Special Cash Reward System as a Supporting Element in Investigations

(Referred to hereafter as “Special Cash Reward System”)

**1. Outline of the Special Cash Reward System**

The Special Cash Reward System is designed to publicly offer a cash reward as stipulated under the provisions of articles 529, 529(2) and 532 of the Civil Law, for valuable information leading to the arrest of suspects in important cases, and/or those involving violent crimes selected by the National Police Agency, and to pay a cash reward to those who provide particularly valuable information.

**2. Implementation of Notification**

* Requirements (Designated Cases)

1. Cases involving Special Fugitive Warrants designated by the National Police Agency, or those pertaining to suspects on the wanted list who are deemed important by the National Police Agency
2. Unprecedented or important criminal cases with a high societal impact, which satisfy the following requirements:
3. Any of the following incidents:

(a) Cases of murder, robbery, arson, forced intercourse, etc. (including rape, as set forth under the Penal Code (Act No. 45 of 1907), prior to the revision under the Act for Partial Amendment to the Penal Code (Law No. 72 of 2017), abduction and/or kidnapping, or any other cases in which victims suffered serious injury or threat to their lives;

(b) Cases involving significant hindrance to the performance of public duty or business activity in any way, including intimidation.

1. Cases in which an investigative task force was established in accordance with Article 22 of the Rule of Criminal Investigation;
2. Cases in which encouraging people to provide information through notification is deemed effective and appropriate, given the nature of the case and investigative findings

* Maximum Amount of Cash Reward

3 million yen (If necessary, the amount may be increased up to 10 million yen.）

* Period During Which Information May Be Provided

1 year (If necessary, the period may be extended or shortened.）

* The Commissioner General of the National Police Agency shall post a notice on the website of the National Police Agency which shall describe the “Designated Cases”, the conditions under which a cash reward will be offered, maximum amount of reward, method for deciding the payment, period during which information may be provided, reasons for non-eligibility, and the police divisions to which information should be provided.

**3. Payment Method of the Special Cash Reward**

* The special cash reward will be paid to those who give valuable information leading to the arrest of suspects or to the resolution of a case in proportion to the validity and usefulness of the information provided to the investigation, within the limit of the maximum amount. If there is more than one recipient, the total amount shall be divided amongst them, in proportion to the contribution of each to the investigation within the limit of the maximum amount.
* The following individuals will not be entitled to the cash reward: Persons who do not disclose their identity (e.g. anonymous tips), police personnel, suspects, their accomplices, and those who committed a crime, etc., while acquiring the information.

**4. Procedures**

The Commissioner General of the National Police Agency will decide on the implementation of the notification and the payment of the special cash reward, based on a request from the Chief of the Prefectural Police.

●　[[Link to Guidelines for the investigation special cash reward] (104KB)](https://www.npa.go.jp/english/bureau/criminal_affairs/document/Guidelines-for-the-Special-Cash-Reward.pdf)

**[Reference]**

Civil Code (Act No. 89 of April 27, 1896)

**Article 529 (Advertisements Offering Prizes)**

A person who places an advertisement to the effect that any person who performs a defined act will be given a set reward (hereinafter in this Subsection referred to as an "advertiser offering prizes") shall be obligated to give reward to the person who has performed the act, regardless of whether the person knew of the advertisement.

**Article 529(2) (Advertisement that defines the period to offer a prize for specific acts)**

1. Advertiser cannot retract an advertisement that defines the period to offer a prize for specific acts, unless the advertiser reserves the right to retract it.

2. The advertisement in the preceding paragraph shall lose its validity when there is no one who has carried out the specific acts within the defined period.

**Article 532 (Advertisement Offering Prizes to Most Outstanding Applicant)**

* 1. If, in cases where two or more persons have performed the act designated in the advertisement, the reward is to be given only to the most outstanding applicant, the advertisement shall be effective only if it specifies the application period.
  2. In the cases of the preceding paragraph, the most outstanding applicant shall be judged by the person specified in the advertisement and, if no such person is specified, by the person who places the advertisement.
  3. Applicants may not raise any objection to the judge's decision referred to in the preceding paragraph.
  4. The provision of paragraph (2) of the preceding Article shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to cases where the acts of two or more persons are judged to be equal.