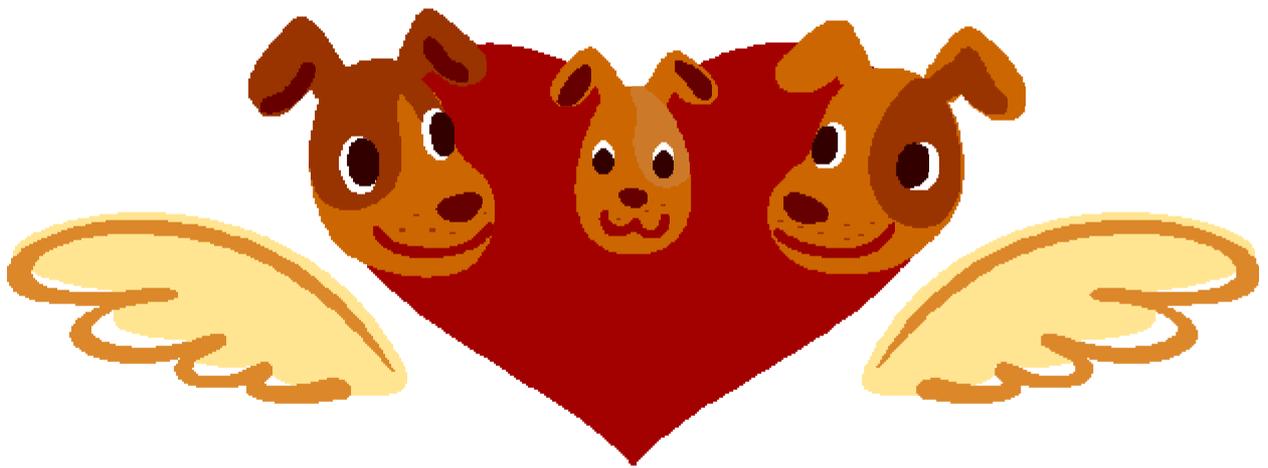


Police Support for Crime Victims



National Police Agency
Office for Crime Victims

Police Support for Crime Victims

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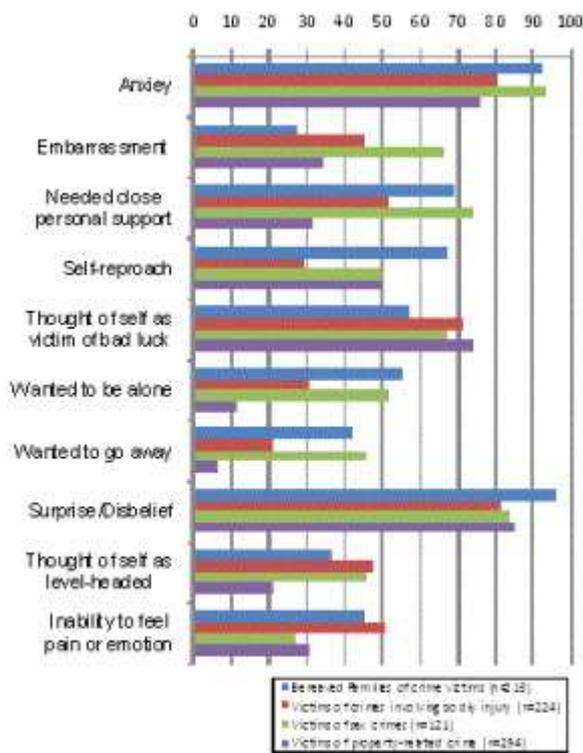
1 Current State of Affairs Regarding Crime Victims

Various Problems that Crime Victims Face

Crime victims (hereinafter including bereaved families of crime victims) not only undergo a loss of life (or a loss of the lives of family members), physical injury, loss of property, and other direct losses and damage, but also suffer from what is known as "secondary victimization" as follows:

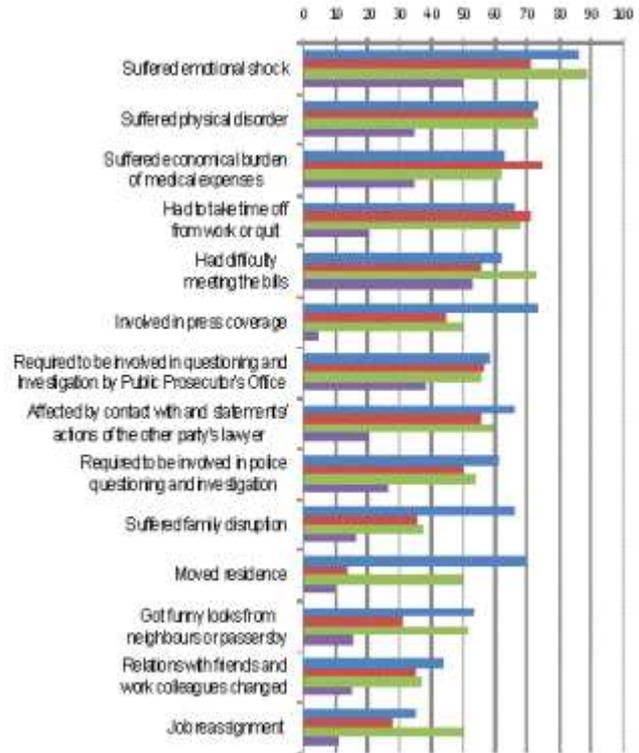
- Emotional shock and physical disorder arising from their having been a victim of a crime,
- Economic stress stemming from medical expenses, loss of employment, job changes, etc.,
- Emotional and time burdens through investigations and court procedures,
- Stress and annoyance of rumors and press coverage, and
- Other problems arising after the crime.

Victims Emotional Condition Immediately after Suffering a Crime



Figures represent the percentage of respondents who indicated that they experienced the emotional state "somewhat" or "greatly." (Figures do not include those who indicated "no response.")
Source: Data taken from the Crime Victim Survey and Research Group's "Crime Victims Survey Report"

Conditions of Those Suffering from Secondary Victimization



Figures include only respondents who said that they experienced the above after being victim to a crime, and represent the percentage of people who responded that they "strongly felt that the above was part of the crime." (Figures do not include those who indicated "no response.")
Source: Data taken from the Crime Victim Survey and Research Group's "Crime Victims Survey Report"

Among the problems that crime victims have to deal with, the emotional shock is particularly serious.

In recent years, complaints of various traumas and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms by victims of the subway sarin gas attack and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake have resulted in a broad awareness of the serious emotional shock that victims suffer.

In a survey conducted by the Crime Victim Survey and Research Group,* 90% of bereaved family members of crime victims and victims of sex crimes indicated that they suffered from anxiety immediately after the crime, as shown in the above graph. Even a few years after the incident, some victims report that the scene of the crime flashes in their minds and they cannot tolerate anything that reminds them of the event. These data clearly show that many crime victims suffer from serious emotional shock after the crime and suffer long-term psychological stress.

* Comprised of scholars in the field of criminal law, crime victim studies, and psychiatry, the Crime Victim Survey and Research Group performed surveys of crime victims from 1998 to 2000.

Trauma and PTSD

Trauma here refers to the emotional shock that often comes with injuries or damage resulting from a crime, an accident, a natural disaster, a war, or a loss of intimate people. This shock is such that some people cannot alone deal with it. Trauma symptoms vary with each trauma-causing incident. Some parents who lose a child may come to want to stay at home and isolate themselves from society, while others, conversely, become obsessed with their work.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) generally refers to a condition in which people who are traumatized as a result of some incident show symptoms of

persistent emotional and physical stress beginning several weeks or months after the causal incident. Examples of this stress include:

frequent, recurring dreams of the original incident and re-experiencing the pain; inability to revisit the site of the original incident and avoidance of any behavior or conditions that stir up memories of the original incident; and constant nervousness and an inability to sleep, or chronic fearfulness.

Whereas trauma symptoms differ for each individual, PTSD symptoms are very similar among all persons, regardless of an individual's personality and life experiences.

Victim Psychology

Upon becoming the victim of a crime, people often suffer a form of prolonged shock that causes physical and emotional pain. However, this is not unnatural and could happen to anyone experiencing a sudden, serious shock.

At such times, it is advisable for friends and acquaintances to understand the emotional condition of the victim and to avoid blaming or making too much effort to reassure him/her. Victims require the understanding, sympathy and support of those around them to heal their emotional wounds.

Emotional Response

Fear
Self-reproach
Anxiety
Apathy, Hopelessness
Isolation, Alienation
Anger, Revenge

Physical Response

Nervousness,
Heart palpitations,
Upset stomach,
Nausea
Insomnia
Nightmares
Loss of appetite

Sensory Response

Loss of physical
or emotional feeling
No sense of reality
Feeling of having
become someone else
Diminished memory or
ability to make judgment

2 Recent History of Victim Support Initiatives

Victim Support Initiatives

After the bombing of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Building, in 1980 the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law was passed, and the Benefit System for Crime Victims, under which the national government covers financial benefit payments to some victims or their bereaved family members suffering severe consequences of wanton criminal activity, was put in place. With these initiatives, the provision of economic support to victims began.

Then, at the Symposium Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Implementation of the Benefit System for Crime Victims held in 1991, crime victims themselves strongly emphasized the need for emotional support. This became the impetus for even closer consideration of ways to support crime victims.

Summary of a Speech by Emiko Okubo Symposium Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Implementation of the Benefit System for Crime Victims (1991)

" My son was killed by a drunk driver on October 12 of last year. For several months afterward, I could think of nothing other than how I could go on living. I desperately searched for some place in Japan that could provide me with emotional support, but found none.

Even one of the panelists who addressed us earlier said, " In Japan nothing is heard from victims, so we must wonder whether or not this is something victims really need". And from the victim's perspective, yes, I can confirm that this is not a society in which one can say things in a loud voice or openly cry. Today's Japanese atmosphere makes us not cry openly, even when we feel that there is nothing else we can do. All that is left to

victims is to quietly bear their pain alone in silence.

In Japan, there is no way to provide emotional support to such victims. But I would like for any supporting system to be created.

Just a moment ago, it was said that, "it is most important for victims to discuss things with other victims " but without the assistance of specialists, the process of recovery does not progress well. The last thing that parents whose child has been killed want is to have other people feel the similar pain. I would welcome any kind of cooperation, so let us not forego the opportunity provided to us by this 10th Anniversary Symposium. Even one step forward would be welcome. Thank you."

International Trends

Against a backdrop of greater awareness of human rights, calls for national relief and support for those who have suffered physical or emotional injury as a result of a crime are growing at the international level.

The General Assembly of the United Nations in 1985 adopted its Declaration of the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. Within that declaration, it is stated that:

Victims should be treated with compassion and respect for their dignity.

It is necessary to provide victims with information on their role in preparations for court proceedings, and on the progress and results of such proceedings.

Victims should be given access to necessary physical, medical, emotional, and social support and should be given information on how to receive such support.

National governments should adequately educate and train members of police, judicial, medical, and social welfare institutions, and put in place systems allowing for prompt judicial and administrative proceedings.

Additionally, much progress is being made in establishing victim support systems in Europe and America, and it shows that victim support has truly become an international trend.

The Necessity and Approaches for Providing Victim Support by Police

The police department receives requests for help, arrests suspects and plays an important role in helping people recover from crime, minimizing crime's damage and preventing recurrences of crime. It is the organization closest to victims and is responsible for protecting them. Accordingly, the police department takes the perspective of victims and promotes measures for victim support.

In February 1996, the National Police Agency issued its Basic Policy Concerning the Measures for Supporting Crime Victims, which set forth its principles on this topic. Each prefecture's police has since used this policy as a basis for coordinating organizations to develop victim support measures. In May of the same year, the National Police Agency also established an Office for Crime Victims in the Allowance and Welfare Division of its Director General's Secretariat. This office studies and designs victim support measures, in addition to providing overall coordination.

The Agency also revised in June 1999 its Criminal Investigation Standards, which stipulates discipline, methods of investigation and procedures for police officers to follow when conducting investigation. Revised standards include clauses that call for a greater consideration of victims' needs, the provision of information to victims and victim protection.

In 2001, the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law was significantly revised, and as a measure to contribute to the swift reduction of the impact of victimization, the Chief of the Police Headquarters was tasked with making efforts to support the victims of crime. The National Public Safety Commission stipulated "the Basic Policy Regarding Implementation of Support for Victims of Crime and Others by the Chief of the Police Headquarters", which went into effect on April 1, 2002.

In December 2004, the Basic Act on Crime Victims was enacted. The act stipulated fundamental ideas on policies for crime victims, and assign the duty on the national government to establish the Basic Plan for Crime Victims, which provides the fundamental principles to implement comprehensive and long-term support for crime victims.

In 2005, the National Government had the Cabinet decision on the Basic Plan for Crime Victims, in which specific measures for victim support are incorporated. Based on the Basic Plan, three investigative committees (namely "Investigative Committee on Financial Support", "Investigative Committee on Liaison of Support" and "Investigative Committee on Support for the private groups") that are composed of members from the related institutions include the National Police Agency, and experts of victim support, continued discussions, and published the "Final Report" in November 2007.

Taking into account the "Final Report", the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law was amended in 2008. The amendment was aimed at expanding the Crime Victims Benefit Payment System, as well as encouraging activities of the private groups and promoting public relations and awareness-raising activities. The revised law, which changes the title to the Crime Victim Support Law went into effect on July 1, 2008. "Guideline on Crime Victims Support" was also formulated by the National Public Safety Commission to achieve the appropriate and effective implementation of support for the private groups and so on.

Summary of the amendment of the Crime Victims Support Law in 2008

Expand of the Crime Victims Benefit Payment System

Survivor Benefit

Increase in the payment for bereaved family members with dependent status
Increase the maximum at similar level of compulsory automobile liability insurance, and increase the minimum as well.
Take into account of the number of bereaved family members with dependent status

Increase in the payment for bereaved family members with dependent status
¥15,730,000~¥4,160,000 ¥29,645,000~¥8,721,000
e.g. 45 years old, 4 families with dependent status
¥15,080,000~¥5,590,000 ¥28,420,000~¥19,600,000

Disability Benefit

Increase in the payment for severe disability
Increase the maximum at similar level of compulsory automobile liability insurance, and increase the minimum as well.
Avoid setting improper low benefit for the young generation with low income

Increase in the payment for those with Grade of disability Level 1 to 3
¥18,492,000~¥3,780,000 ¥39,744,000~¥10,560,000
e.g. younger than 20, Grade of disability Level 1 requiring nursing care
¥7,102,000~¥4,824,000 ¥21,888,000

Severe Injury and Disease Benefit

Add the amount taking into account of the loss caused by the suspension of the business

Add the amount taking into account of the loss caused by the suspension of the business to the individually paid medical expenses (max. ¥1,200,000).

Measures for advising to improve the activities of private victim support groups

Ensure level of the activity nationwide
Aiding the private victim support groups and the nationwide organization

Advise and instruction from prefectural Public Safety Commission to the private groups (guideline is decided by National Safety Commission).
Advise and instruction from National Safety Commission to National Network for Victim Support.

Promotion of public awareness

The creation of a groundswell of sentiment in favor of crime victim support through public relations and awareness-raising activities is necessary

Public relations and awareness-raising activities by the National Safety Commission, Public Safety Commissions, and the Chief of the Prefectural Police Headquarters.

Change in the title and purpose provision of the Law

Reflect the expansion of the support to the title
Based on the idea of the Basic Act on Crime Victims

Change the title to "Crime Victim Support Law".
Add "support until the crime victims recover the peace of their lives" to the purpose.

Recent History of Victim Support Initiatives

Date	Event
Aug.30,1974	-Bombing of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Building * This event led to discussions on the Benefit System for Crime Victims.
May 1, 1980	-Passage of the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law (came into force on Jan. 1, 1981)
May 21,1981	-Establishment of the Crime Victims Relief Fund
Aug.26,1985	-The Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, Italy (till Sept. 6) * The Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power was adopted at the Congress.
Nov.17,1990	-Establishment of the Japanese Association of Victimology
Oct. 3, 1991	-Symposium Commemorating the 10 th Anniversary of the Implementation of the Benefit System for Crime Victims * The need for emotional support of crime victims was pointed out at this symposium.
Mar.10,1992 April	-Establishment of the Crime Victims Consultation Center (Tokyo) -Survey by the Crime Victim Survey and Research Group (report submitted in March 1995) * Based on issues pointed out at the 10 th Anniversary Symposium, and as a project consigned by the Crime Victims Relief Fund, this study, undertaken by the Crime Victim Survey and Research Group (headed by Professor Koichi Miyazawa of Keio University), was the first rigorous study of crime victims in Japan. The study pointed out the problems of secondary victimization resulting from police investigation procedures and the need to provide information to victims.
Mar.20,1995 June	-Subway Sarin Gas Attack * The crime led to a wide recognition of the serious psychological damage crime victims may suffer in the aftermath of a crime -Research by the Police Research Committee on Victim Support Measures (till December) * Research was undertaken on the ideal form of victim support measures taken by police departments. The National Police Agency set out basic principles for its victim support measures based on this research.
Feb. 1,1996 May 11	-The National Police Agency created its Basic Policy Concerning the Measures for Supporting Crime Victims and distributed it to police departments across the Country -Establishment of the Office for Crime Victims in the Allowance and Welfare Division of the Director General's Secretariat of the National Police Agency
May 9,1998	-Establishment of the National Network for Victim Support (Office: Tokyo Victim Support Center)
May15, 1999 May 26 Jun.18 Nov.11	-Announcement of the Crime Victims' Rights Declaration by the National Network for Victim Support -Law for Punishing Acts Related to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and for Protecting Children was promulgated (came into force on November 1, 1999) -Partially Amendment of the Standards of Criminal Investigation -Establishment of Conference of Ministries and Agencies Related to Crime Victim Support Measures
May19, 2000 May 24 May 24 Dec. 6	-Two Laws for the Protection of Victims of Crime (the partly amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Law for Inquest of Prosecutions) and the Law Regarding Measures Pertaining to Criminal Procedures for the Protection of Crime Victims were promulgated. -Law on the Prevention of Child Abuse was promulgated (came into force on November 20) -Law on Proscribing Stalking Behavior and Assisting Victims was promulgated (came into force on November 24) -Partly amendment of the Juvenile Law was promulgated (came into force on April 1, 2001)
Apr.13, 2001 Apr.13 Nov.19	-Partly amendment of the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law was promulgated (came into force on July 1) -Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and Protection of Victims was promulgated -Holding of the 20th Anniversary of the Implementation of a Benefit System for Crime Victims and Establishment of the Crime Victims Relief Foundation at the 6th the Crime Victim Support Forum
Jan.31, 2002	-Basic Policy Regarding Implementation of Support for Victims of Crime by the Chief of Police Headquarters was promulgated (came into force on April 1) -Rules on the qualifications of Early-Assistance-Providing Groups to Crime Victims were promulgated (came into force on April 1)
Mar.18, 2003 Oct. 3	-Holding of the 2003 International Symposium on Crime Victim Support -National Network for Victim Support designated October 3 "Crime Victim Support Day" and conducted various campaigns nationwide
Dec. 8,2004	-Establishment of the Basic Act on Crime Victims (came into force on April 1, 2005)
Dec.27,2005	-The Basic Plan for Crime Victims (Cabinet decision)
Apr. 1,2006 April	-Partly amendment of Benefit system for Crime Victims -Holding of the Three Investigative Committees on Crime Victim Support (till November 2007)
Jun.27,2007 Nov.	-Partly amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the protection of the rights of Crime Victims -The Final Report of the Three Investigative Committees on Crime Victim Support (Cabinet decision)
Apr.18,2008 Oct. 31	-Partly amendment of the Crime Benefit Payment Law (came into force on July 1) -Guideline on Crime Victims Support was promulgated

3 Specific Initiatives for the Support of Crime Victims

① Provision of Information to Crime Victims

Creation and Distribution of a Guide Book for Crime Victims

The public knows very little about criminal procedure or the content of support available to crime victims to assist their recovery or lessen the damage and injury they have suffered. The prompt provision of such information, however, is vital for victims who have met with unfortunate circumstances and are uncertain about what is taking place. Victims of violent crimes, such as murder, assault or rape, and in which the level of emotional pain and confusion is overwhelming, have a particularly great need for information.

Consequently, each prefecture's police has prepared a pamphlet referred to as the Brochure for Crime Victims. This handbook includes necessary information for victims of murder, assault or rape (or their bereaved family members), and for victims of traffic accidents (or their bereaved family members). Officers distribute these pamphlets and explain their content, if necessary, when they interview victims or when a crime has been reported.

These brochures consist of the following:

- Outline of criminal procedures and requests to victims
- System for designating victim support personnel
- System for providing information regarding criminal procedures and investigation
- Outline of the system that can be used in trial
- System for protecting crime victims
- Outline of financial support and relief systems
- Counseling resources (counseling and victim support organizations other than the police)
- Introductions to various counseling resources

Information on automobile-related damage insurance and other automobile insurance systems, as well as information on guarantors of automobile-related damage compensation is provided to victims of traffic accidents (or their bereaved family members).

For non-Japanese crime victims, many prefectures have produced these pamphlets in English and other foreign languages, according to their needs.

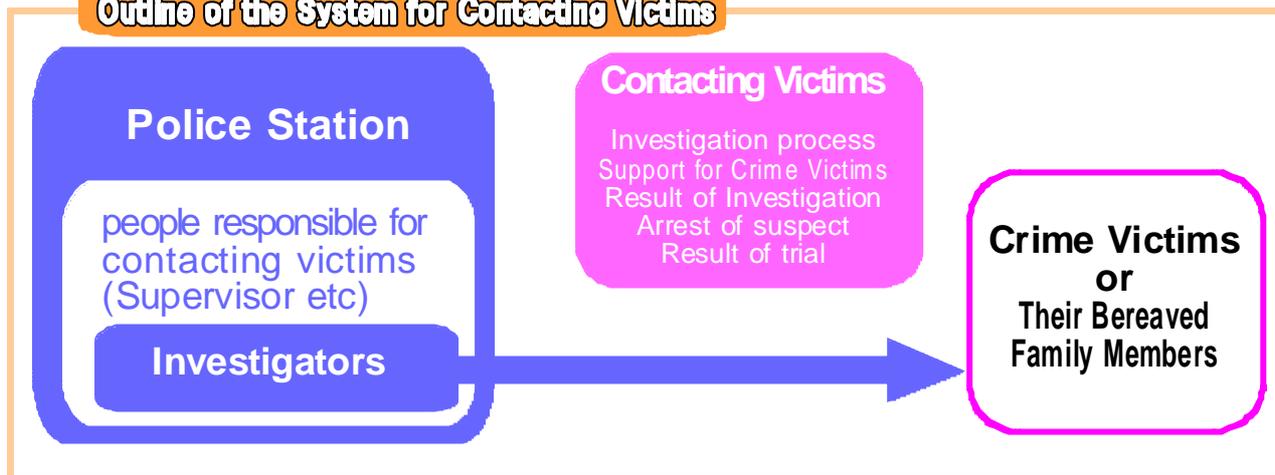
System for Contacting Victim

It is natural for victims of crimes to want information regarding the investigation and to be keenly interested in the punishment the offender receives. Victims of murder, assault or rape (or their bereaved family members) have had inflicted upon them a particularly great emotional pain, and many have an especially strong interest in the details of the proceedings and request information on the incidents.

The police established the system to contact victims. Under this system, victims of murder, assault or rape (or their bereaved family members) are contacted by investigators and being provided the information regarding criminal procedures, system for crime victim support, state of investigation, arrest of the suspect, and processing of the suspect.

Furthermore, Public Prosecutor's Office also established the system for notifying victims about the information regarding indictment/non-issuance of indictment and the result of the trial.

Outline of the System for Contacting Victims



Crime Victims are contacted in the case of:

- Violent crimes such as murder, assault or rape
- Serious traffic accidents such as hit-and-run cases and traffic death accidents

Contact is made by the investigator who interviewed the victim or by another investigator handling the case.

In addition to the progress of an investigation, the following types of information are also provided:

- Outline of criminal procedures and system for crime victim support
- State of investigation
- Details on the arrest of a suspect ^{*1}
- Processing of the suspect ^{*2}

^{*1} Fact of arrest, name and age of the suspect is provided. This information is provided even when the suspect is a juvenile. In principle, contact is made using the same methods applied for adult crimes. However, there are cases when, in consideration of the suspect's developmental prospects, only the information of parents or guardians is released

^{*2} Name of the Public Prosecutor's Office where the case transferred, indictment/non-issuance of an indictment, name of the court where the suspect is prosecuted, etc. is informed. When a case has been referred to a Public Prosecutor's Office without an arrest, only the name of the Public Prosecutor's Office is released.

Some victims do not want to receive information because they would prefer not to recall details of the incidents. The feelings of victims are always respected when the police make contacts.

Visit of, and Contact with Crime Victims by Local Officers

Police officers assigned to police boxes, or other local police officers, visit and contact victims living in the areas for which they are responsible. These visits and contacts are based on the requests of victims and are carried out to prevent further victimization and to relieve anxiety.

During these visits or contacts, police officers:

- Provide information helpful for recovery or prevention of further injury
- Provide information on crime prevention
- Listen to the victim's desires regarding the police
- Respond to victim requests for advice

Also, visits or contacts by female officers and patrols are arranged, depending on the type of injury sustained.

② Institution of a Consulting / Counseling System

● Establishment of Counseling Resources ●

A Comprehensive Counseling Center has been created within most police headquarters to respond to citizens' requests for assistance. A telephone counseling facility has also been established and may be reached from anywhere in the country by dialing 9110. People who call this number will reach the Comprehensive Counseling Center. Additionally, facilities specializing in counseling for victims of sex crimes, for juveniles, and for consumers have been set up.

● Counseling System ●

There are occasions when crime victims have sustained severe emotional injury and require specialized psychological counseling. To help alleviate emotional injury, police departments have established counseling systems in which they:

- Dispatch officers with expertise in counseling
- Work together with psychiatrists and psychologists.

When the victim is a juvenile, police counselors work with the advice of juvenile guidance officials or other external specialists.

③ Benefit System for Crime Victims

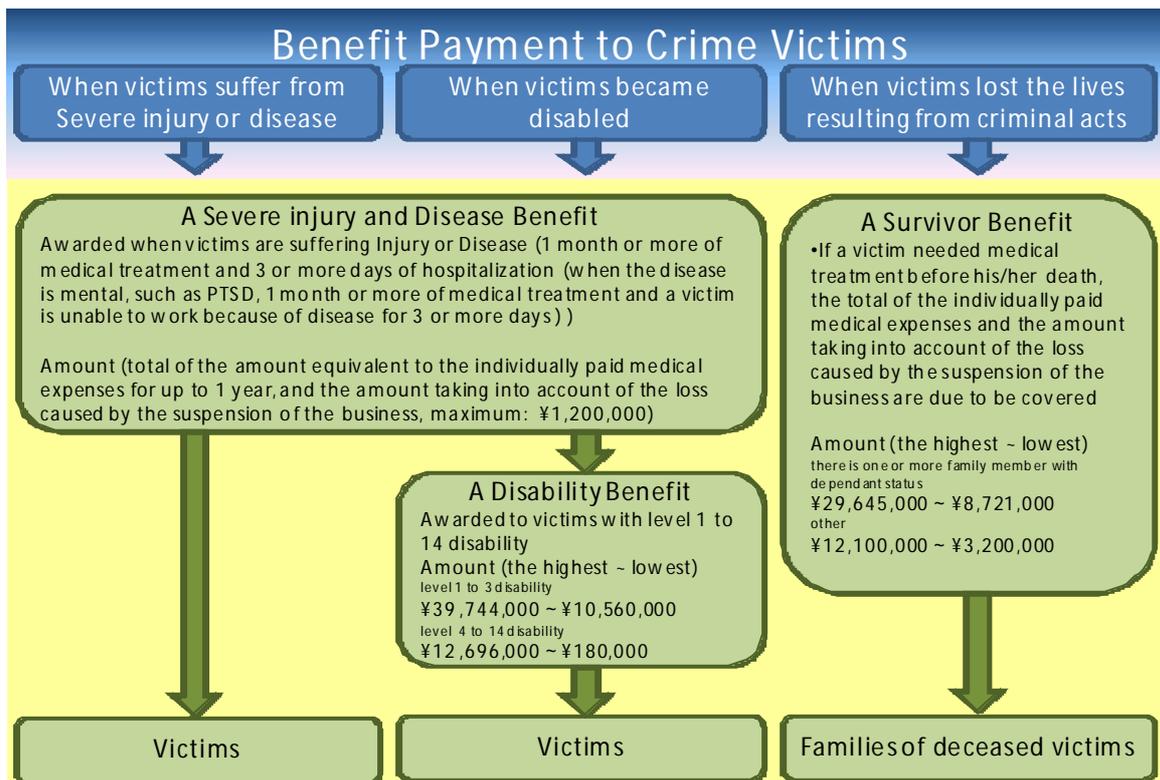
The Benefit System for Crime Victims was implemented on January 1, 1981, based on the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law. Under this system, based on the idea that society should provide help to its members who are in particular need, the national government makes benefit payments to the victims of wanton criminal activities and their bereaved family members. The purpose of payment is to help alleviate the emotional and economic distress caused by serious crimes.

The impetus for the passage of this law was the August 30, 1974 leftist bombing of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Building (8 were killed and 380 injured), which set off heated debates in the Diet and in the press on the need for the establishment of a public system for compensating victims of crimes. The added force of bereaved family members of random killings, researchers of victimology and lawyers associations all calling for such a system led to the establishment on May 1, 1980 and enforcement on January 1, 1981 of the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law.

The public came to acknowledge the pitiful situation of crime victims after the indiscriminate sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system in 1995. Social momentum rapidly picked up in tempo to demand support for victims of crime including an overhaul of the benefit system for crime victims. Based on this situation, legislation was revised, focusing on an expansion of those eligible for benefits and an increase in the basic amount provided. On July 1, 2001, partly amendment of the Crime Victims Benefit Payment Law was enforced.

Following the establishment of the Basic Act on Crime Victims and the Basic Plan for Crime Victims, the alleviation of required conditions and the extension of the period of Severe injury and Disease Benefit were enforced on April 1, 2006.

Based on the "Final Report" of the "Investigative Committee on Financial Support", the law was revised again, and the expansion of the Benefit Payment System went into effect on July 1, 2008.



○ Targeted Criminal Acts

This system will pay benefits for losses incurred as a result of criminal acts (excluding acts of negligence) that take place inside Japanese territory (including on a Japanese ship or aircraft outside Japan). These losses include death, severe injury/disease and disability. The damages resulting from emergency evacuations, or from acts not punished because offenders were criminally insane or minors are also covered.

Types and Amount of Benefit

Three types of benefits are paid - survivor benefits for families of deceased victims of a targeted criminal act, severe injury and disease benefits for victims who suffer injury or disease requiring more than one month of medical treatment and more than three days of hospitalization (in terms of mental disorders, such as PTSD, damage which entails medical treatment for more than one months, and suspension of the business for more than three days), and disability benefits for victims disabled physically. Each type of benefit is a one-time payment.

The amounts of survivors benefits or disability benefits are calculated based on the age of the crime victims and their work-based income, etc.

As for benefits provided for serious injuries and diseases, a sum equivalent to the self-payment portion of medical expenses and the amount taking into account of the loss caused by the suspension of the business are offered. The maximum period of the payment is one year, and the maximum amount is limited to 1,200,000 yen.

In addition, with regard to survivor benefits, in cases where prior to a victim's death he/she was receiving medical treatment for injuries or diseases sustained in an act of crime, related medical expenses borne by the victim are added to the benefits awarded to his/her families, and the sum added is calculated on the basis of an amount equivalent to the self-payment portion of medical expenses within one year (in this case the stipulations concerning medical treatment and hospitalization are not required) and the amount taking into account of the loss caused by the suspension of the business.

It should be noted that even in the event of a targeted criminal act, Prefectural Public Safety Commissions may rule that all or a part of benefit funds not be paid based on the following considerations:

- The crime was committed by a relative
- The victim was in part the cause of his/her injury or death
- Workers Compensation or other public compensation or damage awards were received.

Benefit System for Crime Victims Statistics

Classification		Year	Years up to and including 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Crime Victims (# of Numbers)			5,103 (7,738)	465 (608)	491 (649)	448 (574)	6,507 (9,569)
Number of Persons Determined Through Decision (Judgement)	Victims Benefited (#of Applicants)		4,554 (7,099)	394 (520)	435 (583)	407 (546)	5,790 (8,748)
	Victims Not Benefited (#of Applicants)		274 (379)	18 (21)	23 (27)	38 (42)	353 (469)
	Total (#of Applicants)		4,828 (7,478)	412 (541)	458 (610)	445 (588)	6,143 (9,217)
Amounts Set by Decision (Judgement) (millions of yen)			15,801	1,133	1,272	932	19,138

Under this system,

and based on the idea that society should provide help to those of its members who are in particular need, the national government makes benefit payment to bereaved family members of random killings and other wanton criminal activities and to crime victims who sustained severe injury/disease or became disabled. The purpose of these payments is to help alleviate the emotional and economic distress that victims of serious crimes and their bereaved family members endure.

Victims or Bereaved Families Eligible to Receive Benefit Payments

Persons holding Japanese citizenship or whose residence is in Japan, foreigners holding residence in Japan at the time of a criminal incident are also eligible.

Benefit Payment to Crime Victims or Bereaved Families

Targeted Criminal Acts

This system will pay benefit for death, severe injury/disease, and disability incurred as a result of criminal acts (not including acts of negligence) that take place inside Japanese territory (including on a Japanese ship or aircraft outside Japan).

Benefit payment to Crime Victims or Bereaved Families

The government pays three types of benefits as temporary assistance-Survivor Benefit for bereaved family members of a targeted criminal act, Severe Injury and Disease Benefits for victims who suffer a severe injury /disease as a result of a criminal act and Disability Benefits for victims disabled physically. These benefits are one form of benefits given with an intention to cover part of the damage caused by criminal acts.

Method for calculating benefit payment,

The amount of benefit payments will be calculated based on work income and the age of the victim, etc.

Application for decision to receive benefit payments

Persons attempting to receive benefit payments should apply to the Public Safety Commission in their prefecture. Enquiries are handled at the prefectural police headquarters or police stations.

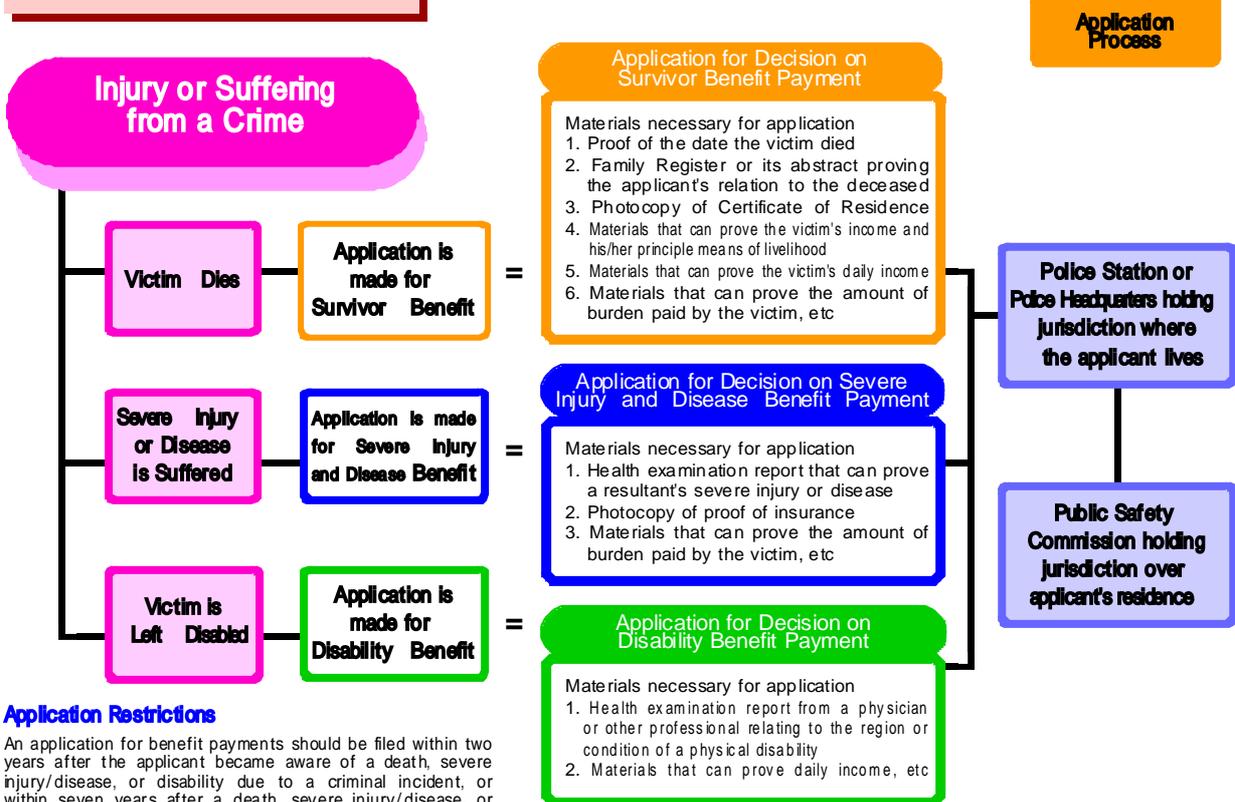
Reductions or adjustments to benefit payments

Even in a situation where suffering or damage has been incurred due to a crime, if the crime was committed by a relative or if the victim was in part the cause of his/her injury, then a person might not be eligible for part or all of the benefit payments. Moreover, in the crime where Workers Compensation or other public compensation or damage awards have been received, there will be an adjustment between that amount and the benefit payments.

Payment of "provisional benefit payments"

In the event that expedient decision cannot be made in a case since it is unclear who committed the crime or for other reasons, a provisional benefit payment is made in a fixed amount basis.

How Benefits are Disbursed



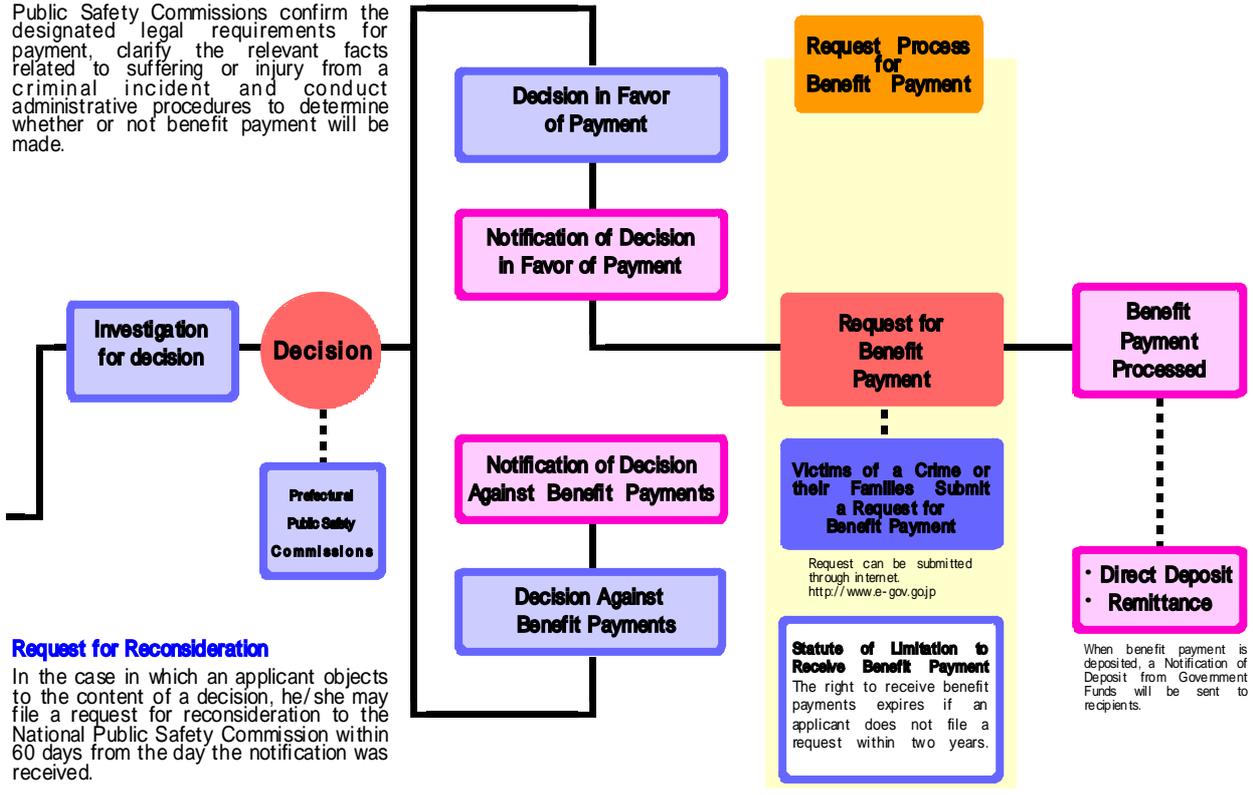
Application Restrictions

An application for benefit payments should be filed within two years after the applicant became aware of a death, severe injury/disease, or disability due to a criminal incident, or within seven years after a death, severe injury/disease, or disability actually occurred.



Decision

Public Safety Commissions confirm the designated legal requirements for payment, clarify the relevant facts related to suffering or injury from a criminal incident and conduct administrative procedures to determine whether or not benefit payment will be made.



Request for Reconsideration

In the case in which an applicant objects to the content of a decision, he/she may file a request for reconsideration to the National Public Safety Commission within 60 days from the day the notification was received.

① Lessening a Burden on Crime Victims during Police Investigation

Investigations in General

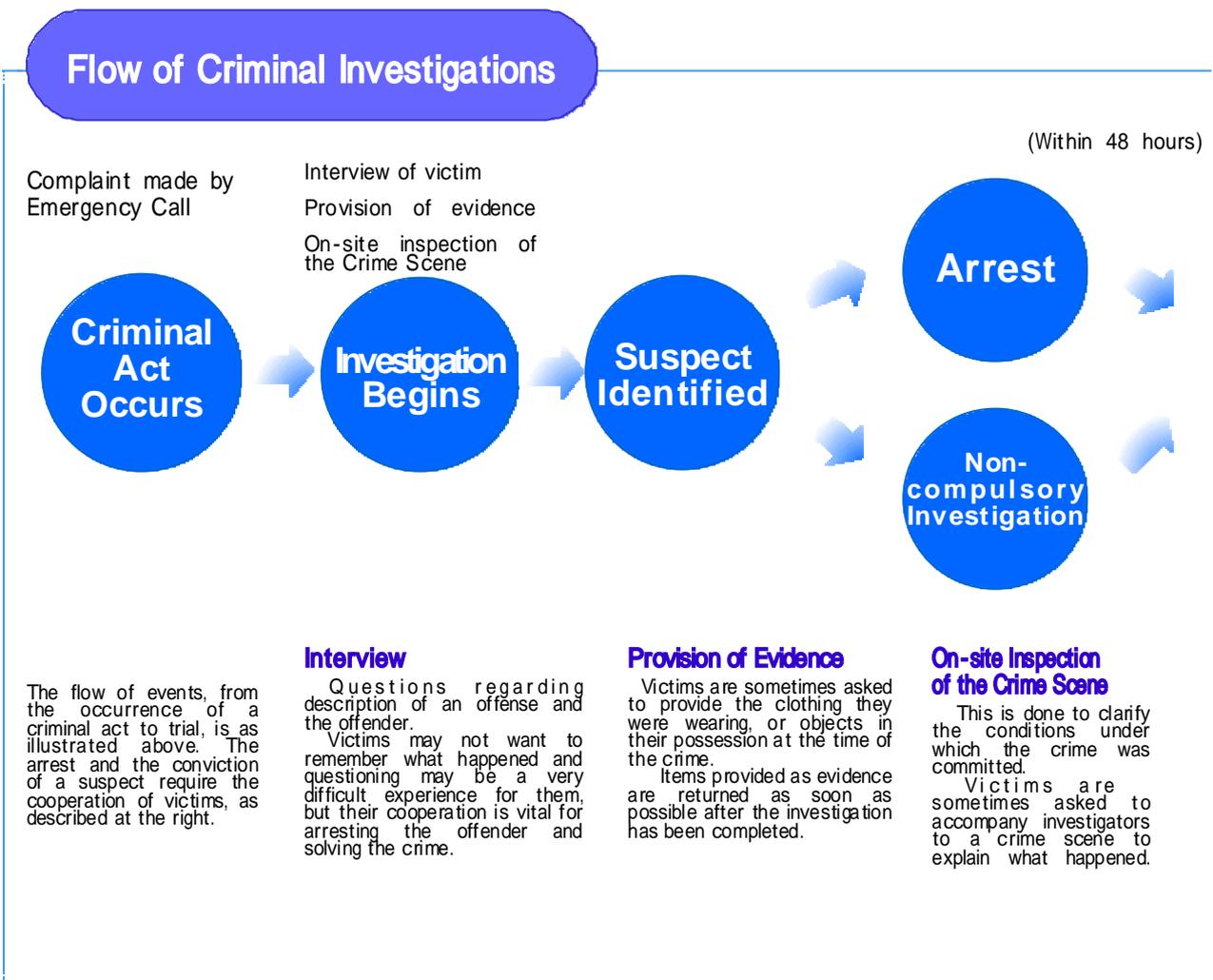
During the investigative process, the words and actions of an investigator can have a greater impact on the psychological condition of a victim. Therefore, during the contacts, police officers take as much care as possible not to cause a victim to incur secondary victimization.

When a complaint is received, victims are interviewed with consideration for their feelings, and when victims come to police stations, seeking advice regarding their complaints, their concerns are handled appropriately in accordance with their content.

Additionally, when officers are called to a victim's home in an emergency, such as sexual assault, they will, to the extent possible, use unmarked cars and dress in street clothes, if the victim wishes that the contact with the police attract no attention.

Special care is exercised in cases of sex crimes, crimes resulting in injury to a minor, and others in which victims do not want the crime to become known to those around them. Measures are taken so that victims do not become an object of curiosity while giving due consideration to their privacy.

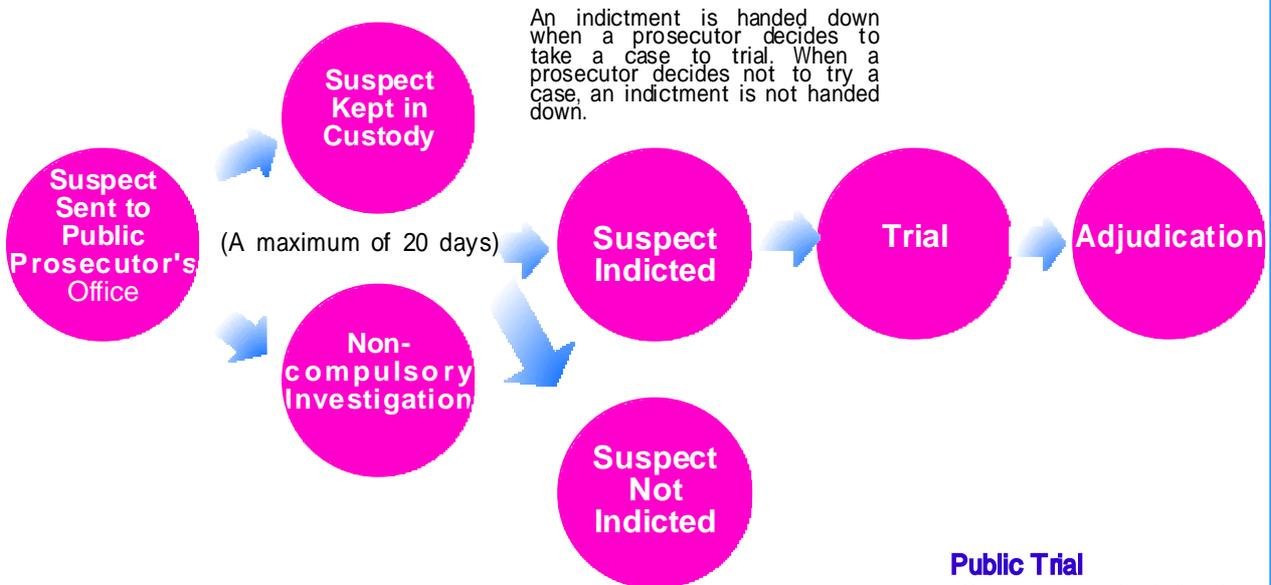
Additionally, when the cooperation of a victim is required in an interview or an on-site inspection of the crime scene, the convenience and emotional state of the victim are given as much consideration as possible.



Preparation and Improvement of Facilities

When interviewing a victim, mindful of his/her emotional condition, the police prepare interview rooms that are furnished, lighted and decorated in the way victims could answer questions in a relaxed mood.

Additionally, there are some victims who is reluctant to just enter a police station or police box. The police, therefore, use victim response vehicles that make it possible to meet with a victim at a place of his/her choice to protect the victim's privacy, while performing necessary interviews and on-site inspection of crime scenes, responding to victims requests for advice, or receiving formal complaints.



Public Trial

If a suspect is indicted, he/she will be tried in a court. Victims are sometimes asked to appear as witness in trials.

Due to the revisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure, following systems are developed:

- 1) Participation of crime victims in a criminal trial (if a certain requirements are satisfied, crime victims can attend the trial date and are allowed to participate in the process by, for example, questioning the defendant)
 - 2) Protection of the personal information of the crime victims
 - 3) Use the results of criminal procedure in the damage recovery suit
 - 4) Wider access permit for crime victim's viewing or receiving the court record
- 1) and 3) went into effect on December 1, 2008. 2) and 4) went into effect on December 26, 2007.

Due to the revisions in the Criminal Procedure, the crime victims with financial difficulties can call for a court-appointed lawyer.

Systems for Designating Victim Support Personnel

Victim support activities are required immediately after a crime takes place.

Consequently, prefectural police have implemented the System for Designating Victim Support Personnel, to suit their own particular circumstances. Under this system, a person apart from an investigator is designated to practice specialized victim support activities.

Targeted Incidents

Murders, crimes involving injuries, rapes
Hit-and-run incidents, traffic accidents involving a death
Other incidents in which the need for designated victim support personnel is recognized

Duties

Escort

- Visit the victim as soon as possible after the incident has occurred and become acquainted with each other
- Arrange for and accompany the victim to a hospital when a medical examination is needed
- Accompany the victim to the site of the crime when he/she goes there to describe what happened
- Provide transportation from and to victim's home

Listen

- Listen to the victim's worries and respond to his/her request for advice (take care of his/her immediate needs)
- Create or help create records of the victim's interviews

Explain

- Hand over a copy of the Guide Book for Crime Victims
- Explain the criminal investigation and court procedures
- Help crime victims gain the understanding from families, companies and schools by explaining the situation to them

Periodic Victim Contacts

Introduce private victim support groups and outside counselors

⑥ Assuring the Safety of Crime Victims

Victims often worry that they will be harmed again by their offender. Victims of organized crime are particularly hesitate to lodge a complaint for fear of reprisals.

Police must eliminate this anxiety and ensure that victims suffer no further injury, so that they can lodge a complaint with a sense of security.

Police maintain close contact with victims and provide necessary advice, while taking measures to protect them. Protective measures include the personal protection at a victim's home or place of work, area patrols and the lending of emergency communication devices.

Establishment of the "Re-Victimization Prevention Guideline"

Police created the "Re-victimization Prevention Guideline", and designate "subjects for re-victimization prevention", against whom police should take continuous preventive measures, set an accumulation of information on the subjects, help the victims to take self-protective measures and recommend all the judicial organizations to coordinate with each other, thereby enhancing policy measures for preventing re-victimization.

4 Initiatives for Supporting Victims of Various Offenses

① Support for Victims of Sex Crimes

Sex crimes, such as rape and indecent assault, damage the dignity of the victim and result in severe physical as well as emotional injury. The police, therefore, treat rape and indecent assault as serious crimes on a par with murder and robbery.

Emotional shock and deep embarrassment, however, often cause victims of sex crimes to hesitate in filing a complaint with police. It is also unavoidable that officers, in their contacts with victims, often cause them to suffer secondary victimization. This would keep victims away from reporting the crime, which, in the end, give another chance to commit the same kind of crime to the suspect. Sex crime offenders show a strong tendency to commit similar crimes again, creating the risk that their acts may evolve into other forms of assault or escalate to murder.

The police, therefore, are advancing the following policies to help alleviate emotional pain and prevent sex crimes from going unreported.

Appointment of a Supervisory Investigator as an Instructor on Sex Crime Investigation

Each prefectural police has appointed a supervisory investigator as an instructor on sex crime investigations and established a section in charge of instructing sex crime investigations in their headquarters. Together, they guide and coordinate sex crime investigations, assemble sex crime statistics and train special investigators.

Investigations by Female Officers

To alleviate the mental burden of sex crime victims during investigations, it is necessary to assign officers of the gender preferred by the victim.

Accordingly, prefectural police assign female officers to the section in charge of instructing sex crime investigations in their headquarters and to units responsible for sex crime investigations in police stations. When a sex crime is reported, female officers are assigned to investigate them.

These female officers interview victims, collect evidence, accompany victims to hospitals, update victims on the progress of investigations and perform other functions involving direct contact with victims.

Establishment of Sex Crime Consultation Corners

Prefectural police departments have established telephone counseling services such as Sex Crimes 110 which provides counseling for sex crime victims and information on investigations, and have set up counseling offices such as the Sex Crime Victims' Counseling Corner. Both are staffed by female officers.

For Victims of Sex Crimes

Sex Crime 110, Criminal Investigation Department, Kanagawa Prefectural Police Headquarters

"Yes, this is Sex Crimes 110"

This is the first word we answer to the telephone counseling.

From one phone call, we strengthen ties with victims, and it is the start of everything.

Sex crime is a nasty crime that impair the dignity of human beings.

As a female police officer, we shall not forgive criminals who committed such a mean crime and remains unfazed.

Here, I wrote a letter for those who have troubles.

We would like to support your courage of seeking telephone counseling, after you have suffered so much in a situation in which you did not know what to do, could not speak out or move.

You were not wrong at all. You do not have to blame yourself.

It is the offender's fault.

When you can make a call, or speak to someone, you start walking forward a little.

If so, shall we walk together a little more?

We are always besides you, and are walking with you step by step.

We believe that the only way to protect the victim is to arrest the offender.

We understand that arresting the offender as soon as possible and keeping him away from the victim and the society is our duty.

Therefore, we are pursuing the investigation everyday with the belief that the offender should be given a severe punishment and should be isolated from the society for a long time.

However, if the victim say "I do not want to recall the abominable incident any more", so "I do not want to charge the offender", and only wants the mental care, we still listen to the victim sincerely.

We put ourselves in their position, and listen to the victims, who muster up the courage to make a call.

Please open your heart and make a call for your future.

Care Used in Collecting Evidence

When a sex crime has taken place, evidence of the crime often remains on the victim's body and clothing. So that traces of the crime are not lost, it is often necessary to gather evidence immediately after the crime was committed and to collect the victim's clothing.

However, victims are commonly overwhelmed by shock and embarrassment immediately after the crime has taken place. Accordingly, to make evidence collection possible without adding any more burden on the victim, each prefectural police has determined how to collect evidence and prepared both evidence collection tools and a change of clothes for victims.

Investigative devices, such as the use of dolls, are also employed to lighten the emotional burden of reconstructing the crime.

To provide for swift and suitable examinations, treatment, and evidence collection when a crime has occurred, and to have medical work performed by a female physician, police are building networks and strengthen working relationships with organizations of obstetricians and gynecologists.

Financial Assistance for Emergency Contraceptives prescribed

In order to alleviate the mental and economical damages of victims of sex crimes, the financial assistance system to pay for the first medical examination, the medical certificate, emergency contraceptive prescribed, etc., is now being promoted. This system serves for not only allowing to alleviate the financial burden but also preventing the similar crimes.

Police Box-Based Measures for the Safety of Women

To promote the safety of women living alone, many of whom are concerned about their vulnerability to sex crimes, certain police boxes have been designated as Female Counseling Police Boxes. These police boxes are designed to cope with sex crime conditions in the areas they serve and are staffed by female officers who provide advice in regard to sex crimes and respond to sex crime complaints.

In addition to assisting women who visit or telephone the police, female officers also meet with women in their homes and initiate special patrols of the areas where they live, when such requests are made.

Also, departments are taking measures such as establishing special consultation rooms, insulated from the views of those outside and surrounding noise, to protect the privacy of women seeking assistance and allow them to consult an officer in a reassuring environment when they come to a Female Counseling Police Box. The time slots when officers can be consulted are clearly displayed in an effort to make it as convenient as possible for women to do so.

Creation of Female Victim Counseling Office in the Railway Police

To respond appropriately to women's requests for assistance or consultation regarding sex crimes committed on trains, where women are particularly vulnerable, the Railway Police have created Female Victim Counseling Offices.

In a Female Victim Counseling Office, female officers respond to women who come in person or telephone to request assistance, accept reports of offenses, and according to the circumstances surrounding each incident, escort victims on trains. Female officers also determine months for tightened enforcement measures and days for added train patrols based on times when molestations are likely to occur with a view to prevent sex crimes and arrest offenders.

Additionally, Female Victim Counseling Offices clearly post telephone numbers and consultation hours to make it easy for women to seek assistance and have prepared spaces that allow them to consult with officers in a reassuring environment.

② Protection of Juvenile Crime Victims

○ Activities in Support of Juvenile Crime Victims

When children, who lack both physical and emotional maturity, become victims of crimes, bullying or abuse, the emotional shock they experience is greater than that experienced by adults who are victimized by similar crimes. Also, unlike adults, children lack the ability to freely discuss what is troubling them, so the emotional wounds they sustain are even deeper than those sustained by adults who have undergone similar experiences.

When those emotional wounds are left untreated, children start showing problematic behavior or, in the worst case, find themselves with no choice but to commit suicide.

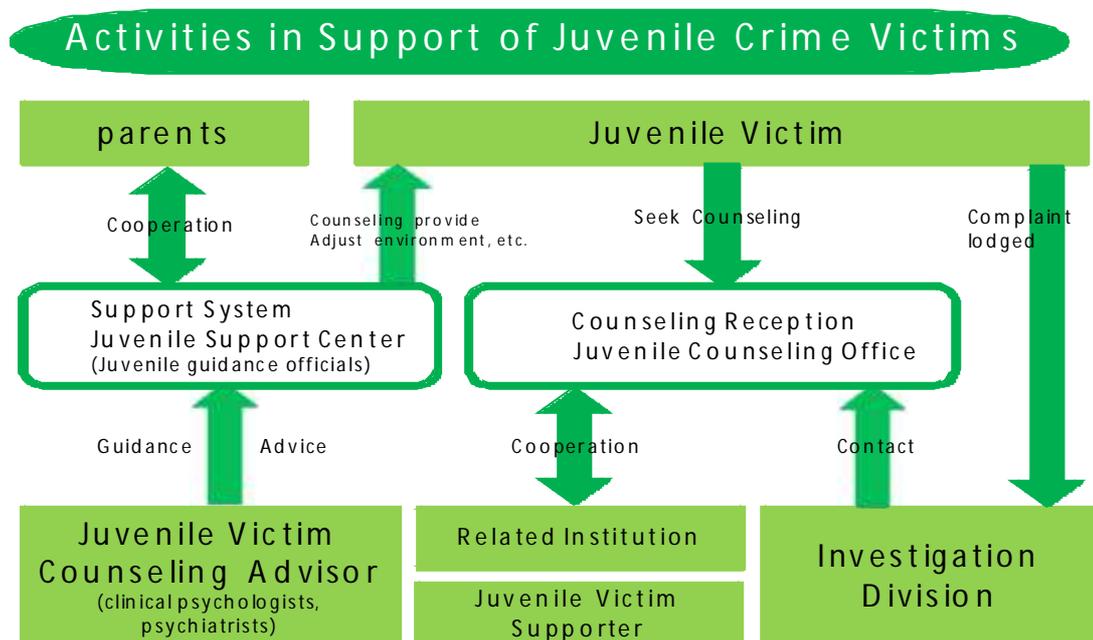
The police are deploying support activities to lessen emotional shock that children suffer from crimes and assist their recovery while taking due heed to their different characters.

● Continuous Support by Specialists ●

In cases where, based upon comprehensive assessments of the offending behavior and the degree of emotional shock sustained, it is recognized that continuous support is necessary to help a child recover. The police provide both emotional and environmental support by working with parents and concerned institutions and organizations to create an environment inside and outside the home that promotes the child's recovery. At the same time, they provide advice, guidance and counseling.

Juvenile guidance officials, who are experts in understanding and handling children, and juvenile consultation officials, who are specialists in counseling and psychological methods, lead such efforts. Clinical psychologists and psychiatrists also provide these officials with advice and guidance.

At the area level, volunteers commissioned as Juvenile Victim Supporters provide close, detailed assistance by visiting the homes of children, working alongside police officers in charge of support activities.



● Improvement of a Juvenile Counseling Service ●

To appropriately respond to juveniles' request for assistance, each prefectural police has established special juvenile counseling services, including face-to-face and other forms of assistance. Measures are also underway to offer more accessible services, such as the so-called "Young Telephone Corner" for counseling over the telephone as well as the reception of requests for consultation by fax, toll-free call, and e-mail.

When a juvenile or parent seeks counseling assistance, they can obtain advice or other assistance suitable to their situations. And when continuous support is necessary, a support supervisor is brought in to take over. In situations where it is recognized that a case would more appropriately be handled by a concerned institution, these counseling services are prepared to provide information on appropriate institutions and how

to contact them.

For face-to-face counseling, special juvenile counseling rooms are used so that victims could talk without the fear that their words will be overheard.

Counselors make every effort to create an environment where individuals seeking assistance can discuss their troubles with a sense of security. Taking into account age, sex, character, employment background and other characteristics of each individual, they provide advice and guidance in a mode that is suitable and easily understandable. Support is offered with consideration for the emotional state of those needing help and with strict confidentiality, thus creating a safe atmosphere for those in need.

Juvenile Support Center

Each juvenile victim support case requires a long-term approach.

Consequently, the police have adopted an organizational task of offering support by establishing Juvenile Support Centers, which are special institutions for juvenile problems at each prefectural police with juvenile guidance officials and juvenile consultation officials at their core. To minimize emotional pressure on a juvenile or parent, more and more Juvenile Support Centers are being established outside police facilities. Yet, even when they are located within police facilities, the Centers give due consideration to those who come for counseling, providing a separate entrance and special counseling rooms.

Juvenile Support Centers are mainly located in the cities where the prefectural police headquarters exist and in other major cities to extend assistance to juvenile victims or their parents. At the same time, these Centers are working to build networks with schools, Child Guidance Centers and other concerned organizations as well as volunteers, to gather support from a variety of perspectives and help juveniles recover from their experiences.

Measures against Child Abuse

Child abuse is a serious problem that greatly affects the minds and bodies of children during their formative years, and the police take a proactive approach based on the purport of the Law on the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Early Detection and Reporting

The police should assure an early investigation and immediate report to a Child Guidance Center in any case of child abuse.

Response to Requests for Assistance

In cases where requests come from the director or equivalent personnel of a Child Guidance Center, appropriate assistance is implemented after considering the response and roles of each party.

Assistance to Children

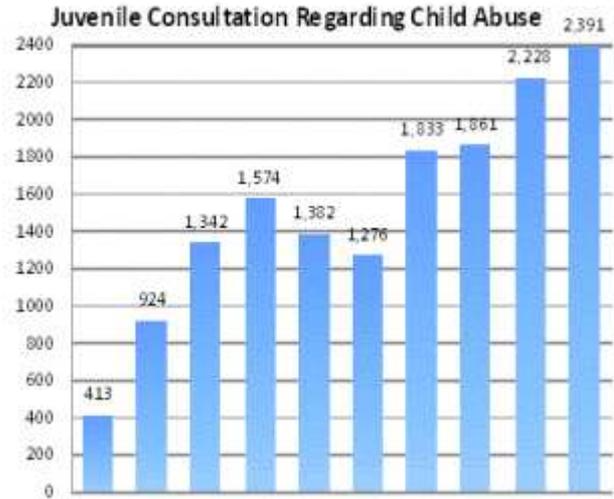
Under an appropriate cooperation and division of roles between the police and relevant organizations such as a Child Guidance Center, experts provide counseling to the child and implement guidance for his/her parents or guardian.

Incidents to Be Handled as Criminal Cases

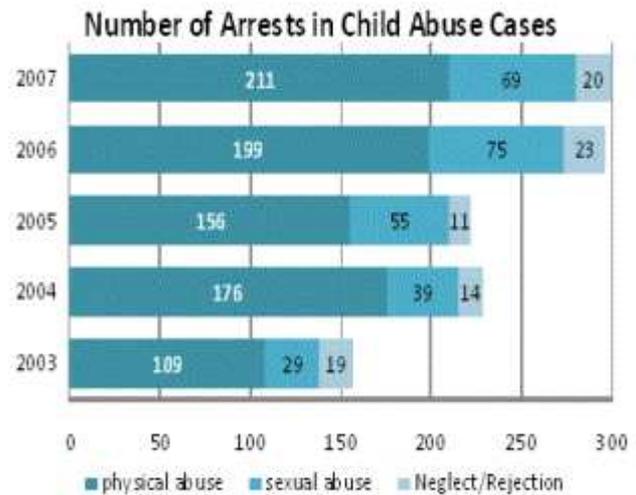
Incidents that should be handled as criminal cases are rigorously pursued.

Enhancing Cooperation with Child Welfare Organizations

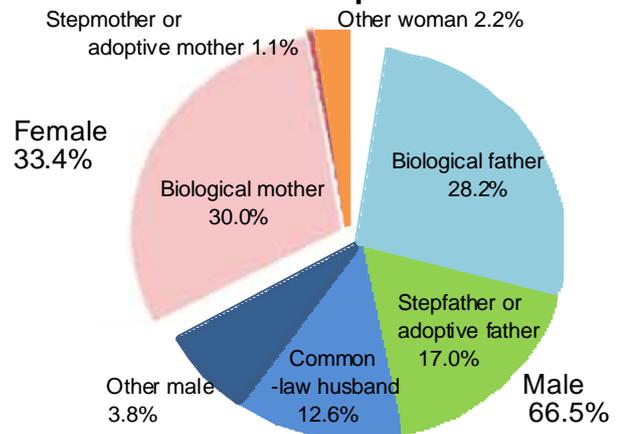
Practical and effective cooperation with Child Guidance Centers, as well as health and medical institutions, schools and victim support groups in the private sector are being enhanced.



Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of consultation cases	413	924	1,342	1,574	1,382	1,276	1,833	1,861	2,228	2,391



Abuser's Relationship to the Victim



Support for Victims of Organized Crimes

Victims of Organized Crime

In many cases, victims of organized crime have a fear that consulting the police will result in retribution or harassment.

The police protect the victims of organized crime by setting up telephone counseling hotline and taking other measures to accept requests for assistance, encourage victims to report what has been done to them and give advice to relieve any anxiety victims may feel.

The police make arrests, issue discontinuance orders and recurrence prevention orders based on the Anti-*Boryokudan* Law, issue warnings and work together with the Prefectural Centers for the Elimination of *Boryokudan* (hereinafter referred to as "Prefectural Centers") to solve individual cases.

When a victim of organized crime requests assistance, the police:

- Contact the members of *Boryokudan* on behalf of the victim or provide information on how to contact them
- Give advice on negotiating recovery from damages
- Offer the use of police facilities as a location for damage recovery negotiations

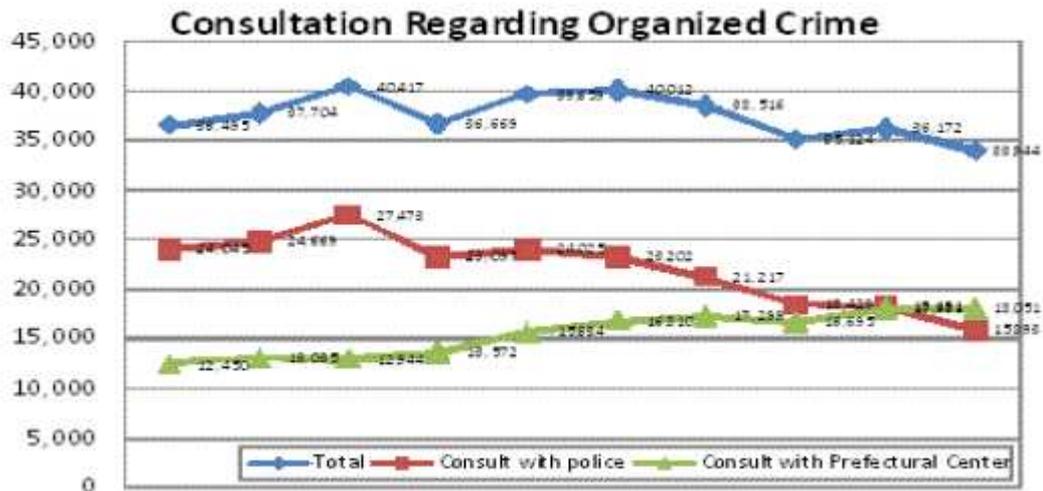
These measures facilitate recovery from damages as a result of organized crime.

To ensure the safety of a victim or witness involved with a case of organized crime, the police take preventative measures by keeping in close touch with the victim or witness and, if necessary, reinforcing lookouts and patrols to protect such individuals while at their homes or offices.

Cooperation with Prefectural Centers

Prefectural Centers, with the cooperation of the police and other relevant organizations, offer the expertise of lawyers, Juvenile Guidance Counselors and former police officers, all commissioned as Prefectural Center staff. These staff respond to requests for assistance in regard to unjust acts by members of *Boryokudan*, help the victims of such acts gain benefit payments and loan funds to cover the cost of suing a member of *Boryokudan*.

Prefectural Centers and police distribute the Leaflet for Victims of *Boryokudan* Crime, which introduces the services they provide.



Category	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	36,495	37,704	40,417	36,669	39,659	40,012	38,516	35,124	36,172	33,944
Consult with police	24,045	24,669	27,473	23,097	24,025	23,202	21,217	18,429	18,191	15,893
Consult with Prefectural Center	12,450	13,035	12,944	13,572	15,634	16,810	17,299	16,695	17,981	18,051

① Support for Victims of Traffic Accidents

Victims of Traffic Accidents

In 2007, traffic accidents involving injuries or deaths numbered 832,454, in which 1,040,189 people were injured or killed.

The losses to lives, bodies and property, as well as the resulting economic distress that victims of traffic accidents or their family members sustain, have always been acknowledged, but in recent years people have become increasingly concerned about emotional injury. The police are taking various measures to help victims and their bereaved family members alleviate the burden they face and recover from their damages.

Responding to Request for Assistance by Traffic Accident Victims

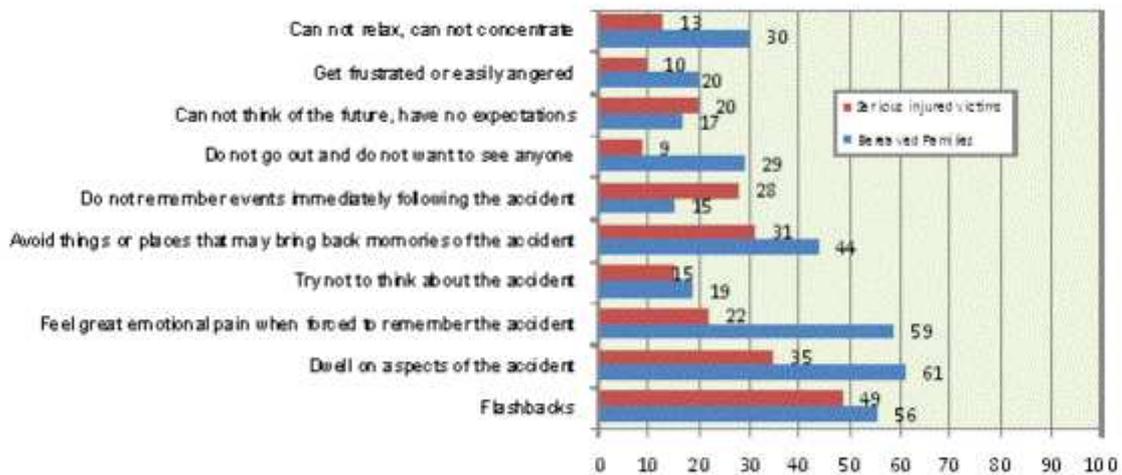
Prefectural police headquarters and police stations have created Traffic Accident Consultation Sections. Here, people involved in traffic accidents receive:

- General explanations of how to apply for insurance benefits and the system for demanding damage awards
- Explanations of assistance for victims and the relief system
- Introductions to various counseling resources and victim support organizations
- General explanations of systems and procedures regarding out-of-court settlements, arbitration and lawsuits

Providing information to Traffic Accidents Victims

The police also provide necessary information, such as the date they are to be interviewed or decisions made regarding the administrative penalty of those responsible for the accident, through the System for Contacting Victims.

Emotional Pain Suffered by the Victims of Traffic Accidents and their bereaved family



Source: Report of the Traffic Accident Injury Research Commission (June 1999)

In addition to the System for Contacting Victims, appropriate information is provided in response to inquiries regarding the appointed dates for taking opinions from the victims of traffic accidents related to the administrative handling of the offending party and its results.

Prefectural Traffic Safety Activity Promotion Center

Prefectural Traffic Safety Activity Promotion Centers (within Prefectural Traffic Safety Associations) have been providing counseling to victims of traffic accidents and their bereaved family members.

Because victims and their bereaved family members often endure emotional injury as well as physical and economic damage, it is not only assistance with insurance claims, damage suits and out-of-court settlements that these people need. They also need counseling and other types of support to help them recover psychologically. Prefectural Traffic Safety Activity Promotion Centers have lawyers and counselors working as advisors to augment the regular staff and are, therefore, able to give victims and their family members appropriate advice on not only insurance claims, damage suits, out-of-court settlements and other matters related to recovering economic damage, but also matters related to recovery from emotional injury.

In 2007, Prefectural Traffic Safety Activity Promotion Centers across the country responded to over 18,000 requests for assistance, primarily for help in recovery from economic damage.

All Centers combined employ approximately 200 counselors as of the end of fiscal year 2007.

Prevention of Secondary Victimization in Traffic Accident Investigation

Responses with Considering the Emotional Condition of Victims

To prevent secondary victimization during the course of investigation, officers exercise great care not to exacerbate a victim's grief or pain through their own inconsiderate words and actions when interviewing or contacting victims.

Thorough Traffic Accident Investigation

Recently, there have been cases in which victims and bereaved family members have said that police investigations of the causes of accidents were inadequate. Taking these comments seriously, the National Police Agency has dispatched senior accidents investigators to the traffic divisions of prefectural police headquarters to strengthen guidance at police stations. It has also set up automated recording devices at intersections where traffic accidents often take place. Evidence gathered by this device is used mainly when a victim has been killed or is too severely injured to be interviewed or when the parties involved give conflicting accounts of the accident. Hence, investigative methods are becoming ever more systematic and scientific in determining the true cause of accidents.

Consideration for Victims and Families of Victims During Interview

When interviewing victims or bereaved family members, officers take much care to listen fully to what they have to say. Officers also give due consideration to the feelings of those affected, for example, when setting the timing for creating family reports.

5 Support for Victims of Spousal Violence and Stalking

Support Based on the Approval of the Program of Measures for Protecting Women and Children

In December 1999, the Program of Measures for Protecting Women and Children was approved. Based on this program, cases of spousal violence and stalking are now actively addressed through efforts to prevent serious crimes and offer support to women and children who have been victims of crime.

Specifically the following measures are being carried out:

Concerning cases that are subject to punitive laws and orders, appropriate measures including arrest are taken, while keeping the victim's wishes in mind.

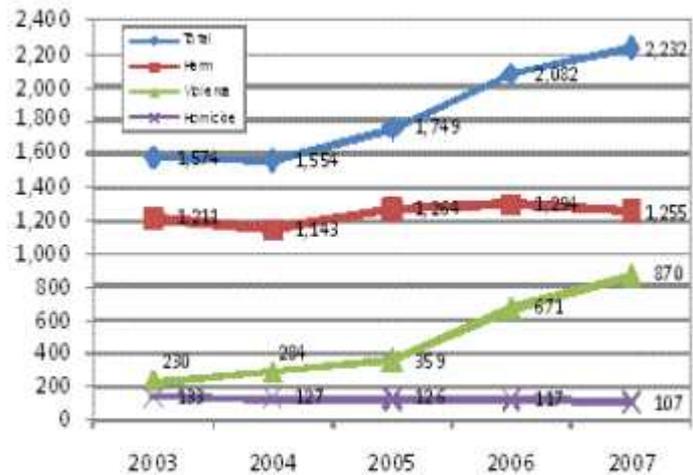
Concerning cases that are not subject to punitive laws or orders, advice on adequate self-defense and response measures are given through prevention guidance as well as the introduction of the victims to relevant sections within local government and lawyers, etc. Directions and warning are given to the offender in cases if necessary.

Responding to Cases of Spousal Violence

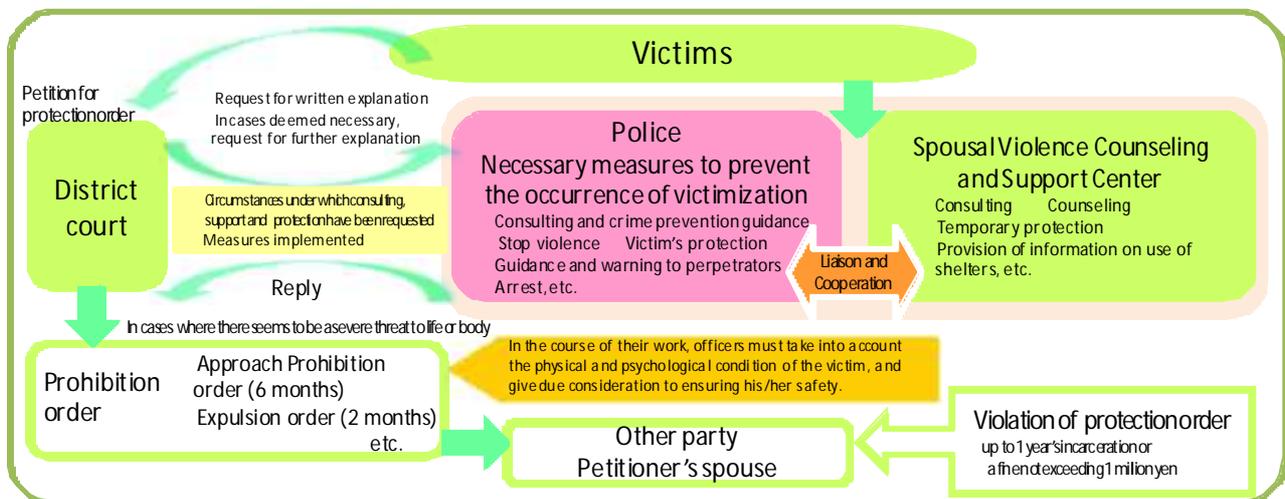
Based on the Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and Protection of Victims, that came into force in 2001, police are working from the standpoint of the victim to actively respond to cases of domestic violence through such means as arrests in cases where court restraining orders are violated. In accordance with victim's claims, police are also offering assistance and taking measures in cooperation with the Support and Consultation Center for Domestic Violence Victims and other concerned organizations.

The law amended in 2008 aimed to expand the protection of victims by prohibiting the violent spouse from demanding for meeting, striking rough speech/behavior, and making phone call, fax, e-mail, etc. without emergency requirement.

Number of Arrests Made Concerning Spousal Violence (Homicide, Harm and Violence)



Summary of the Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and Protection of Victims



Responding to Cases of Stalking

A repetitive stalking is an act that obstructs the normal and peaceful life of a victim. It can also escalate into violence and bodily harm toward the victim, and sometimes to such an atrocious crime as murder. This problem has become a social issue, and the number of people seeking consultation concerning cases of stalking has been rapidly increasing.

Summary of the Law on Proscribing Stalking Behavior and Assisting Victims

In May 2000, the Law on Proscribing Stalking Behavior and Assisting Victims was passed and promulgated. It entered into force on 24 November of the same year. This law stipulates administrative measures such as warnings, prohibition orders and support for the self-protection of victims, as well as penalties for acts of repetitive stalking.

1 Stalking

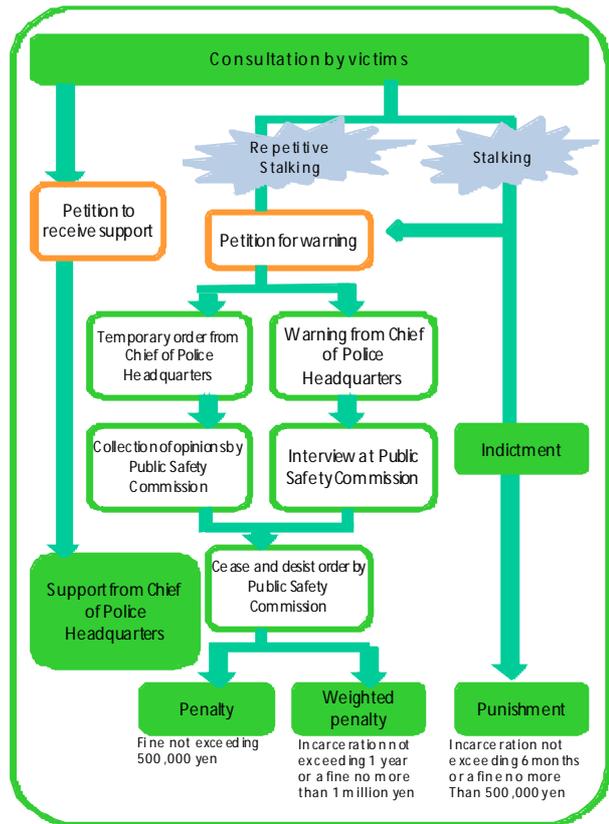
Stalking means one or several following acts through which the offender turns his/her resentment against the victim who refuses to accept the offender's love of favor.

Stalking, lingering or following Telling the victim that he/she is being watched Demanding to meet and spend Rough talk and rowdy behavior	Silent phone calls Sending rubbish and other unpleasant items to the victim Slander Preying on the victim's sense of sexual decency
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2 Repetitive Stalking

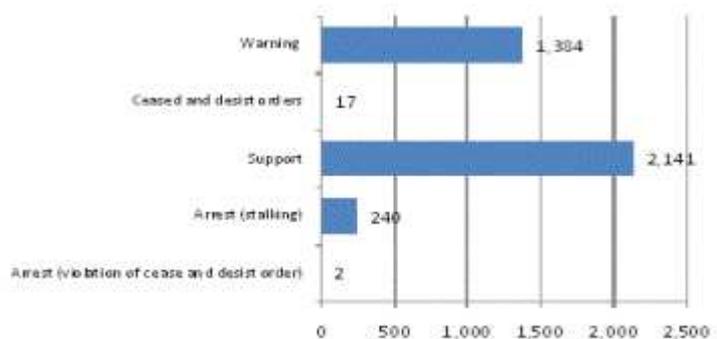
Repetitive stalking is defined as an act where "stalking" is repeated on a certain person.

Acts under to are limited to cases perpetrated by such methods as threatening the physical safety of a person, his/her residence or his/her reputation, or where acts cause the victim unease and limit his or her freedom of movement.



Application of the Law on Proscribing Stalking Behavior and Assisting Victims (2007)

Compared to that in 2006, the number of support increased 510 cases (31.3%), as well as the number of arrest increased 62 cases (34.8%).



5 Cooperation with Related Institutions and Organizations

Crime Victim Relief Foundation

The Crime Victim Relief Foundation was established in May 1981 through the contributions of a broad cross section of citizens.

Foundation funds are mainly used to offer scholarships to children who lost their parents in a crime. The Foundation funds also cooperate in various ways with life counseling and private victim support groups. These activities have materially improved victim support in our country.

National Network for Victim Support

The National Network for Victim Support, which was created as a NPO in May 1998 to strengthen ties among victim support groups and improve victim support activities across the country, is working in the following areas:

- Public relations and awareness-raising activities to support crime victims
- Training for staff of private victim support groups
- Promotion of establishment of private victim support groups and cooperation between them
- Support for victim self-help groups and cooperation between them

In 2003, the National Network for Victim Support designated October 3 as "Crime Victim Support Day" and implemented various campaigns nationwide with the aim of raising awareness of the crime victim support. October 3 was selected because it was the 10th Anniversary of the Implementation of the Benefit System for Crime Victims held in 1991, providing the impetus for the later creation of the Network.

Private Victim Support Group (Members of the National Network for Victim Support)

Private victim support groups, which focus on the needs of crime victims by providing counseling for them to recover from their emotional injuries, have been established in various regions recently. As of the end of 2008, 45 private victim support groups in 45 prefectures, working with police and other concerned institutions, offer activities in the following areas:

- Public relations and awareness-raising activities to support crime victims
- Telephone and face-to-face counseling
- Accompanying a victim to a hospital or court
- Support for victim self-help groups
- Training for volunteer counselors

Early-Assistance-Providing Groups for Crime Victims

Each prefectural Public Safety Commission has been charged with the task of designating non-profit organizations as Early-Assistance-Providing Groups for Crime Victims if they appropriately and effectively carried out activities that contributed to a swift reduction in damage of victims and to a continuous support of victims until they recover the peace of their lives.

The activities of the Early-Assistance-Providing Groups for Crime Victims are thus stipulated as:

- Public relations and awareness-raising activities to support crime victims
- Consultation for crime victims
- Application support for Benefit Payments to Crime Victims
- Support for crime victims through such means as the supplying or lending of goods and the rendering of appropriate services

Immediately after a crime has occurred, a victim is in a state of confusion and shock and there are cases in which it would be difficult for the victim to directly request the assistance of a private victim support group on their own. For this reason, to create an approach whereby an Early-Assistance-Providing Group for Crime Victims can contact victims directly, the Chief of Police Headquarters and other police personnel, in response to requests from Early-Assistance-Providing Groups and with the consent of the victim, are allowed to provide the Early-Assistance-Providing Groups with victim information including name, address and an outline of the crime.

As of the end of 2008, 21 groups were designated as Early-Assistance-Providing Groups for crime victims in Hokkaido, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, Tokyo, Ibaraki, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Aichi,

Mie, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Okinawa.

Six Early-Assistance-Providing Groups were established as a public interest corporation in the end of 2008, including Miyagi, Tokyo, Aichi, Kyoto, Kumamoto and Miyazaki.

Network of Police and Related Institutions and Organizations

Victims' needs run the gamut of daily living support as well as assistance with medical and court-related matters. The police are unable to meet all of these needs by themselves. Legal, governmental and medical institutions, as well as media outlets and other institutions/groups which may contribute to meeting victims' needs must work together so that comprehensive victim support can be provided.

Based on this idea, the Liaison Council for Victim Assistance, composed of the police, governor's offices and related institutions/groups, etc. has been organized in each prefecture across the nation. Under these liaison councils, member institutions/groups are promoting victims' support with cooperation and strong connections between each other.

Additionally, to determine victim needs and offer more detailed support in individual cases, the police are pushing forward with the establishment of liaison councils in police stations (Victim Support Local Networks).

Creating a groundswell of sentiment in favor of Crime Victim Support

In order to alleviate the damage caused by crimes, it is important to gain the understanding, sympathy, consideration and cooperation of those around crime victims.

When the pain of victims, importance of lives and necessity of the support are understood in the local community, not only the cooperation with crime victim support is accelerated, but also an attitude "not permit crimes" will be produced, therefore, it is expected to contribute to the creation of the safe and secure living environment.

Thus, the police, in cooperate with private victim support groups, carry out public relations and awareness-rising activities regarding the need for victims support and the situation of victims.

Other Crime Victim Supports

Other institutions are also working to improve the crime victim support.

Public Prosecutor's Office in Japan have established telephone counseling service specialized for crime victims (Crime Victim Hotline).

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport has a policy that crime victims should be given the priority for living in council housings.

In addition, Japan Justice Support Center introduces qualified lawyers, and bar associations offer free counseling for victims.

Private Victim Support Groups in the National Network for Victim Support

(As of the end of December 2008)

Name	Location	Telephone number	Operating Hours
Hokkaido Victim Support Center	Hokkaido	011-232-8740	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Aomori Victim Support Center	Aomori	017-721-0783	Tu·Th·3rdSat 12:00 ~ 16:00
Iwate Victim Support Center	Iwate	019-621-3751	Tu·W·F 13:00 ~ 17:00
Miyagi Victim Support Center	Miyagi	022-301-7830	Tu·W·Th·F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Akita Victim Support Center	Akita	018-832-8010 0120-62-8010	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Yamagata Victim Support Center	Yamagata	023-642-7830	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Fukushima Victim Support Center	Fukushima	024-533-9600	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Victim Support Center of Tokyo	Tokyo	03-5287-3336	M·Th·F 9:30 ~ 17:30 Tu·W 9:30 ~ 19:00
Ibaraki Victim Support Center	Ibaraki	029-232-2736	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Victim Support Center Tochigi	Tochigi	028-643-3940	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Victim Support Center "Step Gunma"	Gunma	027-243-9991	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Saitama Victim Support Center	Saitama	048-834-8080	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Chiba Victim Support Center	Chiba	043-221-3010	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Kanagawa Victim Support Center	Kanagawa	045-430-5072	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Niigata Victim Support Center	Niigata	025-281-7870	M·W·F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Victim Support Center Yamanashi	Yamanashi	055-228-8622	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Nagano Victim Support Center	Nagano	026-233-7830 (Nakano) 0263-73-0783 (Nakashinchiku) 0265-53-0783 (Iida)	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00 2nd·4thF 10:00 ~ 19:00
Shizuoka Victim Support Center	Shizuoka	054-209-5533	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Toyama Victim Support Center	Toyama	076-413-7830	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Ishikawa Victim Support Center	Ishikawa	076-234-7830	Tu·Th 18:00 ~ 21:00 W·F·Sat 12:00 ~ 18:00
Fukui Victim Support Center	Fukui	0776-88-0800 0120-783892	M ~ Sat 10:00 ~ 16:00
Gifu Victim Support Center	Gifu	058-268-8700	M ~ F 13:00 ~ 16:00
Victim Support Center Aichi	Aichi	052-232-7830	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Mie Victim Support Center	Mie	059-221-7830	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Oumi Victim Support Center	Shiga	077-525-8103	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Kyoto Victim Support Center	Kyoto	075-451-7830 0120-60-7830	M ~ F 13:00 ~ 18:00
Osaka Victim Support Advocacy Center	Osaka	06-6774-6365	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Hyogo Victim Support Center	Hyogo	078-367-7833	Tu·W·F·Sat 10:00 ~ 16:00
Nara Victim Support Center	Nara	0742-24-0783	M·Tu·W·F·Sat 10:00 ~ 15:00
Kinokuni Victim Support Center	Wakayama	073-427-1000	M ~ F 13:00 ~ 16:00 Th 18:00 ~ 21:00
Shimane Victim Support Center	Shimane	0120-556-491	M ~ F 9:00 ~ 17:00
Victim Support Center Okayama	Okayama	086-223-5562	M ~ Sat 10:00 ~ 16:00
Hiroshima Victim Support Center	Hiroshima	082-544-1110	M·W·Th·Sat 10:00 ~ 16:00
Victim Support Center "Heart line Yamaguchi"	Yamaguchi	083-974-5115	M·W·Th·F 10:00 ~ 15:00 Tu 19:00 ~ 21:00 Th 18:00 ~ 21:00
Victim Support Center Kagawa	Kagawa	087-823-1733	M ~ F 13:00 ~ 16:00
Victim Support Center Ehime	Ehime	089-905-0150	Th·Sat 10:00 ~ 16:00
Kouchi Victim Support Center	Kouchi	088-854-7867	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Fukuoka Victim Support Center	Fukuoka	092-477-3156	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00 Sat 13:00 ~ 16:00
Saga Victims support Network VOISS	Saga	0952-41-2535	M·Tu·Th·F 10:00 ~ 17:00 W 13:00 ~ 17:00
Nagasaki Victim Support Center	Nagasaki	095-820-4977	Tu ~ Sat 10:00 ~ 16:00
Kumamoto Victim Support Center	Kumamoto	096-386-1033	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Oita Victim Support Center	Oita	097-532-7711	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Miyazaki Victim Support Center	Miyazaki	0985-38-7830	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00
Kagoshima Victim Support Center	Kagoshima	099-226-8341	Tu ~ Sat 10:00 ~ 16:00
Okinawa Victim Support Center	Okinawa	098-866-7830	M ~ F 10:00 ~ 16:00

National Police Agency
<http://www.npa.go.jp/higaisya/index.htm>