

Chapter 1

Efforts to Recover the Victims' Damages and to Provide them with Economic Support

1 Supporting Victims to Claim the Compensation for Damages, etc. (related to Article 12 of the Basic Act)

- Enhancement of the Provision of Information on the System of Claiming Compensation for Damages, etc.

[Policy No. 3]

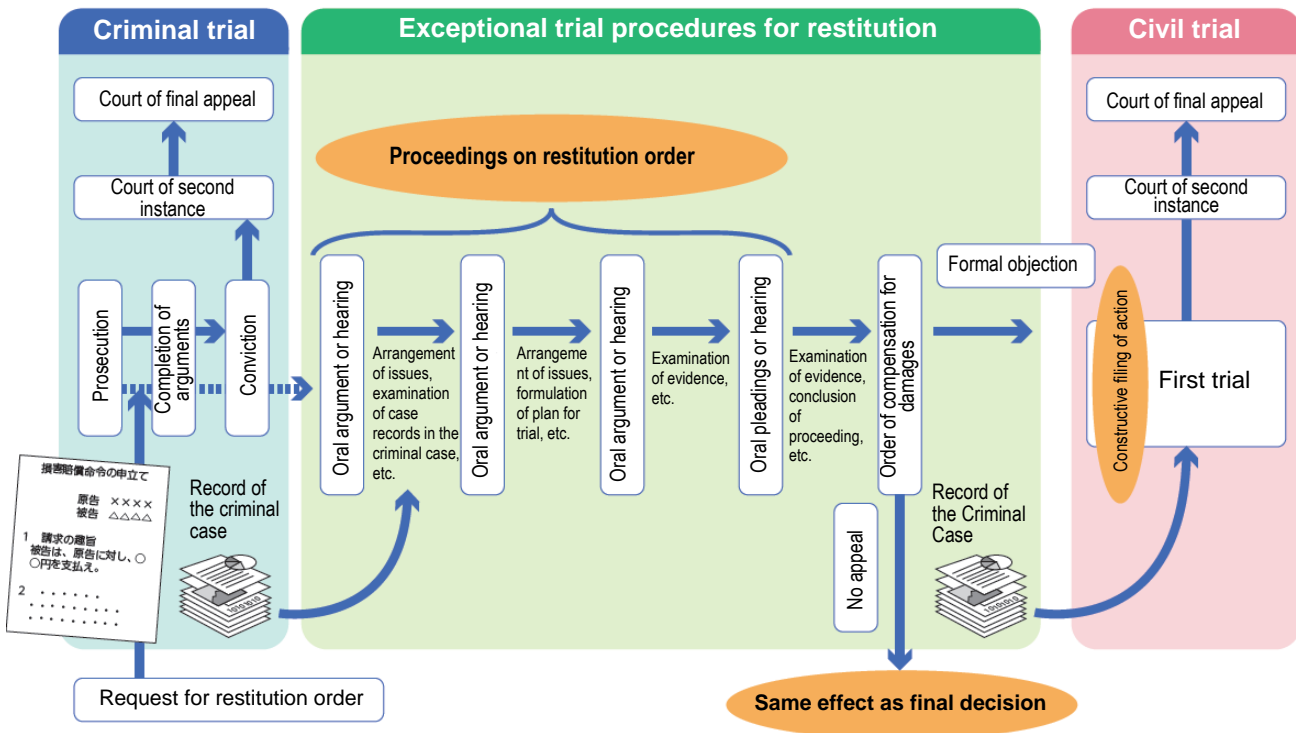
The police have been publicizing the overview of the system of claiming compensation for damages in the “Brochure for Crime Victims,” which describes the outline of criminal procedures and contact information of organizations and groups that provide support for crime victims.

The Ministry of Justice also provides information on the restitution order system through informational brochures such as “For Victims of Crime” and the DVD, “We want to hear your voice.”

Since the system was introduced in December 2008, 3,722 claims have been filed by the end of 2021, of which 3,628 have been concluded. Of these, 1,641 were upheld, 849 were settled, 491 were terminated (transferred to civil litigation), 422 were withdrawn, 144 were acknowledged, 52 were dismissed, and 8 were rejected.

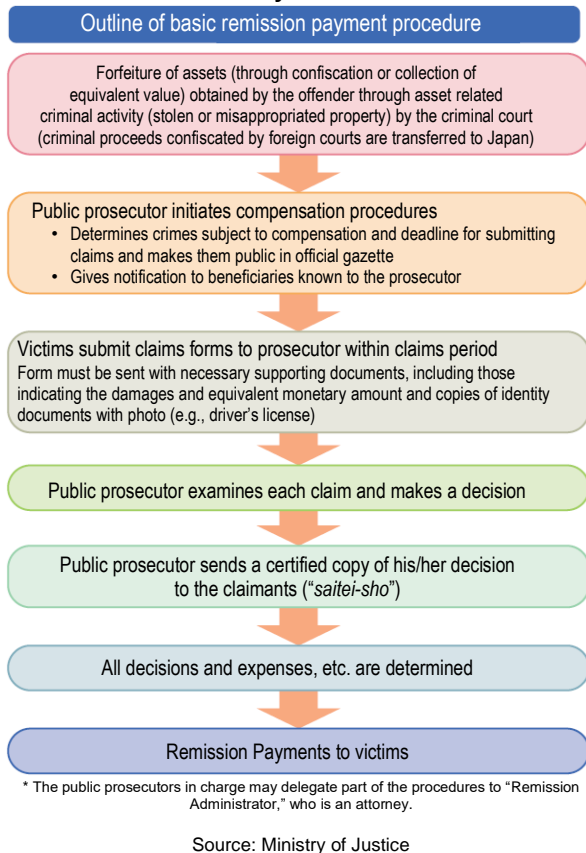
The Public Prosecutors Office has been conducting procedures to issue remission payments for victims, etc. from confiscated or forcibly-collected property (procedures to issue remission payments), based on the Act on Issuance of Remission Payments Using Stolen and Misappropriated Property. In 2020, 13 decisions were made to initiate this procedure, and the total amount of remission funds at the time of the decision was approx. 565.41 million yen.

Overview of the Restitution Order System



Source: Ministry of Justice

Overview of the Issuance of Remission Payments System



Operational Status of Procedures to Issue Remission Payments

Year	Number of cases on which initiation of procedure was decided	Total amount of remission funds when the initiation of procedure was decided
2016	8	approx. 97,500,000 yen
2017	16	approx. 389,870,000 yen
2018	15	approx. 551,790,000 yen
2019	19	approx. 277,810,000 yen
2020	13	approx. 565,410,000 yen

Source: Ministry of Justice

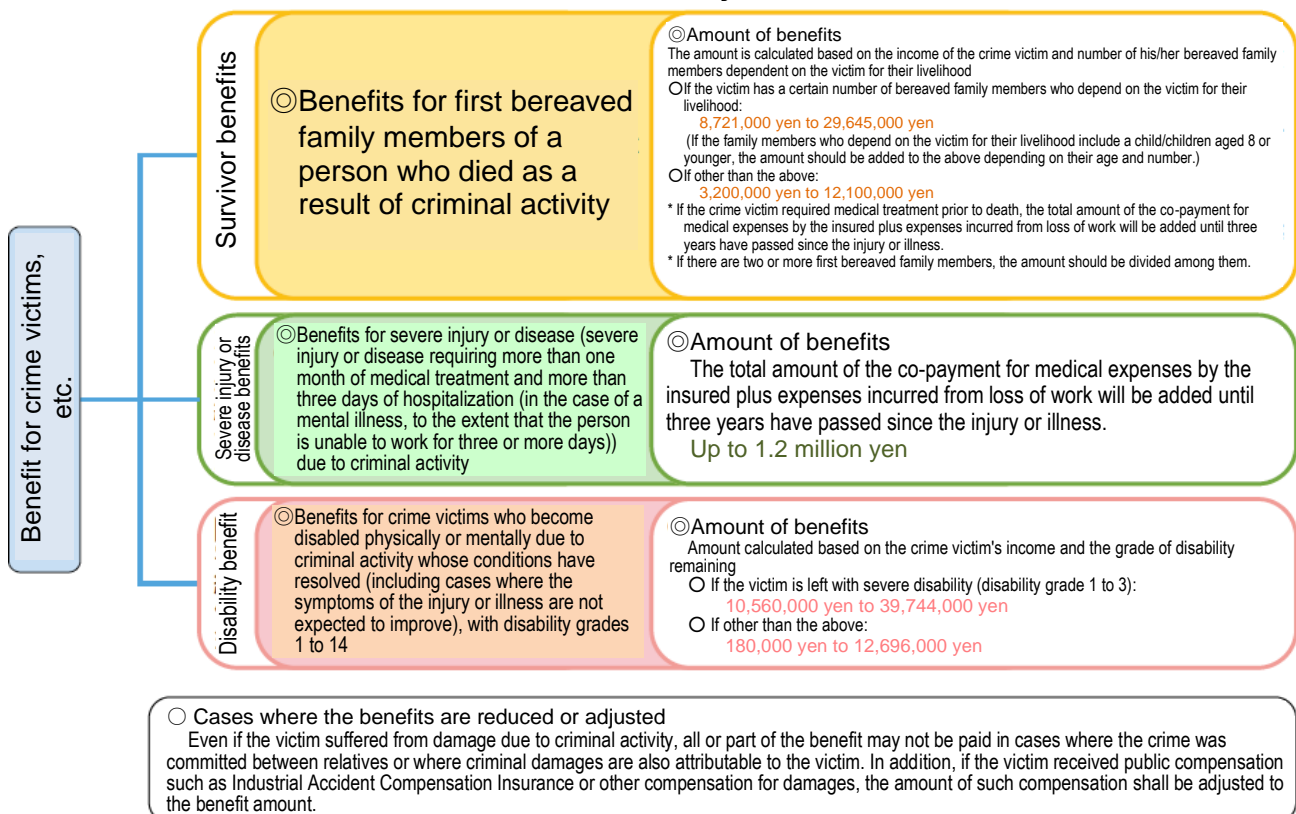
2 Improvement of Systems Concerning the Benefits and Other Payments (related to Article 13 of the Basic Act)

Operational Improvement in the Benefit System for Crime Victims, etc.

[Policy No. 13]

The benefit system for crime victims, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the "benefit system") is a system in which benefits are paid to alleviate hardships experienced by bereaved family members of victims who die unexpectedly or victims who suffer from physical disabilities due to intentional criminal activities (such as street murders). These benefits are provided in the spirit of social solidarity and mutual assistance as quickly as possible to help crime victims, etc. lead normal lives once again.

Outline of the Benefit System



Regarding this system, the following were implemented respectively: (i) in July 2008, survivor benefits were increased for bereaved family members who depend on the victim for their livelihood, and the disability benefits for persons with severe residual disability (grade 1-3) were increased, (ii) in October 2009, the regulations were revised to allow full payment in cases of spousal violence deemed particularly necessary, and (iii) in November 2014, based on the recommendations made by the “Study Group for Considering the Expansion of the Benefit System for Crime Victims, etc. and the Establishment of a New Compensation System,” the grounds for reduction or disallowance of benefits regarding crimes between relatives were revised.

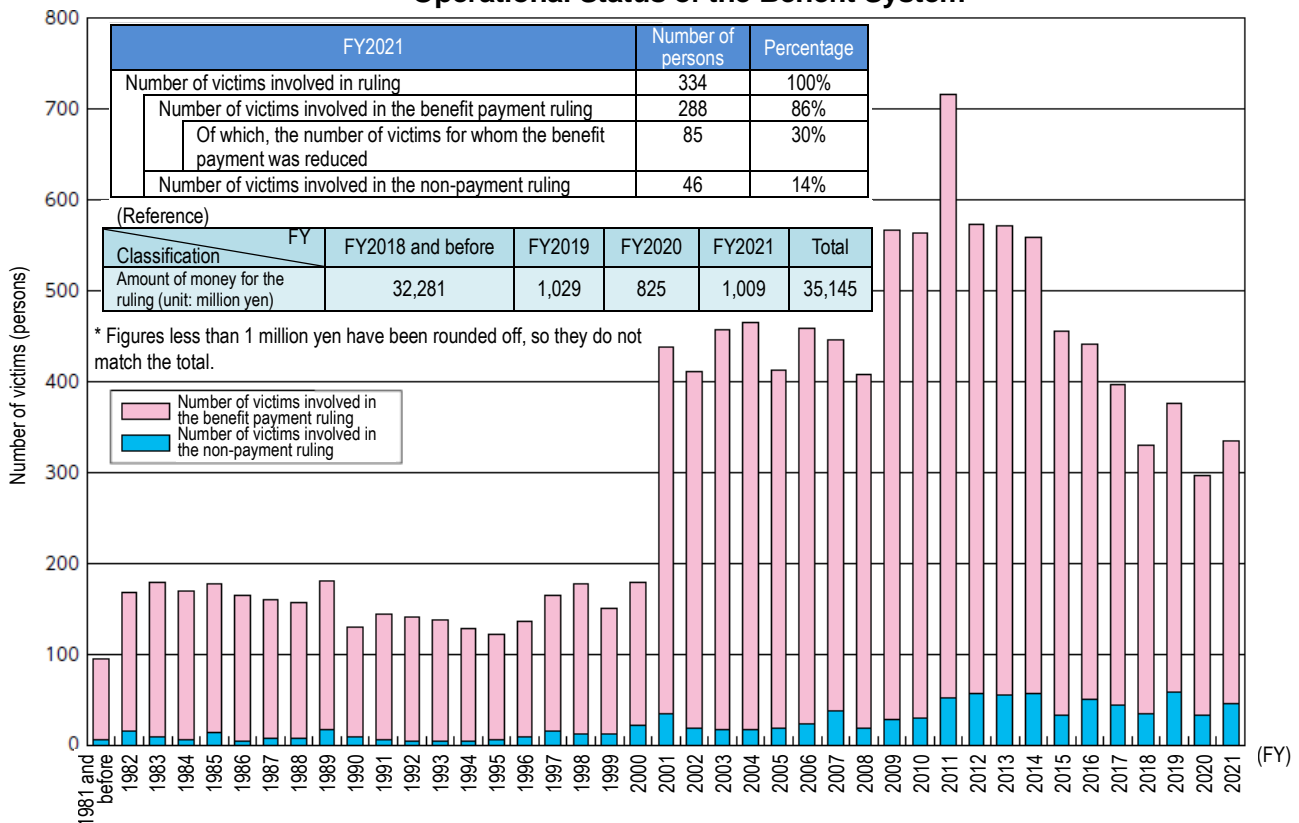
In addition, based on the Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc., the following researches were conducted by the end of FY2016: (i) measures on the period of severe injury or disease benefits, (ii) measures to provide benefits for crime victims, etc. that are less burdensome for them, and (iii) measures on benefits for young people and benefits for victims of crimes against relatives. Based on the above, the “Study Group of Experts on Benefit System for Crime Victims, etc.” was convened from April 2017.

In accordance with the recommendations compiled in July of the same year, the benefit system was revised and became effective in April 2018.

The National Police Agency has been instructing prefectural police on operational improvement, including active examination of provisional benefit system and prompt ruling, by holding meetings for administrative staff in charge of the benefit system. In addition, the Agency has been instructing prefectural police to disseminate this benefit system, including the provisional benefit system, through brochures, posters and websites, and to fully inform crime victims, etc., who may be subject to the system, about their rights and the procedures regarding the system.

The amount of benefit for crime victims, etc. ruled in FY2020 was approximately 825 million yen, and in FY2021 it was approximately 1,009 million yen. The average ruling period (the period from application to ruling) in FY2020 was approximately 7.0 months and the median was approximately 4.7 months, while the average ruling period in FY2021 was approximately 9.3 months (an increase of 2.3 months from the previous fiscal year) and the median was approximately 6.4 months (an increase of 1.7 months from the previous fiscal year).

Operational Status of the Benefit System



The National Police Agency will continue to provide guidance to prefectural police on the operational improvement including active examination of the provisional benefit payment and prompt ruling, and the dissemination of the benefit system.

- **Reduction of the Expenses Burden of Psychotherapies including Counseling**
[Policy No. 15]

The National Police Agency gives instructions to the prefectural police to ensure the sufficient assignment of qualified in-house counselors, such as certified public psychologists and/or certificated clinical psychologists. In addition, the Agency has taken budgetary measures since FY2016 under the public expenditure system to cover the counseling cost when a crime victim visits a psychiatrist or certified clinical psychologist of his/her own choice, and this system was in place throughout the country by July 2018. Furthermore, the Agency has instructed the prefectural police to ensure appropriate operation of the system by establishing implementation guidelines that take into account the purpose of the system and to make efforts toward its dissemination.

In FY2021, the system was used 2,033 times.

The National Police Agency is to provide thorough guidance to the prefectural police to ensure that the system is operated nationwide at the same level to the greatest extent possible.

- **Promotion for Local Governments to Adopt Consolation Payment System for Crime Victims**

[Policy No. 17]

The National Police Agency has been requesting local governments to introduce a consolation payment system or a system for loans for living expenses for crime victims, etc. by taking advantage of opportunities at meetings of the directors of the departments in charge of policies for crime victims, etc. of prefectures and ordinance-designated cities* and at training sessions for local government officials. The Agency has also been informing the introduction status of these systems through the “Newsletter on Policies for Crime Victims, etc.” (Email that distributes useful information, including examples of advanced and proactive practices of

policies for crime victims, etc., to relevant ministries and agencies, local governments, and other related organizations). Local governments that have already introduced such systems and their outline are listed in this White Paper, and the National Police Agency’s website “Policies for Crime Victims, etc.” (<https://www.npa.go.jp/hanzaihigai/local/toukei.html>) as “Basic Materials on Policies for Crime Victims, etc. in Local Governments.”

As of April 2022, 13 prefectures (5 increase from the previous year), 12 ordinance-designated cities (3 increase from the previous year), and 464 municipalities (87 increase from the previous year) have introduced the consolation payment system, and 3 prefectures and 10 municipalities have introduced the system for loans for living expenses.

The National Police Agency (NPA) is to request the introduction of this system, etc., so that a consolation payment system, etc., will be introduced at the same level nationwide the greatest extent possible.

3 Stabilization of Residence (related to Article 16 of the Basic Act)

[Policy No. 29]

- **Securing Temporary Residence Immediately after the Damage and on a Medium-term Basis**

The National Police Agency subsidizes the prefectural police with the expenses for securing emergency evacuation places for crime victims, etc., for example, when a victim’s residence is the crime scene and has been destroyed, making it difficult for the victim to stay there, or the victim is unable to secure a place to live on his/her own. The Agency also subsidizes the prefectural police to cover the expenses for cleaning their homes in cases where the victim's residence is the site of criminal activity. The prefectural police operate a public expenditure system for these expenses to alleviate the mental and financial burdens on crime victims.

The National Police Agency is to provide thorough guidance to the prefectural police to ensure that the system is operated nationwide at the same level to the greatest extent possible.

* Meetings to exchange information with prefectures and ordinance-designated cities in order to contribute to the comprehensive promotion of measures for crime victims, etc.

[Policy No. 30]

The National Police Agency has been requesting local governments to take appropriate measures to secure places for crime victims, etc. and to provide livelihood support immediately after the damage, by taking advantage of the opportunities at meetings of the directors of the departments in charge of policies for crime victims, etc. of prefectures and ordinance-designated cities and training sessions for local government officials. The Agency has also been providing information on the efforts of local governments through the “Newsletter on Policies for Crime Victims, etc.”

As of April 2022, 67 prefectures and ordinance-designated cities and 489 municipalities give priority to crime victims, etc. to move into public housings.

The National Police Agency is to promote efforts such as the provision of information to ensure that crime victims are properly provided with residences, etc., without any disparity among local governments.

Status of Considerations at Time of Relocation to Public Housings (as of April 2022)

Local governments (with systems/total number)	Housing without lottery	Easing of housing requirements	Preferential treatment in lottery	Others
Prefectures (47/47)	12	9	34	21
Ordinance-designated Cities (20/20)	5	4	10	11
Municipalities (489/1,721)	120	109	97	281

* Some local governments operate multiple systems.
 * Number of municipalities do not include ordinance-designated cities.
 * Wards refer to special wards in Tokyo Metropolis.

4 Stabilization of Employment (related to Article 17 of the Basic Act)

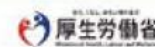
- **Dissemination and enlightenment of the leave system for recovery from mental and physical damage of crime victims, etc.**

[Policy No. 37]

Crime victims sometimes need to take leave from work for medical treatment or court appearances, yet there is still a lack of recognition of such leaves for crime victims. Therefore, the Ministry of Health,

Labour and Welfare introduces the purpose of this system and how to apply it on the Ministry's website (<https://workholiday.mhlw.go.jp/kyuukaseido/>). The Ministry has also prepared leaflets and other materials and promoted dissemination and enlightenment of this system to companies and workers with the cooperation of relevant administrative organs, economic and labor organizations, etc.

Leaflet on Leave System for Crime Victims



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare