been introduced.

In 2019, a partial amendment was made to the Civil Code to raise the target age of person to be adopted concerning the special adoption system, which is a type of adoption system that extinguishes the legal relationship between an adopted child and his / her natural parents and relative by bloods.

Furthermore, in 2021, the Civil Code and the Real Property Registration Act were amended, and a new act was legislated to enable landowners to transfer the inherited land to the National Treasury under certain conditions, in order to resolve the issue of "unclaimed land".

Also, we are currently reviewing articles related to the disciplinary rights and articles related to the system of the presumption of child in wedlock in order to prevent from child abuse and to resolve the social issue that there are people who are not entered in a family register.

#### ●New systems to eliminate unclaimed land will come into effect from April 2023.

In April 2021, a review of the basic civil laws was carried out in order to drastically solve the problem of unclaimed land. New systems will be

enforced sequentially from 2023.

First of all, from the viewpoint of "future prevention", the Real Property Registration Act has been amended. Under the new legislation, you must apply for inheritance registration and change of address registration, which were previously considered optional, and a package of measures has been taken to simplify and streamline these procedures. In addition, a new act has been legislated to establish a new system in which landowners can transfer the inherited land to the National Treasury with the approval of the Minister of Justice.

In addition, from the viewpoint of "facilitation of use", the Civil Code has been amended to introduce a new property administration system which is specialized for managing real property with unknown owners.



Hi, my name is Toukitsune.  
Touki (登記) means registration and kitsune means a fox!  
I'm encouraging real property registration.  
For more information, please check the Ministry of Justice website!  
... A racoon? No!!

#### Real Property Registration Promotion Mascot

**Toukitsune**



#### ●Commercial Code, Companies Act

In 2018, a partial amendment was made to the Commercial Code related to transport and maritime commerce (corporate activities involving the use of seafaring ships, such as sea transport).

In 2019, the amended Companies Act was enacted, with revisions including: the establishment of a system for providing general shareholder meeting materials in electronic format, the preparation of regulations against the abuse of shareholder's right to propose and those regarding director remuneration and company indemnification, and the mandatory appointment of at least one outside director by companies with a board of company auditors. It is expected that the amendment will further improve the corporate governance of Japanese companies and increase the competitiveness of Japanese companies and the trust from domestic and foreign investors in Japanese companies, which in turn will significantly contribute to the growth of the Japanese economy.

#### ●Civil Procedural Laws

In April 2020, a partial Amended Civil Execution Act came into force to provide rules regarding the improvement of the effectiveness of the debtor's property disclosure system, etc.

Since May 2021, procedures for a third party to obtain all information about the debtor's property have been put in place, allowing the third party to access information about the debtor's deposits and savings, shares, real property, place of employment and the like, including information related to regulations that have yet to be enforced.

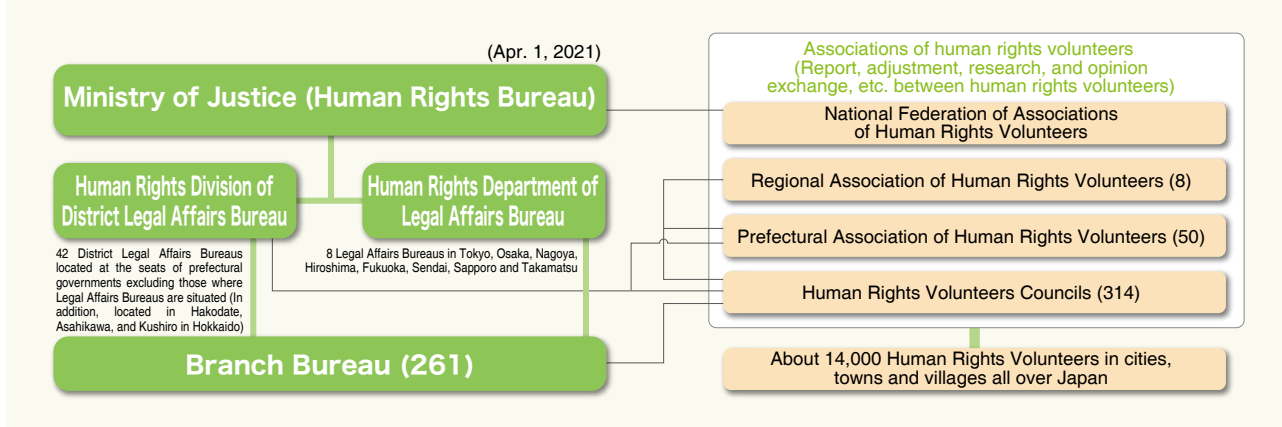
Furthermore, we are currently working on digitization of court proceedings regarding domestic relations case, civil provisional remedies, civil execution and insolvency etc., as well as reviewing articles of the Civil Procedure for digitization, in order to make them more usable.



### Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

(Human Rights Counseling, Investigation and Remedy Procedures, Human Rights Awareness Raising, and More)

Chart of Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice



#### Human Rights Counseling

Human rights counseling is available for all kinds of human rights problems, with counselors providing advice depending on the content. When human rights violations are suspected, the human rights bodies initiate an investigation in accordance with the consulter's consent. The counseling services is free of charge, with no difficult procedures, and is strictly confidential.

##### Human Rights Counseling Centers

Human rights counseling centers are permanently installed at Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus and their branches across the nation, with interview-style counseling, phone counseling, and counseling on the Internet(including SNS) available, as well as "Human Rights Counseling Center for Foreigners", "Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline", and "Foreign Language Human Rights Counseling Services on the Internet" in the ten languages which provide counseling through interpreters for foreigners unable to speak Japanese fluently.

##### Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters

Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide have actively responded to consultations from children through "Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters" (letter paper with a pre-stamped envelope), which are distributed to elementary and junior high school students nationwide as part of an effort to solve human rights problems involving children, such as bullying and corporal punishment at school and domestic child abuse.



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

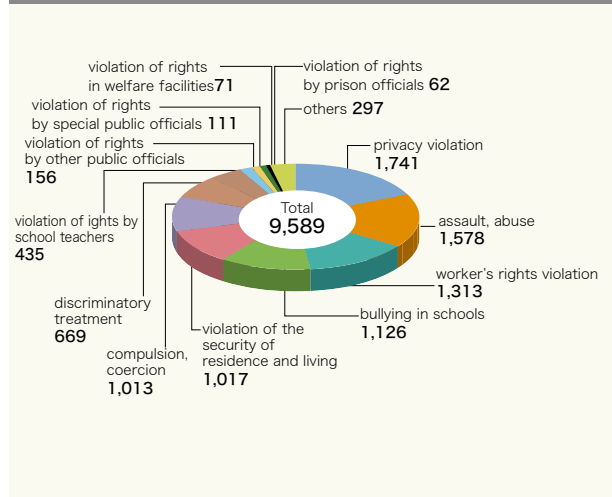


Human rights Campaign characters  
Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun & Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan

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

There are various human rights violation cases (cases where human rights violations are suspected), including assault and abuse of women, children, and the elderly; bullying at schools; compulsion and coercion in the forms of sexual harassment, power harassment, and stalking; and slandering on the Internet, and more. The Human Rights Bodies have taken measures to seek a remedy and prevent damages in human rights violation cases, such as providing assistance to victims (introducing relevant authorities or organizations, giving legal advice, etc.), conciliating the parties involved, as well as providing "instruction" and "recommendations" to the other party when violation of human rights is recognized.

Number of Human Rights Violation Cases (from Jan. 1 to Dec.31, 2020)



## Awareness-Raising for Human Rights

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been carrying out various activities to improve each citizen's awareness and understanding of human rights.

Some examples of the activities are the holding of symposiums and lectures; conducting various forms of training such as Human Rights Lectures; utilizing publicity using broadcasts such as TV and radio, etc.; running articles in newspapers and public relations magazines; and displaying banner ads on the internet. These activities are collectively called "human rights awareness-raising activities."

Human rights awareness-raising activities are indispensable in preventing human rights violations in advance.

### Human Rights awareness-Raising Activities Aimed at Children

#### "National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students"

The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students is an awareness-raising activity designed to enable junior high school students to deepen their understanding of the importance and necessity of respect for human rights and to foster awareness of human rights through writing essays on human rights issues.

#### "Human Rights Lectures"

The human rights lectures is an awareness-raising activity for children aimed at nurturing compassion and understanding the preciousness of life by creating opportunities to think about such topics as bullying. The lecture targets mainly elementary and junior high school students, and carried out under the initiative of Human Rights Volunteers nationwide.

#### "The Human Rights Flower Campaigns"

The Human Rights Flower Campaigns is an awareness-raising activity carried out mainly for elementary school students in which children grow flower seeds or bulbs through cooperation, helping them realize the preciousness of life and gain kindness and compassion.



poster "The Priority Goal of Awareness-Raising Activities"



Human rights lectures



Human Rights Flower Campaign

## 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 Services on the Internet

Search

## Human Rights Volunteers

Human Rights Volunteers are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice. The system of Human Rights Volunteers was introduced in 1948 based on the concept that the government and citizens should work together to protect human rights of local residents, and there are currently about 14,000 Human Rights

Volunteers (about 6,600 of whom are women) across the country working to solve human rights problems through raising awareness and providing counseling on human rights in cooperation with Legal Affairs Bureau and District Legal Affairs Bureau officials.

### Legal Services

#### ■ Attorney Certification System

In order to obtain the attorney qualification, a person is required to complete a legal apprentice training course after passing the national bar examination in principle. However, as an exception to this, the attorney qualification through the Attorney Certification System with the approval of the Minister of Justice shall be given to those who have passed the national bar examination and have acquired a certain level of actual legal practice experience in a corporation, etc.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the certification of the attorney qualification.

#### ■ 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.

To become a registered foreign lawyer, the qualified foreign lawyer must be approved by the Minister of Justice in accordance with the Act on Special Measures concerning the Handling of Legal Services by Foreign Lawyers, and obtain registration in the Roster of Registered Foreign Lawyers kept by the Japan Federation of Bar Association.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the approval of qualifications for registered foreign lawyers.

#### ■ Claim Management and Collection Companies (Servicers)

In order to promote the disposal of non-performing loans and thereby contribute to the sound development of the national economy, the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Claims Servicing Business (Servicer Act; Act No. 126 of 1998) was enacted on February 1, 1999 as an exception to the Attorney Act.

Servicers licensed by the Minister of Justice are allowed to manage and collect specified monetary claims provided in the Servicer Act.

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.

#### ■ Certified Dispute Resolution Business Operators

The Act on Promotion of Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (Act No. 151 of 2004), enacted on April 1, 2007 as part of the reform of the judicial system, has introduced a system in which the Minister of Justice certifies private dispute resolution services (conciliation and intercession services performed by private businesses on a civil dispute), when legal criteria and requirements are met and the service is deemed appropriate, to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution processes (procedures for the resolution of a civil dispute between parties who seek, with the involvement of a fair third party, a resolution without using legal procedures).

Certified dispute resolution business operators (private businesses certified by the Minister of Justice) resolve disputes, utilizing professional knowledge and experience to accurately meet the diverse needs of citizens.

The number of certified dispute resolution business operators increased from 10 in FY 2007 when the system was launched to over 150 in FY 2018, with the area of disputes handled growing more diversified and accessibility to the system further improved.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the certification of private dispute resolution services and undertaking various efforts to ensure that procedures for conciliation taken by certified dispute resolution operators are used extensively as an accessible means of resolving disputes.



#### ■ Judicial Scriveners

Judicial scriveners are legal experts whose purpose is to help protect the rights and interests of citizens, and who register real estate and commercial registration on behalf of the client, as well as prepare documents for the court. Since 2003, judicial scriveners, certified by the Minister of Justice after completing the designated training, may engage in civil procedures on behalf of clients at summary courts. Furthermore, since 2006, they may undertake proceedings as representatives in identifying registered land parcel boundary demarcations within a certain range.

The Civil Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the judicial scriveners system.

#### ■ Land and House Investigators

Land and house investigators contribute to the clarification of rights of the people related to real estate, and take charge of necessary investigations, surveys, and application procedures of lands and buildings for registering real estate on behalf of a client. Since 2006, land and house investigators approved by the Minister of Justice after completing a certain training to act as agents in proceedings to identify registered land parcel sections may undertake proceedings for solving civil disputes originating from unclear registration of land parcel sections, and dispute resolution business operators engaged in proceedings must be designated by the Minister of Justice, with operations carried out jointly with attorneys-at-law.

The Civil Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the land and house investigators system.



## Implementation of the Comprehensive Legal Support by the Japan Legal Support Center

### ■ What is the Comprehensive Legal Support Plan?

The Comprehensive Legal Support Act was approved at the 2004 ordinary Diet session. The Act is based on the Comprehensive Legal Support Plan designed to establish a comprehensive support framework in which people throughout the country can get the information and services they need to have recourse to the law in resolving disputes regardless of whether it relates to a civil or criminal matter so that the justice system becomes more accessible to citizens.

#### ● The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) is a corporation established within the framework of an independent administrative agency and forms the core of the Comprehensive Legal Support Plan, with the Ministry of Justice as its competent ministry.

Houterasu was established in April 2006 with the purpose of promptly and properly implementing operations related to comprehensive legal support, and commenced its operations in October of the same year. The popular name Houterasu, a play on words meaning either "shining a light on law" or "law terrace", reflects the desire to "shed light on the path to solving legal troubles for the confused" and "to be a kind of sunny terrace where people can relax."

### ■ Outline of the Operations of Houterasu

The principal work of Houterasu consists of the following five services as prescribed in Article 30, Paragraph 1 of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act:

- ① Information Services
- ② Civil Legal Aid
- ③ Legal Aid for Criminal Defense
- ④ Measures for Areas with Limited Legal Services
- ⑤ Support to Crime Victims

Building cooperating with relevant organizations required for these five services is also part of the work at Houterasu. Moreover, Houterasu may also provide services entrusted by national and local government, non-profit organizations and others, provided this does not hinder these core services (Article 30, Paragraph 2).

4

Realization of Basic Rights for People

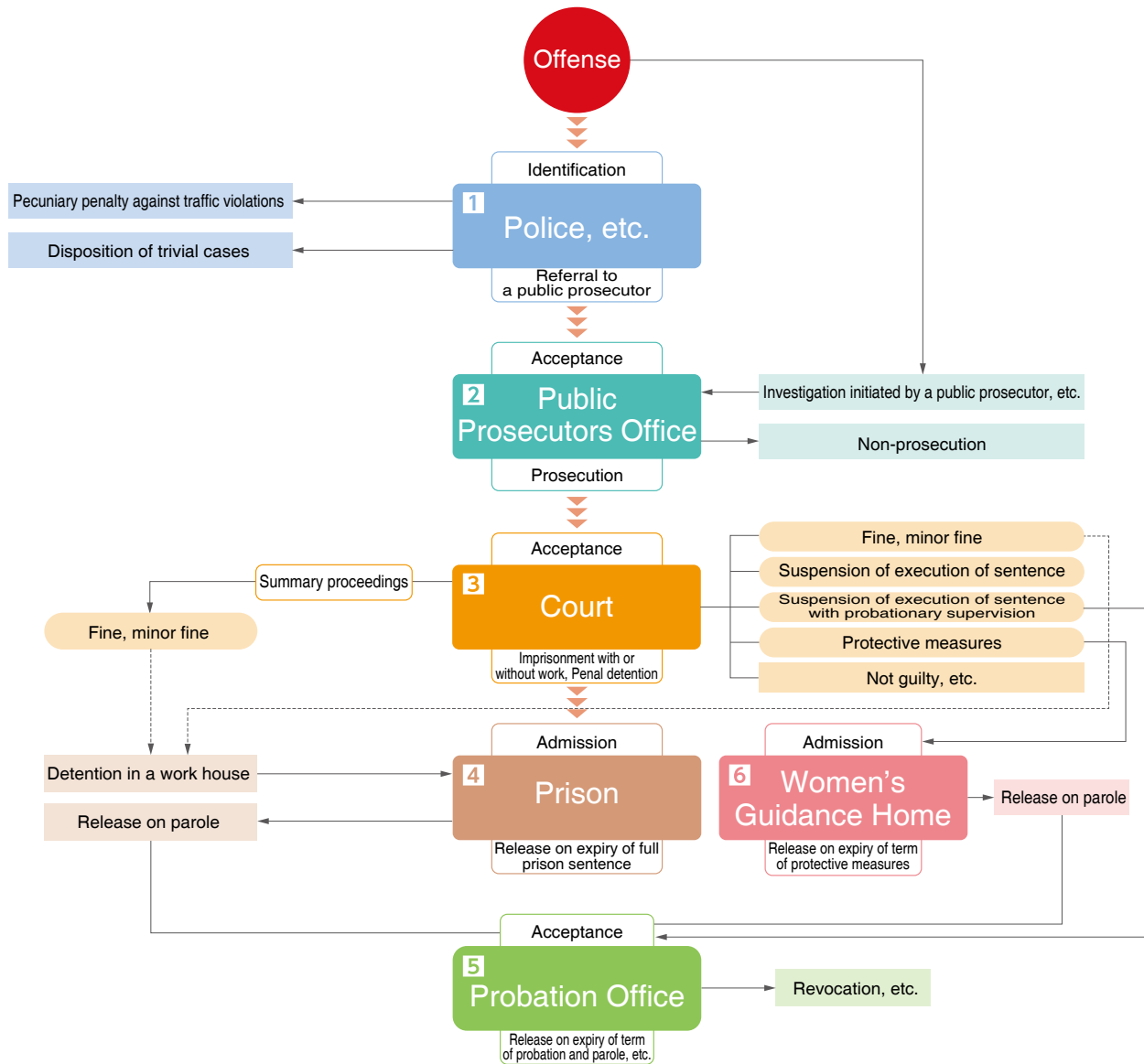


# 5 Enforcement of Proper Criminal Policy



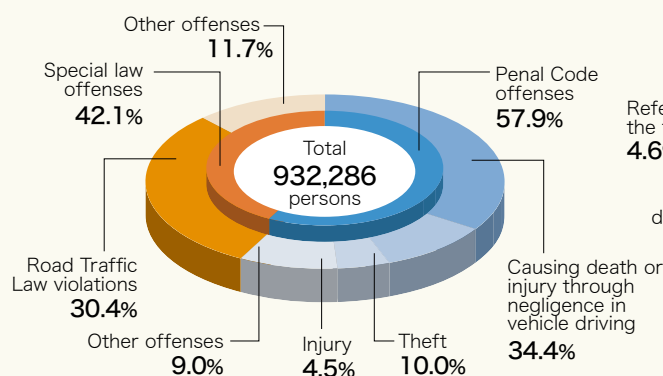
## Process of Criminal Cases Committed by Adults

■ Process of Criminal Cases Committed by Adults (Figure 1)

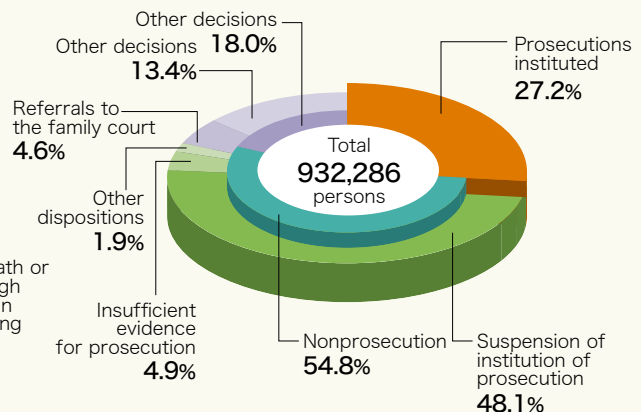


Cases Handled at Public Prosecutors Offices Nationwide (2020)

### ■ By type and name of offense



### ■ By dispositions rendered



•The proportion is rounded off to the first decimal places. Therefore, the sum of the composition rates do not add up to 100.0.

Figure 1 shows the process of criminal offenses committed by adults.

### 1 Police

All cases in which the police arrest suspects and conduct necessary investigations are, in principle, transferred to public prosecutors.

### 2 Public Prosecutors Office

Public prosecutors conduct necessary investigations on cases transferred from the police and determine whether or not to indict the accused based on the law and evidence.

At times, they themselves may detect criminal cases or conduct investigations on cases that have been charged or accused.

### 3 Court

The courts hold hearings at public trials, and when they recognize the accused as guilty, the courts hand down a sentence, such as the death penalty, imprisonment, imprisonment without work, or a fine. In the case of imprisonment or imprisonment without work for three years or less, prison terms may be suspended due to extenuating circumstances, and probation may be given during the period of suspended sentence.

In the case of a relatively minor offense, the court may decide to examine the case through summary proceedings as long as the accused has no objection.

### 4 Prison

After the accused is convicted, the punishment will be administered under the direction of public prosecutors. As a general rule, punishment, including imprisonment, with or without prison work, or detention is enforced at penal institutions such as prisons. Penal institutions help inmates to reform and re-integrate into the community through correctional treatment.

Those who are incapable of paying the full amount of a penalty or fine will be detained in a workhouse attached to a penal institution.

### 5 Probation Office

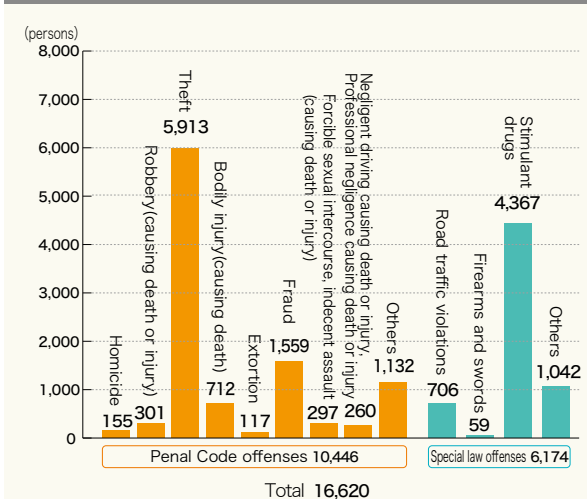
Inmates may be released on parole in accordance with a decision by the regional parole board even before their sentence ends, and such parolees are placed under probationary supervision while on parole. Those given a suspended sentence on the condition of probation will be placed under probationary supervision during the suspension period as well.

These parolees receive instructions, supervision, guidance and assistance from probation officers and volunteers probation officers at probation offices for rehabilitation and a smooth return to society.

### 6 Women's Guidance Home

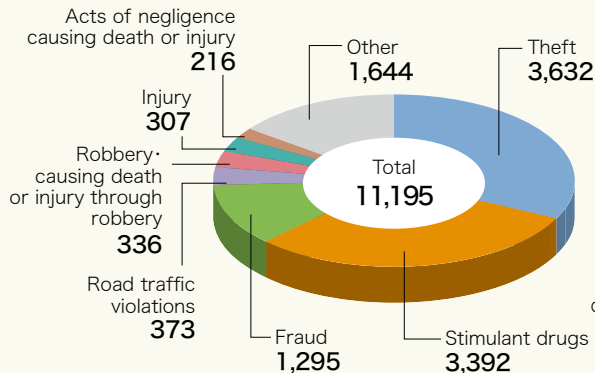
Adult females taken into custody for violating the Anti-Prostitution Act are detained in women's guidance homes and are placed on probation when they are granted parole release.

Number of Newly Committed Inmates, by Offense (2020)

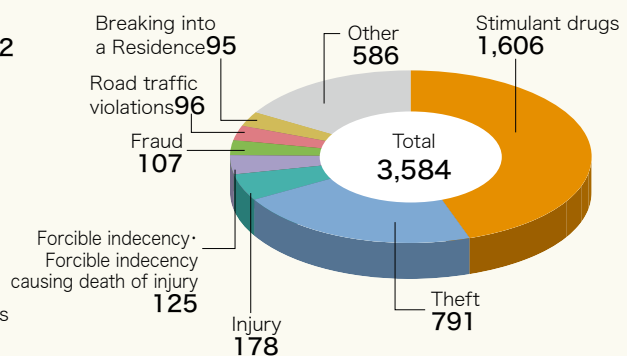


Number of Persons Newly Commencing Their Probation/Parole According to Offense Types (2020)

#### Parolees from penal institution



#### Persons on probation with suspension of execution of the sentence

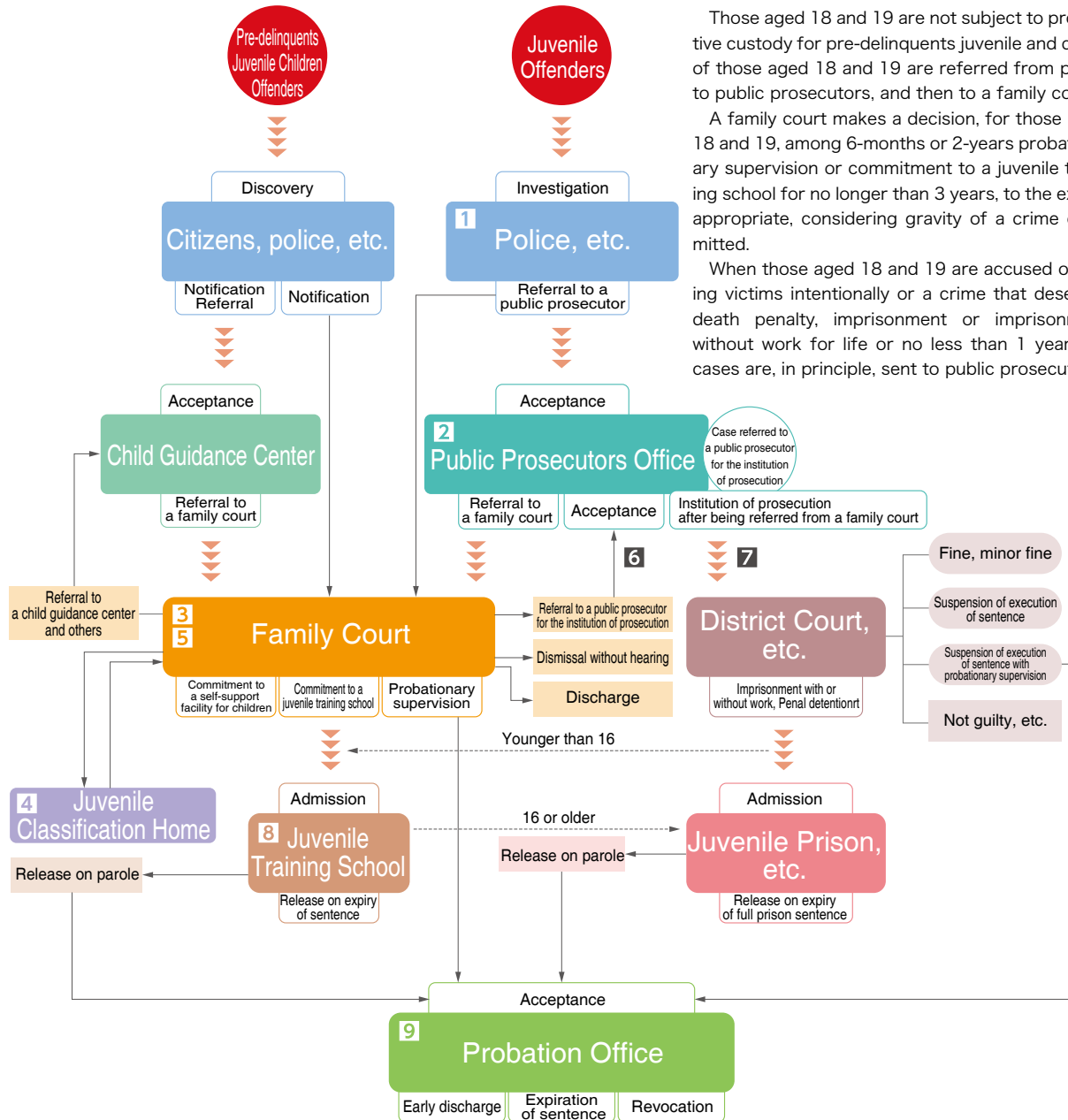


●Parolees from penal institution : Persons permitted release on parole from a penal institution

●Persons on probation with suspension of execution of the sentence: Persons on probation with suspension of execution of all or part of the sentence by the court

## Handling Juvenile Crimes and Delinquencies

■ Process for Juvenile Delinquents (Figure 2)



### Special provisions for those aged 18 and 19 (effective on April 1, 2021)

Those aged 18 and 19 are not subject to protective custody for pre-delinquents juvenile and cases of those aged 18 and 19 are referred from police to public prosecutors, and then to a family court.

A family court makes a decision, for those aged 18 and 19, among 6-months or 2-years probationary supervision or commitment to a juvenile training school for no longer than 3 years, to the extent appropriate, considering gravity of a crime committed.

When those aged 18 and 19 are accused of killing victims intentionally or a crime that deserves death penalty, imprisonment without work for life or no less than 1 year, the cases are, in principle, sent to public prosecutors.

### Community volunteers supporting correctional facilities

Correctional facilities nationwide are supported by community volunteers, such as volunteer visitors and chaplains.

Volunteer visitors are those who help reformation and rehabilitation as well as smooth re-entry into society of inmates through of counseling, guidance sessions, guidance for club activities, and more.

Chaplains(private religious volunteers) provide religious guidance upon request from inmates according to their religious beliefs in order to ensure freedom of religion.



Volunteer visitors



● Figure 2 is a flowchart of proceedings for juvenile delinquents.

### 1 Police

When juvenile suspects are arrested by the police, the cases are in principle transferred to public prosecutors after investigations are complete.

### 2 Public Prosecutors Office

When public prosecutors suspect juveniles of committing crimes, or have good reason to refer them to family court for pre-delinquency (juvenile delinquents with behavioral problems that stop short of crime yet may lead to crime and need to be taken into custody), the relevant cases will be transferred to the family court after investigations are complete.

### 3 Family Court

A family court orders investigators to conduct investigations on relevant juveniles, including their dispositions and family backgrounds, and sends them to a juvenile classification home for assessment.

### 4 Juvenile Classification Home

A juvenile classification home conducts assessments of juveniles based on medical, psychological, pedagogical, sociological, or other expertise, and submits the results to a family court.

### 5 Family Court

When a family court decides that a juvenile has no reason to undergo adjudication procedures, or that adjudication procedures are not appropriate based on the result of the investigation of the dossier, the court elects dismissal without hearing, and when the court finds it reasonable to take adjudication procedures, it employs the closed-door process.

When recognizing delinquency for certain serious incidents becomes necessary, the prosecutor will take part in judgement by family court decision.

If placing the juvenile in protective custody is deemed unnecessary as a result of the adjudication process based on the above-mentioned investigations and assessment of ③ and ④, the court declares the juvenile not to be charged. However, if placing the juvenile in protective custody is deemed, the court decides whether to place them on probation or in a juvenile training school.

### 67 Sending Juveniles to Public Prosecutors and Indictment

When a family court finds it reasonable to impose criminal punishment on those who have committed a crime that deserves the death penalty, imprisonment or imprisonment without work, the court sends the case to public prosecutors.

When juveniles aged sixteen or older are accused of killing victims intentionally, the cases are, in principle, sent to public prosecutors who must indict them once they have accepted the case.

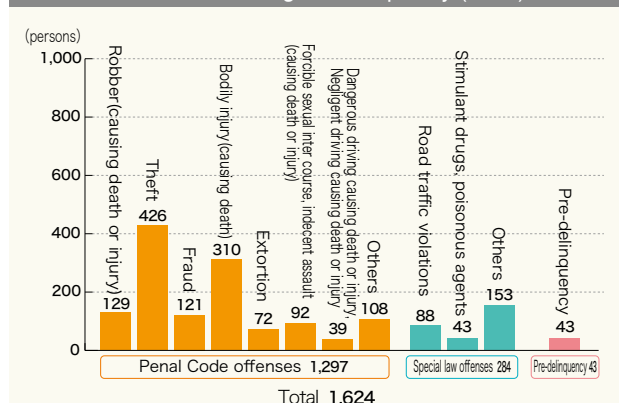
### 8 Juvenile Training School

Juveniles given a family court judgment to be sent to a juvenile training school are admitted to any of Type-I, Type-II, Type-III, Type-V juvenile training schools, where receive correctional education and rehabilitation support as they work toward reform. Juvenile sentenced inmates younger than 16 are accommodated in Type-IV juvenile training schools if needed.

### 9 Probation Office

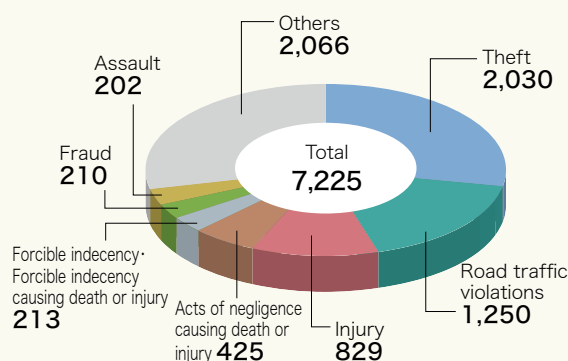
Juvenile delinquents who have been placed on probation by a family court, or those who are provisionally permitted to be released from a juvenile training school, receive instructions, supervision, guidance and assistance from probation officers and volunteer probation officers for rehabilitation and smooth reintegration to society.

Number of Juveniles Newly Committed to Juvenile Training Schools According to Delinquency (2020)

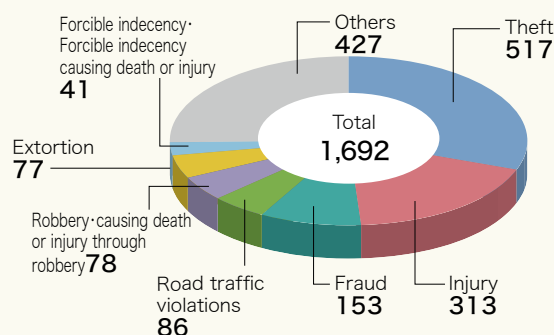


Number of Persons Newly Commencing Probation/Parole According to Types of Delinquency (2020)

#### Juveniles on probation



#### Parolees from juvenile training school



● Juveniles on probation: Persons put under probation by the family court(excluding those under short-term probation for traffic offenses)  
● Parolees from juvenile training school: Persons permitted release on parole from the juvenile training school

### What is Offender Rehabilitation?

This is a system carried out in cooperation with the nation and volunteers designed to give instructions, supervision, guidance and assistance to those who have committed crimes or those who have turned to juvenile delinquency so that they can become sound members of the society.

#### Regional Parole Boards

Regional parole boards are located in the eight regions across the country that correspond to the jurisdictional areas of the high courts. The major functions of the boards are to make decisions on parole of inmates of prisons or juvenile training schools, and revoking parole when parolees fail to observe the parole conditions.

#### Probation Offices

There are 50 probation offices throughout the country located in each of the district court jurisdiction. Their major function is conducting probationary supervision over juveniles placed on probation by family court decision, those released on parole from prisons or juvenile training schools, and those on probation with suspension of sentence. The probation offices also engage in activities that promote community-based campaigns to prevent crime and delinquency.

#### Probation Officers

Probation officers are full-time government officials of the Ministry of Justice who are assigned to either the Secretariat of the Regional Parole Board or to the Probation Office. With expert knowledge on psychology, pedagogy, welfare and sociology, they work to rehabilitate those who have committed crimes or have turned to juvenile delinquency, giving them guidance and assistance in everyday life in collaboration with volunteer probation officers. They also perform prevention of crime and delinquency, and provide counsel and support for crime victims.

#### Volunteer Probation Officers

Volunteer probation officers are private citizens commissioned by the Minister of Justice, and there are 46,000 of these officers across the country. As they are familiar with the circumstances and customs of their community, they are able to give effective instructions, supervision, guidance and assistance to those who have committed crimes or have turned to juvenile delinquency in the community in collaboration with probation officers. In addition, they engage in crime prevention in their community to promote prevention of crime and delinquency, and provide counsel and support for crime victims.

Volunteer probation officers have the status of part-time government officers, but do not receive compensation except for the expenses involved in their activities.

#### Badge of Volunteer Probation Officers

Designed by the late Sagenji Yoshida, Professor Emeritus at the Tokyo University of the Arts, this badge consists of 18 chrysanthemum petals with a sunflower and the rising sun, with the circle of its contour representing harmony among people and the red cloth representing human heart and passion.



#### Offender Rehabilitation Facilities

Of all the persons who have been placed on parole/probationary supervision or released from prison, offender rehabilitation facilities accommodate those who have no proper place to live and give them living guidance and vocational trainings so that they will be able to live independently at the earliest possible date. There are 103 such facilities in the country, mainly operated by juridical persons for the offender rehabilitation, which are private foundations approved by the Minister of Justice to operate offender rehabilitation services.



Exterior of an Offender Rehabilitation Facility

#### Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid

The Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid is an organization composed of women volunteers working toward crime prevention as well as rehabilitation for those who have committed crimes or juvenile delinquents from a female perspective in order to build a brighter society, free from crime and delinquency. There are about 141,000 volunteer members across the country engaged not only in crime and delinquency prevention educational activities, but also in a wide range of activities rooted in the community, such as sound upbringing of youth, child-support, rehabilitation support in offender rehabilitation facilities, cooperation in volunteer work with offenders on probation, and visits to prisons and juvenile training schools to encourage inmates.

#### BBS Association

The Big Brothers and Sisters Association is a youth volunteer organization that aims to support the healthy growth of juveniles with various difficulties including delinquency by interacting with them like a friendly older brother or sister. There are about 4,400 BBS members who conduct activities such as "Friendship Activities", which supports the growth and independence of the juveniles by befriending them, and carry out crime prevention to create a crime-free society.

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



## Cooperating Employers

Cooperating Employers are business owners who employ ex-offenders and juvenile delinquents to help them become independent and rehabilitated. These employers understand the feelings of exoffenders and provide them with stable jobs, which serves as a tremendous contribution to offender rehabilitation in society. These employers understand the feelings of offenders and provide them with stable jobs, which serves as a tremendous contribution to offender rehabilitation in society.

There are about 25,000 such cooperative business owners across the country.

## Become an Offender Rehabilitation Volunteer

Ensuring that those who have committed a crime can get rehabilitation and become law-abiding members of society is a task that cannot be achieved by government alone. The efforts of offender rehabilitation volunteers, including Volunteer Probation Officers, the Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid, BBS, and Cooperative Employers have been of great help.

If you are interested in participating in such activities, please contact your nearest Probation Office.

Videos about offender rehabilitation volunteers are available on the Ministry of Justice's YouTube channel.



## National Centers for Offender Rehabilitation

The National Center for Offender Rehabilitation is established and operated to provide parolees from penal institutions or juvenile training schools who cannot secure the necessary social surroundings for smooth reintegration into society from relatives or private-sector offender rehabilitation facilities 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.

Among these facilities, organizations that perform selective, specialized treatment in society in accord with the relevant specific problem are called the National Center for Offender Rehabilitation, while other organizations that provide vocational training, primarily in agriculture, are called the National Center for Offenders Job Training and Employment Support.

The National Centers for Offender Rehabilitation is established and operated in Kitakyushu and Fukushima City, while the National Centers for Offenders Job Training is established and operated in Hokkaido (Numata-cho) and Ibaraki (Hitachinaka City).



The National Center for Offender Rehabilitation in Fukuoka (Kitakyushu City)



The National Center for Offender Job Training and Employment Support in Hokkaido (Numata-cho, Uryu-gun)

## Medical Treatment and Supervision Measures for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases under the Condition of Insanity

The Medical Treatment and Supervision for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Case under the Condition of Insanity is a system which gives persons who have committed serious crimes such as murder, or arson continuous and appropriate medical treatment, conducts observations and guidance necessary to prevent them from committing such crimes again, and promotes

them to reintegrate into society.

The Probation Offices have mental health social workers known as Rehabilitation Coordinators who work in collaboration with medical institutions designated by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare and relevant local institutions to promote the persons to reintegrate into society.

### System for Partial Suspension of Sentence

The System for Partial Suspension of Sentence was enforced in June 2016 based on the Penal Code and the Act for Partial Suspension of Sentence for Criminals Convicted of Drug Use and Others. The system enables judges to partially suspend sentences for 1–5 years in rendering a sentence of imprisonment with or without labor for not more than 3 years, with the aim of preventing re-offending and helping offenders to rehabilitate by securing adequate period of treatment in society, following a period of treatment in prison.

Under this system, those who have no previous record of sentences heavier than imprisonment without work are put on discretionary probation during the period of the suspended sentence, while those who have been imprisoned with work because of drug use and other substance issues are put on mandatory probation.

## Facilitating the activities of cooperating members of the private sector

### Securing volunteer Probation Officers

Volunteer probation officers play an extremely important role in the Japanese offender rehabilitation system by supporting rehabilitation of offenders in the community and by engaging in publicity campaigns and enlightenment activities to build a brighter community without crime and delinquency. Meanwhile, due to the changes in social circumstances, such as the weakening of interpersonal relationships in the community, it is becoming more difficult to secure suitable persons as volunteer probation officers. Recently there was a downward trend in the number of the volunteer probation officers (quota is 52,500). Due to the trend, securing volunteer probation officers constantly for the future is the most serious issue for the offender rehabilitation in Japan.

Under these circumstances, the Ministry of Justice is working on various strategies. For example, the Ministry of Justice supports the local volunteer probation officers associations across the country to hold "Volunteer Probation Officer Candidate Information Meetings" so as to secure appropriate candidates for volunteer probation officers from local residents with various points of view such as a wide range of age groups, including youth, and occupations, and to conduct the "Internship for Volunteer Probation Officer" for local residents to experience the activities of volunteer probation officers. There are in all the local volunteer probation officers associations "Offender Rehabilitation Support Centers" nationwide, which serve as hubs for offender rehabilitation by the volunteer probation officers, which are planning further enhancement and improvement in the future. In recent years, we have also been focusing on public relations activities, such as holding seminars on volunteer probation officer activities for members of industry groups and creating public relations videos on volunteer probation officers.

The volunteer probation officer organizations and the national government are working together to secure volunteer probation officers and support for the volunteer probation officers' activities, so that Japan can develop a sustainable world-class volunteer probation system.

### Advancing the utilization of private funds

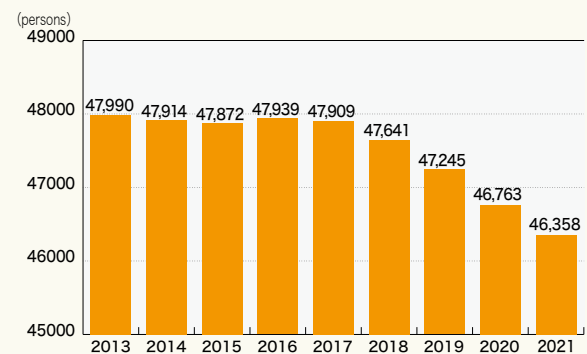
To strengthen the activity base of private sector members involved in rehabilitation system, "The Recidivism Prevention Plan" (in December 2017) and "The Accelerated Recidivism Prevention Plan" (in December 2019) declared that it would advance the utilization of private funds, including crowd funding and a kind of funds. It is because the most of activities carried out by private sector members are with vulnerable economic bases.

In August 2020, The Japan Rehabilitation Aid Association started "The Recovery Support Funds". This funds collects donations through internets and subsidizes recovery support community activities. The Ministry of Justice promotes this funds, and aims to create a safe and secure community.

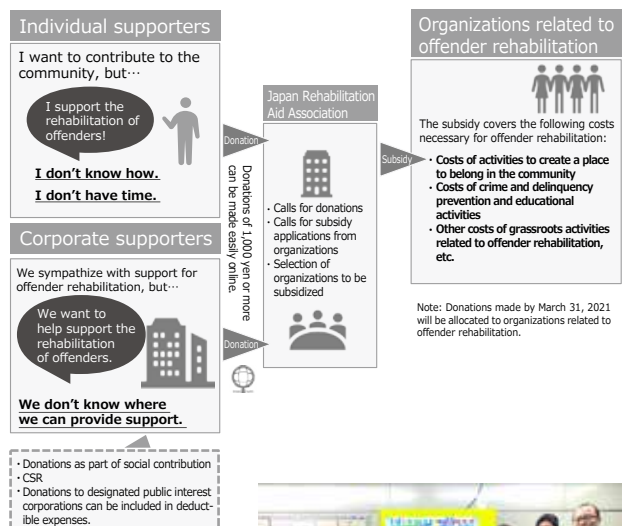


Offender Rehabilitation Support Center

Changes in the Number of Volunteer Probation Officers (2013-2021)



The figures are those at the time of January 1 each year



A beverage vending machine for the Recovery Support Funds



## Improvement and Enhancement of Treatment in Correctional Facilities

### ■ Smooth Enforcement of Act on Penal Detention Facilities and Treatment of Inmates and Detainees

The Ministry of Justice conducts appropriate treatment of inmates that respects their human rights based on the Act on Penal Detention Facilities and Treatment of Inmates and Detainees enacted under a total revision of the Prison Law, and to achieve this, the Ministry has striven to improve facilities and human resources, as well as to rationalize and mechanize clerical work.

In addition, model cases in foreign countries, the Ministry of Justice manages some penal institutions through cooperation between the government and private sectors using the PFI (Private Finance Initiative), which utilizes private capital, ingenuity, and expertise, and in doing so plans to enrich and develop correctional treatment by incorporating programs never seen in conventional prisons, such as the Training Program for Guide Dog Puppies for the Blind in cooperation with the Japan Guide Dog Association Foundation.

The Ministry of Justice is working to implement the Act on Penal Detention Facilities and Treatment of Inmates and Detainees smoothly to prevent recidivism and will contribute to the creation of a safe society where the people can live with peace of mind.

### ■ Enhancement of Assessments of Juveniles and Community Support Activities by Juvenile Classification Homes

To prevent recidivism, juvenile classification homes are working to enhance their ability to assess juveniles by developing and introducing a new assessment method, "Ministry of Justice Case Assessment Tool (MJCA)" in order to grasp the risk of recidivism and educational needs of each juvenile.

The homes are also working to enhance treatment for recidivism prevention by conducting assessment of juveniles under protective measures in response to requests from juvenile training schools and probation offices.

Furthermore, the homes provide counseling and consultation services to juveniles and their families on problems related to crime and delinquency (crime, delinquency, misbehavior, family upbringing problems, troubles at work or school, interpersonal problems, etc.). Moreover, staff at the home provide explanations on various topics such as delinquency, crime, child-rearing, or educational and instructional methods for youth at workshops or lectures held at schools or related organizations.

Those interested are welcome to contact a nearby juvenile classification home.

### Featured Article!



## Further Improvement of Juvenile Correction

Q

Recently, I frequently hear about juvenile crimes on the news. What kind of measures are being taken?

A

The Ministry of Justice has been strengthening efforts toward preventing recidivism.

#### ●Strengthening Correctional Education Based on New Juvenile Training School Act

In June 2015, the New Juvenile Training School Act was enacted. Under this act, the Juvenile Training Schools design an individual correctional education plan for each juvenile in accordance with his or her traits and implement programs addressing individual problems such as drug use, sexual delinquency, and family issues. The Juvenile Training Schools also implement vocation guidance for such things as acquiring qualifications for employment and social skills necessary for retaining a job, thus conducting appropriate correctional education aimed at preventing recidivism.

#### ●Legal Provisions for Reintegration Support by Juvenile Training Schools

In order to prevent recidivism, it is important not only to provide diverse correctional education, but also to support the smooth reintegration of delinquent juveniles. The New Juvenile Training School Act stipulates that Juvenile Training Schools are responsible for providing support for juveniles' reintegration into society. Specifically, they proactively provide academ-

ic support such as helping re-entry or transfer to a local high school, as well as support in finding work and assistance for obtaining accommodations.

#### ●Performing Appropriate Classification under the Juvenile Classification Home Act

A new Juvenile Classification Home Act has also been enacted. This new law makes it possible for juveniles detained in Juvenile Training Schools to spend a certain amount of time in Juvenile Classification Homes specialized in determining the causes behind the juvenile's delinquency and drawing up individual treatment plans that enable more detailed classification.

#### ●Assisting Local Communities With Juvenile Classification Homes

In order to contribute to the prevention of delinquency and crimes in local communities, juvenile classification homes provide local people and those involved in schools and education with counseling based on specialized knowledge and skills.





### Featured Article!



## Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” by the Ministry of Justice of Japan and its future prospects



### How is the Ministry of Justice involved with the international community?

**A** The Ministry of Justice is pursuing “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”, an initiative which aims to promote fundamental values to the international community, such as the rule of law and respect for human rights, which are the foundations for creating a society where all people can live safely and happily.

The promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” not only supports the development of legal infrastructure and contributes to sustainable development, but also is important in terms of enhancing Japan’s presence and values in the international community. Furthermore, “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” also contributes to the achievement of the “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs), in particular its Goal 16, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

In order to promote “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”, the Ministry of Justice has been engaged in:

- Actively promoting legal technical assistance to developing countries, mainly in the Asian region, such as assisting in the development of legislation and legal systems as well as the capacity building of staff who implement and operate the legal system,
- Development of international legal human resources and strengthening coordination with international organizations including through dispatching experts to the United Nations and other organizations,
- Actively promoting international arbitration, which is a procedure used worldwide to resolve disputes in international commerce through setting up a dedicated facility, development of human resources in this field and public relations inside and outside Japan.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to promote and strengthen these initiatives. Furthermore, Japan will play a leadership role in implementing the “Kyoto Declaration”, the outcome document of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the Kyoto Congress) – the largest UN meeting in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, held in March 2021 – as well as holding the Japan-ASEAN Special Meeting of Justice Ministers in 2023, which will mark the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. Japan will accelerate various initiatives to further strengthen multilateral partnerships and advance “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” to the next stage.

\* The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) is a set of international development goals being pursued from 2016 to 2030, which was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in September 2015. The Agenda lists the SDGs, consisting of 17 goals in order to realize a sustainable world. The SDGs pledge to ensure “No one is left behind”.



For further information, please refer to the Ministry of Justice website and the promotion of the SDGs (English website).

[https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/kokusai/kokusai03\\_00007.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/kokusai/kokusai03_00007.html)



## Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration adopted at the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the Kyoto Congress) was held in Kyoto from March 7 to 12, 2021.

The UN Crime Congresses, held every five years, are the largest UN conferences in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. At the Kyoto Congress, participants discussed under the overall theme of “Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda”, and the Kyoto Declaration, which sets a five-year agenda for criminal justice policy for the United Nations and Member States, was adopted.

For steady implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, the Ministry of Justice has developed the following three initiatives: (1) the establishment and regular holding of the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific (Crim-AP), (2) regular holding of the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness (Col-YF) and (3) taking the lead in the formulation of New UN standards and norms on reducing reoffending.



Opening ceremony of the Kyoto Congress

The 1st Col-YF was held in Tokyo from 9-10 October 2021. About 120 youths from 41 countries participated in the forum and adopted recommendations as an outcome and presented at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

The 1st Crim-AP was held in Tokyo from 14-15 February 2022. Experts in the field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice from 20

countries and organizations participated in the forum, held discussions and shared good practice.

In regard to the UN standards and norms on reducing reoffending, Japan took the lead in initiating the process of formulating the new standards.



Group Sessions of the 1st Col-YF

## Promotion of International Cooperation

The Ministry of Justice provides 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 through international cooperation with developing countries contributes not only to the sound development of these countries and stability of the region, but to the strengthening of countermeasures against transnational crime and the promotion of trade and other forms of economic activity that benefit the recipient country, the region and the world.

In the field of civil and commercial law, the Ministry of Justice has provided legal technical assistance to more than 10 countries, including Asian countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia, mainly through activities of the International Cooperation Department (ICD). These activities include drafting and amending fundamental laws and regulations, strengthening the functioning of judicial institutions, and capacity building of legal professionals. Through such technical assistance, a number of laws, including civil codes and civil procedure codes, have been enacted, and relevant legal commentaries have also been prepared in these countries. Moreover, a great number of individuals in leadership positions at judicial institutions have enhanced their capacities through our assistance.

The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established in 1962 by the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan 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 (police officers, public prosecutors, judges, correctional and probation officers, etc.) from developing countries. Since 1962, more than 6,100 practitioners from 141 jurisdictions have participated in training courses and seminars organized by UNAFEI (as of December 2021). UNAFEI marks its 60th anniversary in 2022. Many UNAFEI alumni are playing leading roles in criminal justice. Some alumni members have served as, among others, Minister of Justice, Attorney General, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in their respective countries. This personal and professional network is the foundation for many valuable relationships between criminal justice practitioners in Japan and other countries.

In addition, in the correctional architecture field, the Facilities Division of the Minister's Secretariat has been providing technical

assistance to the Kingdom of Thailand and other countries for over 20 years. In order to disseminate the achievement of assistance to other Asian countries, the Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities, Architects and Planners (ACCFA) was established for the first time in 2012, and a total of eight meetings have been held so far, with the first and the 8th meeting being held in Japan. In 2022, the 9th meeting will be held in the Kingdom of Thailand, which has led ACCFA along with Japan.



International Training Course



Local Activity



**For further details, please check the Ministry of Justice website.**

[https://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/houso\\_kyouryoc\\_index.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/houso_kyouryoc_index.html)



### International Arbitration in Japan

As economic and financial globalization progresses, the Ministry of Justice is working on promoting 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 has many advantages, for example:

- ease of enforcement of arbitration awards in foreign countries due to the New York Convention, to which more than 160 countries are parties,
- private and confidential resolution of disputes, including the confidentiality of trade secrets,
- and the parties may appoint specialized and neutral arbitrators.

Due to such advantages, international arbitration is the global standard for resolving disputes involving cross-border transactions and investments. However, the number of cases of international arbitration in Japan has been low. To further encourage international transactions and overseas trade involving Japanese companies, to secure overseas investment, and to stimulate the Japanese economy and financial markets, the promotion of international arbitration as a form of "legal infrastructure" is urgent.

In September 2017, the Japanese government set up the "Liaison Conference of the Relevant Ministries and Agencies for Promoting International Arbitration" chaired by the Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretaries, and in April 2018, they published "Possible Measures for Promoting International Arbitration". In response to this, the Ministry of Justice has started a five-year project, since 2019, to promote international arbitration in Japan, including the establishment of a dedicated facility, promoting and raising awareness of companies etc. Education and training programs have been provided for arbitrators and arbitration practitioners in Japan and overseas. Subsequently the Japan International Dispute Resolution Center Tokyo, which is a facility dedicated to conducting arbitrations and which has cutting-edge technology that enables smooth remote hearings and international conferences related to arbitration, opened in Toranomon, Tokyo, in March 2020.

The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with relevant organizations, will keep working passionately to enable Japan to become a regional hub for international dispute resolution in Asia.

### Strengthening efforts in the field of International Dispute Resolution

In light of the rapid pace in which globalization is progressing, there is a pressing need for the Japanese government to collectively take action to lead discussions on the development of international economic systems based on free and fair rules.

For its part, the Ministry of Justice is actively contributing to the activities of international organizations, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), which aims to achieve, inter alia, the harmonization of international trade law, with a view to contributing to the formulation of international rules by sharing experiences and essential aspects of Japan's legal system. At the same time, the Ministry is strengthening its cooperative relations with various dispute resolution organizations that are engaged in the interpretation and application of such rules.

In response to the growing interest of the international community in the development of rules in the field of international trade law in recent years, during July 2019 - December 2021, the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, advocated, within the United Nations, for the need to reform the composition of UNCITRAL and has proposed to increase the membership from the current 60. As the coordinator of the consultations to discuss the enlargement of the

membership of UNCITRAL, which lasted for a period of approximately two years, the Ministry of Justice succeeded in putting together a consensus draft resolution to increase the number of member countries to 70, which was unanimously adopted at the UN General Assembly in December 2021. Furthermore, in response to new concerns regarding due process and fairness arising from the rapid trend towards digitalization of dispute resolution, including international arbitration, stressing the need to find solutions to address those concerns in the framework of UNCITRAL, Japan proposed the launch of a project to conduct research and analysis on the recent trends in dispute resolution. This project was also unanimously approved at the UN General Assembly in December 2021. Japan's repeated achievements in international forums, including the United Nations, which are representative of its commitment to seeking the interest of the entire international community rather than its own, is expected to lead to further enhancing its credibility in the international community.

The Ministry of Justice is committed, in close cooperation with other relevant ministries and agencies, to actively contributing to the development of fair and impartial rules in the field of international trade and commerce.

### 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.

Over 90 officials are currently working abroad, mainly in Asia, North America and Europe, as staff of overseas diplomatic establishments and international organizations as well as long-term JICA experts who provide legal technical assistance.

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.





## PICK UP!



### Litigation Bureau

Q

#### What kind of work does the Litigation Bureau do?

A

The Litigation Bureau represents the Japanese Government in any dispute in which Japan is a party, and performs a range of litigation activities including filing complaints, claims and proofs.

In addition, the Bureau provides legal advice upon requests by government ministries and agencies in order to prevent legal disputes, and gives assistance in international litigation related to the interests of the state.



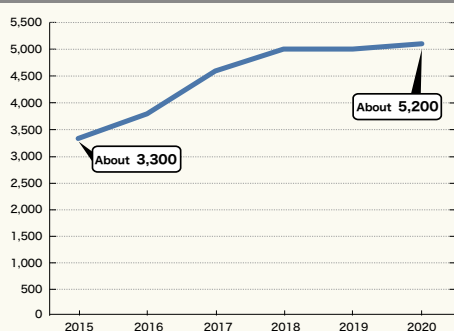
### Pursuit of Lawsuits

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 principle of "rule of law" is secured.

Change in Number of Major Large-Scale Lawsuits which are pending



### 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 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 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.

(cf. page 47 Strengthening Efforts to Resolve International Legal Dispute)



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.

#### Summaries of Major Pending Lawsuits

[https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01\\_00024.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00024.html)



#### List of Major Court Decisions

[https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01\\_00023.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/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).

[https://www.shoumudatabase.moj.go.jp/search/html/shoumu/general/menu\\_general.html](https://www.shoumudatabase.moj.go.jp/search/html/shoumu/general/menu_general.html)



# Qualifications and Employment

## 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. In 2006, it was replaced by a new national bar examination more organically linked with education provided at law school and legal apprentice training.

The national bar examination can be taken by those who have completed law school or passed the preliminary bar examination, 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.

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

Year	Candidates	Successful candidates	Average age of successful candidates	Successful percentage
2017	5,967	1,543 (315)	28.8	25.86%
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%

Figures in parentheses show the number of women from the total on the left.

### ● 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.

#### ■ Results of the Preliminary Bar Examination

Year	Candidates	Successful candidates
2017	10,743	444 (81)
2018	11,136	433 (81)
2019	11,780	476 (85)
2020	10,608	442 (75)
2021	11,717	467 (102)

Figures in parentheses show the number of women from the total on the left.

► 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

### ● 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.

These 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, and passing this earns the candidate qualifications. The successful candidates start work immediately after registration and admission procedures.

#### ■ Results of the National Examination for Judicial Scriveners

Year	Judicial Scrivener Examination candidates	Successful candidates
2017	18,831	629
2018	17,668	621
2019	16,811	601
2020	14,431	595
2021	14,988	613

#### ■ Results of the National Examination for Land and House Investigators

Year	Land and House Investigator Examination candidates	Successful candidates
2017	5,837	400
2018	5,411	418
2019	5,270	406
2020	4,646	392
2021	4,733	404

# 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 Sciences)

### 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 Instructor

► **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.

## Prison Officer Employment Examination

► **Contact:**

Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Prison officers are, in principle, assigned to prisons, juvenile prisons, or detention houses.

In prisons and juvenile prisons, the officers provide various treatment programs for inmates to facilitate rehabilitation and smooth reintegration.

Detention houses mainly keep suspects or defendants in custody, where they are prevented from fleeing or attempting to destroy evidence, and are given consideration to ensure fair trial.



### 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 preventing recidivism and supporting rehabilitation within society.

## Immigration Control Officers Employment Examination

► **Contact:**

Each Regional Immigration Services Bureau's General Affairs Division

(Personnel Division for Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau)

Each Immigration Center's General Affairs Division

Immigration control officers are assigned to regional immigration services bureaus, district immigration services offices, branch offices, or immigration centers, and are responsible for detecting illegal immigrants or over-stayers, investigating violations, and treating and deporting detainees.



# The Ministry of Justice is with Everyone's Life

## Family • Property

- Marriage → Civil Code/Family Registration (p.24)
- Childbirth → Civil Code/Family Registration (p.26)
- Buying a house → Registration System (p.26)
- Storage of will (p.27)  
(Wills made by holograph document)

## Company

- Establishment of a company → Commercial and Corporate Registration (p.25)
- Employing foreign nationals → Proper and Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Nationals (p.17)

## Legal problems

- Legal problems → Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) (p.32)



## Human Rights Counseling and law-related education

- Learning about Rulemaking, Contracts and Dispute Resolution → Enrichment and Development of Law-Related Education (p.22)
- Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters and Human Rights Hotline (p.29)
- Ministry of Justice Juvenile Support Center (p.40)



# CHECK!

There will be changes to the legal system!



### •The legal age of adulthood has been lowered to 18.

The legal age of adulthood has been lowered to 18 on April 1, 2022.

- By lowering the age of adulthood, those who are 18 and 19 years of age have been able to conclude various contracts without parental consent.
- For instance, they can buy a mobile phone or rent an apartment to live alone.
- Meanwhile, some age limits on drinking alcohol, smoking, buying betting tickets for horse and bike races have remained at the age of 20



Detailed information can be found here→





# Connected

## A Peaceful and Secure Society Improvement of Laws and Regulations that are the Foundation of Citizens' Lives Everyone's Life

(Recidivism prevention measures, strict and smooth immigration and residency control, protection of and support for crime victims, and child abuse prevention measures)

(Amendments to the Civil Code and Criminal Code to keep pace with the times)

Various events in our lives are connected to the Ministry of Justice!



Saiban-in (Lay Judge)  
System Mascot  
"Saiban-inko"

Society being "Peaceful and secure" is the "Basis" of everyone's life!



"Rehabilitation Penguins"  
"Hogo-chan" & "Sara-chan"

### Foreign nationals and immigration procedures

- Overseas trip  
→ Smooth and Strict Immigration Screening (p.17)
- Development of an Environment of Acceptance of Foreign Nationals to Realize a Society of Harmonious Coexistence (p.19)

### Safety and security

- Measures to Prevent Recidivism (p.11)
- Community volunteers (volunteer probation officers, cooperating employers, etc.) (p.37)
- Treatment, etc. in correctional facilities (p.40)

### • New systems to eliminate unclaimed land will come into effect sequentially from 2023.

- Facilitate access to the landowner  
In order to identify the owner in the real property register, it becomes compulsory to apply for registration for inheritance or change of address.
- Reinvigorate use of land  
Basic rules for co-ownership and property administration are reformed to improve use of properties including unclaimed land.
- Release the burden of land ownership  
A new system is established to enable landowners to transfer the inherited land to the National Treasury under certain conditions.



Detailed information can be found here

### • New Rules of civil execution have been applicable since April 2020.

This amendment to the Civil Enforcement Act is aimed primarily at improving the effectiveness of investigations into the status of debtors' property.

- In order to forcibly collect money from the obligor in cases of winning civil lawsuits, etc., the obligor's assets need to be identified in compulsory execution proceedings.
- With the amendment of the Civil Execution Act, which has come into force in April 2020, it has become easier to identify the obligor's assets.
- The procedures to summon the obligor to court and make him/her disclose his/her own assets (the Assets Discovery Procedures) has been strengthened (strengthening of the penalty, etc.).
- By using court procedures, information regarding the obligor's assets can be obtained from certain institutions, that is, (1) information of his/her deposits and savings, etc., from financial institutions; (2) information of his/her real estate, from registry offices; and (3) information of his/her place of employment, from municipalities, etc.



Detailed information can be found here

(\*) All the procedures, including (2), has become available since May 1, 2021.

Making the Ministry  
of Justice

# More Familiar



## Visit

Ministry of Justice Museum  
and the Message Gallery



In the Ministry of Justice Museum

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 room 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, as well as information on promotion and publicity for the current justice system

### 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 concerning 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.

### 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 Integration 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 remodel and restore it to its original appearance.



Dining room of the old Justice Minister's official residence



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





Birth of the Red-Brick Building  
and Architectural Techniques



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

Red brick and steel

### Materials related to the Saiban-in (lay judge) system and the Houterasu are also on display

We display 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) .

**ACTION!**



### Ministry of Justice Museum(3F)

Tel : 03-3592-7911

E-mail : renga1@i.moj.go.jp



### Ministry of Justice Website "The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery" (Japanese-only)

[https://www.moj.go.jp/](https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/tosho-tenji/housei06_00004.html)

[housei/tosho-tenji/housei06\\_00004.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/tosho-tenji/housei06_00004.html)



### Location

3F Ministry of Justice Red-Brick Building,  
1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

### Access

Please refer to Access on back cover page.

### Open Days

From Monday to Friday/Free admission  
(Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays,  
the year-end and New Year holidays)

### Open Hours

From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
(No admission after 5:30 p.m.)

### 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.

# Visit Let's Visit the Ministry of Justice!

## Visiting the Ministry of Justice



Making 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.



Commemorative photo



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

### Contact information for tours and events of the Ministry of Justice



### Public Relations Office, Ministry of Justice (Secretarial Division, Minister's Secretariat)

TEL : 03-3580-4111

Please check  
the latest information  
on events on  
the Ministry of Justice  
website.



Ministry of  
Justice  
website



Let's Visit the  
Ministry of Justice!  
"Kids Room"



# Main Weekly and Monthly Events of the Ministry of Justice

## Human Rights Volunteers Day (June 1)

In commemoration of the day of enactment of the Human Rights Volunteers Act (June 1, 1949), the 1st of June was named Human Rights Volunteers Day. Every year around this day, Human Rights Volunteers carry out activities nationwide by setting up ad-hoc centers for human rights counseling and conducting activities for human rights awareness-raising.



Poster  
"Human rights volunteers"

## Kasumigaseki Open Day for Children (August 3 and 4)

The Ministry of Justice holds events for elementary and junior high school students during summer vacation, aiming to deepen their understanding of its operations.

In FY 2021, because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, all the events were held online. A special section was open in the official Ministry's website to provide various content that included movies, quizzes, and paper crafts.



The top page of the special section



Movies line up



Public Security Intelligence Agency's true or false questions

## Constitution Week (May 1-7)

Every year, the week from May 1 to 7 around Constitution Day on May 3 is designated as Constitution Week, with events across the country designed to spread knowledge and public understanding about the spirit of the Constitution, the functions of the justice system and other related matters. (Co-hosted by the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations)

●Constitution Week

●Illegal Work Prevention Campaign  
●Human Rights Volunteers Day

●Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month  
●"The Brighter Society Campaign" Enhancement Month

## "The Brighter Society Campaign" Enhancement Month

The power of community action to prevent crime and delinquency, assisting in the rehabilitation of offenders

"The Brighter Society Campaign" is a nation-wide campaign to help people understand the importance of preventing crime and delinquency and rehabilitating offenders, combining the efforts of people in their respective positions in the community to build a brighter society that is free from crime and delinquency. The highlight of this campaign is variety of activities rooted in local communities held in July each year across the country that call for cooperation in and understanding of the rehabilitation of offenders.

## Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month (July)

Under Article 6 of the Recidivism Prevention Promotion Act, July has been designated Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month, with public awareness events held to deepen interest and understanding of recidivism prevention among the wider public.



Special section of the website



## Japan Law Day Week (October 1-7) Japan Law Day Festa (First Sat. of October)

Japan Law Day originates from Judicial Memorial Day, created on October 1, 1928 to commemorate enactment of the Jury Law on October 1 of the previous year, and on June 24, 1960, the Cabinet designated the 1st of October every year as Law Day, with the week from October 1 to 7 as Japan Law Day Week. During this week, various programs such as lectures, free legal counseling services and other related programs are organized all across the country to promote respect for law, the protection of fundamental human rights, and the establishment of an orderly society through the rule of law. Every year, on the first Saturday of October, Ministry of Justice holds an open day named "Japan Law Day Festa", and holds various programs there, so that citizens may be encouraged to understand the importance and the role of law.

The Japan Law Day Festa was canceled due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in FY 2021. However, a special section was open in the official Ministry's website to provide movies, online live events, and other content.



Live event: Correctional officers online recruitment briefing



Movie Virtual site tour of juvenile correctional institution



Special section of the website



## Notarization Week(October 1-7)

Every year, the week from October 1 through 7 is designated as Notarization Week, with public awareness activities through newspapers and TV, posters, leaflets, lecture meetings, and consultation services held extensively throughout the country to publicize the notary system.

(Hosted by Japan National Notaries Association, Supported by the Ministry of Justice)

## Human Rights Week (December 4-10)

The United Nations, at its 5th General Assembly on December 4, 1950, invited all member states to observe December 10 to celebrate the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on this day in 1948, and to exert increasing efforts in the field of human rights. In Japan, the week ending on December 10 each year was designated as Human Rights Week in 1949, the year following the adoption of the Declaration, and human rights awareness-raising activities have been carried out throughout the country since then.

(Hosted by the Ministry of Justice and the National Federation of Associations of Human Rights Volunteers)

Poster "Human Rights Week"



Central Event 71st Happy Society Campaign kickoff event



An event during Human Rights Week

# Kids Room

Read together with The Ministry of Justice in our daily lives  
and you'll learn more!



The Kids Room character  
"Dr. Brick"

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WORK GUIDE

### 1 Civil Affairs Bureau

The Civil Affairs Bureau conducts work involving registration, family registration, nationality, deposit services, storage of will, and notarization, as well as manages and operates the Legal Affairs Bureau and the District Legal Affairs Bureau, creates bills on basic civil laws such as the Civil Code, the Commercial Code and the Code of Civil Procedure.

### 2 Criminal Affairs Bureau

The Criminal Affairs Bureau plans and drafts bills to inflict punishment on those who commit crimes, asks for cooperation from foreign countries and responds to requests for cooperation from foreign countries to investigate cases, as well as providing assistance for the activities of the Public Prosecutors Office.

### 3 Correction Bureau

The Correction Bureau is responsible for giving guidance or supervision to correctional institutions such as prisons or juvenile training schools so that treatment (such as security, prison work, classification, assessment, education, medical treatment, hygiene, etc.) of inmates is performed properly, and is also responsible for conducting research and studies on new treatment methods.

### 4 Rehabilitation Bureau

The Rehabilitation Bureau is responsible for giving life guidance and livelihood support in cooperation with private citizens to offenders and juvenile delinquents so that they are rehabilitated in local communities and do not turn to delinquency again, and is also responsible for conducting crime prevention activities such as "Yellow Feather Campaign" and work related to parole from prisons or juvenile training schools.

### 5 Human Rights Bureau

The Human Rights Bureau handles various human rights problems regarding discrimination, abuse, bullying, and violation of privacy, and conducts activities such as human rights counseling, and investigation and remedy procedures for human rights violation cases, as well as human rights awareness-raising in cooperation with Human Rights Volunteers, who are private citizens.

### 6 Litigation Bureau

The Litigation Bureau conducts work as attorneys for the national government, filing motions with the court, making claims or submitting evidence on behalf of the national government in lawsuits where the government is the plaintiff or the defendant.

The Ministry of Justice  
is doing various work.



### 7 Judicial System Department

The Judicial System Department conducts a wide range of work related to the judicial system, including the structure of the court, measures to make the court more accessible to the general public, how to settle disputes by means other than a trial, the lawyer system, and training of legal professionals. The Department also promotes efforts to enrich and develop Law-Related Education so that all citizens can gain a good understanding of the importance of laws and judicial process.

### 8 Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice

The Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for compiling the outcomes of the studies and research on crimes in the White Paper on Crime as well as providing training for the officials of the Ministry of Justice. Also, the Institute helps create laws for countries where laws are not yet well established, as well as providing international training for the prevention of crimes in cooperation with the United Nations.

### 9 Public Prosecutors Office

The Public Prosecutors Office investigates crimes in cooperation with the police and decides whether or not to bring indictments against criminals to the court, and when decided, asks for proper punishment against criminals by the court.

### 10 Immigration Services Agency

The Immigration Services Agency is responsible for work involved in examinations when Japanese nationals or foreign nationals enter or depart from Japan, procedures for foreign nationals staying in Japan and the deportation of illegally staying foreign nationals, and takes the measures necessary for coexistence with foreign nationals by cooperating with relevant ministries and agencies. The Agency is also responsible for proceedings for refugee recognition when a foreign national seeks asylum in Japan for fear of persecution in the country of origin.

### 11 Public Security Examination Commission

The Public Security Examination Commission is responsible for fair investigations and neutral decisions upon request from the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency for control measures against subversive organizations that pose threats to the safety of the country and the citizens through violence.

### 12 Public Security Intelligence Agency

The Public Security Intelligence Agency works to protect the security of the country and the citizens from organizations that assert themselves with violence, such as terrorist organizations. For example, the Agency is undertaking an investigation into the successor organization of Aum Shinrikyo, which committed indiscriminate mass murder in the past, so that similar incidents will never happen again.



This page is designed to give elementary and junior high school children an easy-to-understand introduction to the Ministry of Justice. When read together with the “Kids Room” page on the Ministry of Justice website, it provides an even deeper understanding of the Ministry.



The Kids Room character “Akarenga-kun”

## What are **laws** for?

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.

## 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 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.

## What is **“Kids Room”** ?

“Kids Room” is a website that introduces the Ministry of Justice to elementary and junior high school students. The “What is the role of the Ministry of Justice?” and the “Ministry of Justice in Photographs” sections use illustrations and photographs to help explain the jobs of each department and agency of the Ministry. Once you get a better understanding of the Ministry, try taking the “Ministry of Justice Quiz”! There is also a children’s human rights desk that provides counseling on bullying and other issues.

Get information in an easy-to-understand quiz format.



moj Kidsroom

検索

<https://www.moj.go.jp/KIDS/index.html>

## Friends of the Ministry of Justice

There are unique mascots that reflect the characters of the administrative agency of the Ministry of Justice around the country, such as the Legal Affairs Bureau, the Public Prosecutors Office, and the Probation Office, and regional characteristics where they are located. Let us introduce some of the new members who joined the ministry.



Official mascot of the Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice, Shisetsukame



Property registration promotion mascot, Toukitsuune



Online immigration procedure PR mascot, Rasuppi



# The Ministry of Justice in our lives

The Min  
in our s



## Immigration Screening

The Immigration Services Agency examines Japanese and foreign nationals whether they have any problems or not when they enter or depart from Japan.【Work Guide ⑩】



## Law-Related Education

The staff of the Ministry of Justice creates videos to help you understand the law.【Work Guide ⑦】



## Activities to protect human rights

Engages in activities to make people aware of the importance of human rights and provides consultation on discrimination, abuse, and bullying. 【Work Guide ⑤】



## Recidivism Prevention

Provides education at prisons or juvenile detention facilities and support in society to offenders and juveniles so they are rehabilitated in local communities and do not commit delinquency again. The Yellow Feather Project is a happy and bright society free from crime.





Ministry of Justice plays a variety of different roles in society so that everyone can live safe.



Education

The Ministry of Justice gives lessons, so that everyone can understand why laws are important.



## Case investigation and trial

Public prosecutors investigate cases and decide whether or not to charge the criminals (bring the criminals to court). They also attend the trial to prove that the criminal committed the offense. 【Work Guide ②】



Protection

The Ministry of Justice provides services to protect our rights and property, such as contracts and family. It also provides services to protect juveniles in training schools or juvenile delinquents so that they can live in communities and do not turn to crime. 【Work Guide ③④】



## Services to protect rights and property

In order to protect our rights and property, the Ministry of Justice provides services relevant to the registration system to understand lands, buildings, and companies. It also provides different services regarding rules in the surrounding living environment, such as contracts and family. 【Work Guide ①】



Central Gov't Bldg. No.6

## History of the Ministry of Justice Building

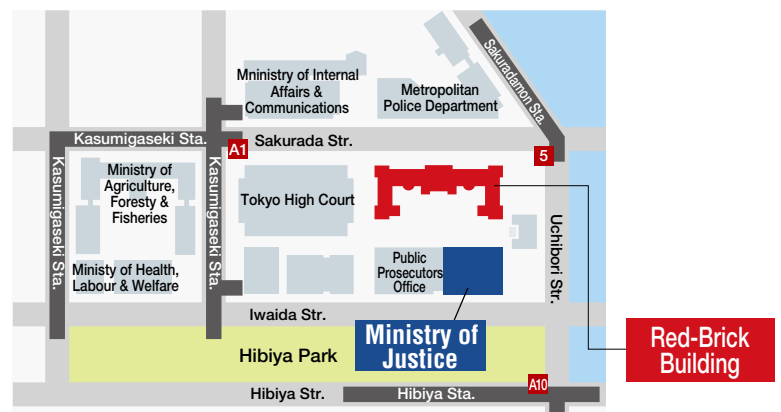
Central Government Office Complex No. 6-A, which houses the Ministry of Justice, consists of 21 floors and 4 basement floors. The building is functionally divided into two zones: the Ministry of Justice zone on the north side and the Public Prosecutor Offices zone on the south side. The outer wall of 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. During its construction, the preservation and restoration of the old Ministry of Justice building (the present red-brick building of the Central Government Office Complex No. 6) was discussed, leading to the conclusion that the building should be preserved and utilized. As the only remaining historical building among the Central Government Building Integration Project drawn up in the Meiji era, the retention of the building is essential for the setting of the Kasumigaseki district. The exterior was restored to its original state.

The original red-brick building, designed by the two German architects W. Bockmann 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 in March 1945 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 appearance in 1895, and its exterior was designated as a national important cultural property on December 27, 1994.

### ACCESS TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- **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



## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Published in 2022 by the Public Relations Office,  
Ministry of Justice (Secretariat Division, Minister's Secretariat)  
1-1-1 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8977  
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