

## Chapter 2 Efforts for the Victims to Recover from or to Prevent Mental and/or Physical Damage

### 1 Provision of Healthcare Services and Welfare Services (related to Article 14 of the Basic Act)

- **Enhancement of medical care for persons with severe disabilities due to car accidents**

[Policy No. 45]

Since FY2001, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has designated hospitals that proactively accept hospitalization of those who receive home care due to severe residual disability caused by automobile accidents as short-term stay cooperative hospitals. The Ministry newly designated 4 hospitals in FY2021, resulting in a total of 206 designated hospitals nationwide. In addition, the Ministry has been designating support facilities for the persons with disabilities as short-term stay cooperative facilities since FY2013, and newly designated 2 facilities in FY2021, resulting in a total of 138 facilities nationwide.

The National Agency for Automotive Safety and Victims' Aid (NASVA: <https://www.nasva.go.jp/>) provides advanced medical treatment and extensive nursing care for persons with prolonged consciousness disorders caused by automobile accidents at 11 medical care facilities nationwide (4 medical care centers, 6 medical care facilities with partially commissioned hospital beds for medical treatment functions, and 1 integrated case study-type commissioned bed). In addition, the Agency strives to identify the actual situations and requests of victims and their families by providing visit support,

holding exchange meetings with victims and their families, and participating in opinion exchanges with various victims' organizations.

#### NASVA Poster on Victim Support

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Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism



## **Amendment Act on Securing Compensation for Automobile Accidents**

### **- measures for the future relief of victims of automobile accidents -**

#### **1. Background**

Numbers of cases, fatalities, and injuries caused by traffic accidents are on a downward trend. On the other hand, the numbers of persons with severe residual disabilities have remained almost unchanged, at around 1,700 every year. Thus, it is important to continue working on measures to provide relief to victims of automobile accidents.

To this end, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has been working on a wide range of measures, including the provision of nursing care fees for persons with severe residual disabilities caused by automobile accidents, establishment and operation of medical care facilities, support for hospitals and support facilities for persons with disabilities, and support for children orphaned by traffic accidents. However, the circumstances surrounding measures to support victims of automobile accidents are changing due to recent advances in medical and nursing care technology, changes in the social security system, and the aging of caregivers.

In light of this situation, the “Study Group on Measures for the Relief of Victims of Automobile Accidents” was held in August 2020, with experts and victims and bereaved family groups, etc. serving as committee members. After discussions at the Group, a report was compiled in July 2021.

The report outlines measures to be taken by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in the future to provide relief to victims of automobile accidents in each of the four main categories.

## Report of the Study Group on Measures for the Relief of Victims of Automobile Accidents (Outline)

### Enhancing medical care facilities

Waiting lists at medical care facilities in the Kanto region should be eliminated

Measures should be taken to mitigate the aging of medical care centers

Medical care facilities should be reorganized considering vacant beds in the overall facilities

Expansion of commissioned hospital beds (small scale) in the Kanto region

Commitment to ensure truly necessary functions, and implementation of measures to mitigate facility aging in the most economical and efficient manner

Maintenance of the overall structure of the medical care facilities and focus on "enhancement of services" to be provided

### Provision of opportunities for rehabilitation

Hospitals should be secured where persons with spinal cord injuries can be hospitalized and rehabilitated for the mid- to long-term after recovery

Few adequate rehabilitation facilities for patients in the maintenance and chronic phase

Support for self-reliance training for persons with higher brain dysfunction should be provided to promote reintegration into society

Measures to promote the use of short-term residential care should be examined, in consideration of the limited number of facilities capable of providing medical treatments and other needs

Selection and support for hospitals that accept persons with spinal cord injuries and severe residual disabilities for mid- to long-term treatment

Selection of hospitals that are willing to engage in rehabilitation, provision of intensive support, and reinforcement of the provision of information

Support for businesses that have sufficient understanding and knowledge of higher brain dysfunction and businesses that are pioneers in providing independent training on a trial basis, and reviewing effective support

Review of measures to promote the use of facilities that have a large number of users with severe residual disabilities following surveys and analysis of each facility

### Preparation for the loss of caregivers

Consideration for aging caregivers and further securement of "living spaces" should be promoted

Network of support in the community should be supported from the preliminary stage before the loss of caregivers

In light of the severe labor shortage in group homes, etc., review of measures contributing to the increased acceptance of victims of automobile accidents by enhancement of support measures even more than before

Review on strengthening connections with local governments, etc., so that they can introduce consultation services according to the needs of the users

### Immediate post-accident support

Enhancement of mental care and provision of information for accident victims, etc. should be promoted

Review on enhancement of mental healthcare and information provision for accident victims, etc.

This report provides a direction for the further enhancement of measures for supporting victims of automobile accidents, and also states that in light of the changes in the situation since the establishment of the current scheme of implementing relief measures for victims of automobile accidents by the automobile accident countermeasure account, it is appropriate to promote the study of measures to ensure the stable and continuous implementation of relief measures for victims of automobile accidents in the future.

In August 2021, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism held a "Study Group on Measures for the Automobile Accident Countermeasure Account," consisting of accident victims, bereaved family groups, automobile user groups, and academic experts. After six rounds of discussion, the Group released an interim report in January 2022. In the report, it was stated that "it is appropriate to take measures to secure stable financial resources and shift to a sustainable system" for victim support and accident prevention projects, which were being carried out on the basis of a finite reserve fund and positioned as provisional "temporarily."

## Study Group on Measures for the Automobile Accident Countermeasure Account: Interim Report (Outline)

### Background and Necessity

<Current efforts to prevent automobile accidents>  
 ○Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism promotes victim support and accident prevention through the "Automobile Accident Countermeasure Program"  
 <Challenges surrounding the current system>  
 ○Diversification of necessary support due to aging of caregivers, technological innovation, etc.  
 ○Necessity to further promote accident prevention by enhancing support for victims through improved rehabilitation opportunities and the diffusion of advanced safety technologies, etc.  
 ○On the other hand, the "Automobile Accident Countermeasure Program" is legally positioned as a "temporary measure" and is financed solely by the reserve fund and its investment income. However, the system, with its reliance on the investment income, is failing due to the recent interest rate situation, and there is a risk that this financial resource will eventually run out and the services difficult to continue.

#### ● Support for victims



#### ● Accident prevention



It is necessary to change to a **mechanism that enables sustainable implementation of the "automobile accident countermeasure program"** on the premise of carryback from the general account.

### Direction of response

#### Transformation to a sustainable system

- Enhancement of victim support and accident prevention
- Collapse of the initial scheme financed by investment income
- Severe financial situation of the national government

Stable financial resources should be secured on the premise of continued carryback from the general account

#### Use of stable financial resources

- Satisfaction of automobile users bearing the burden

Resource usage should be clarified, and the effectiveness of the program periodically verified

#### Stable financial resources to be secured

- Continued carryback from the general account
- Clarification of the relationship between benefits and burdens
- Reduction of user burden

Attainment of stable financial resources through integration of the automobile accident countermeasure account and the security account, and expansion of the levy

#### Introduction timing

- Stable financial resources should be secured as early as possible

Design of the system as soon as possible, taking into account the preparation period

#### Dissemination and publicity

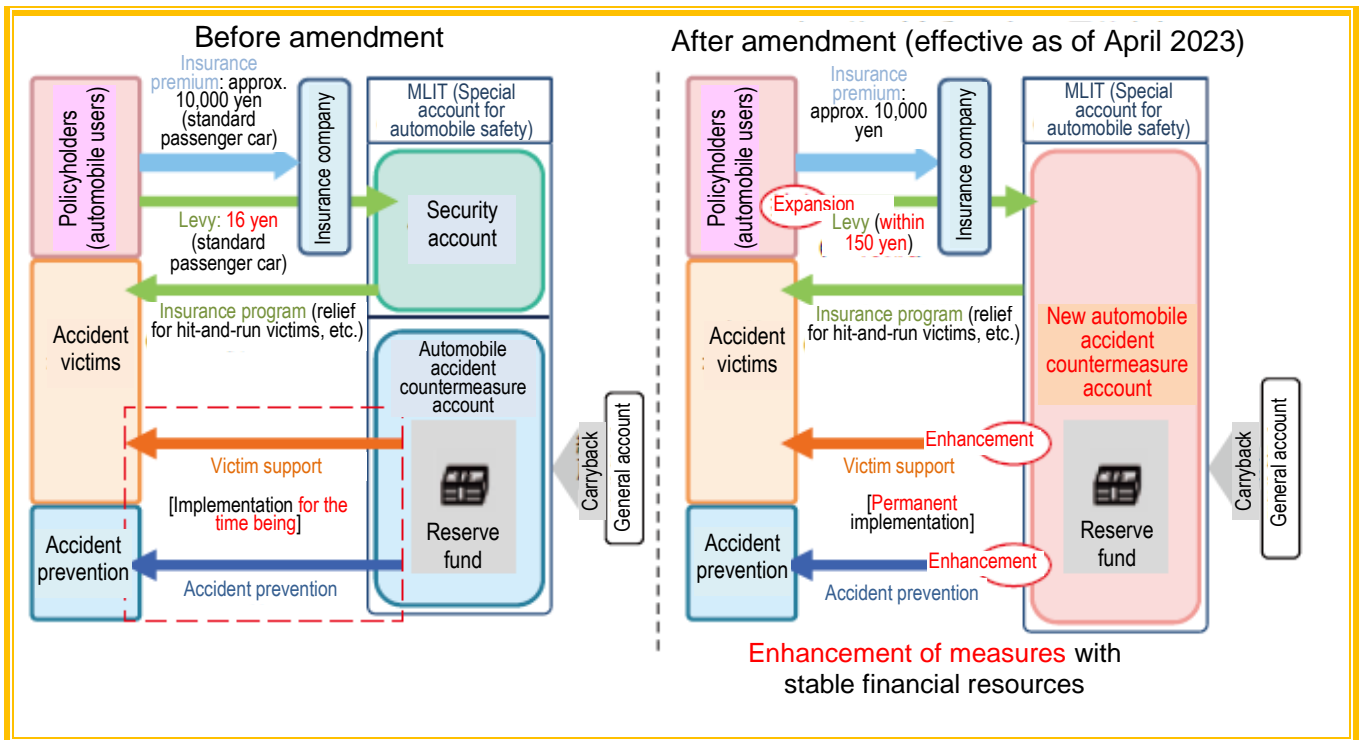
Review of the dissemination and publicity of victim support, etc., including the need for stable financial resources to earn user's understanding

Realization of a society where **victims and their families can live in peace**

(Details of the level of the levy amount and the nature of the expenditure will continue to be discussed)

## 2. Outline of Amendment Acts

Following the interim report, the Act Partially Amending the Act on Securing Compensation for Automobile Accidents and the Act on Special Account were passed in June 2022 (to be enacted in April 2023). With this amendment, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will further enhance permanent support for accident victims and as the "Program for the Promotion of Victim Protection, etc.," using the "levy for the Automobile Accident Countermeasure Program" paid together with insurance fee as financial resources.



• **Enhancement of Educational Counseling System at Schools for Juvenile Victims**  
**[Policy No. 53]**

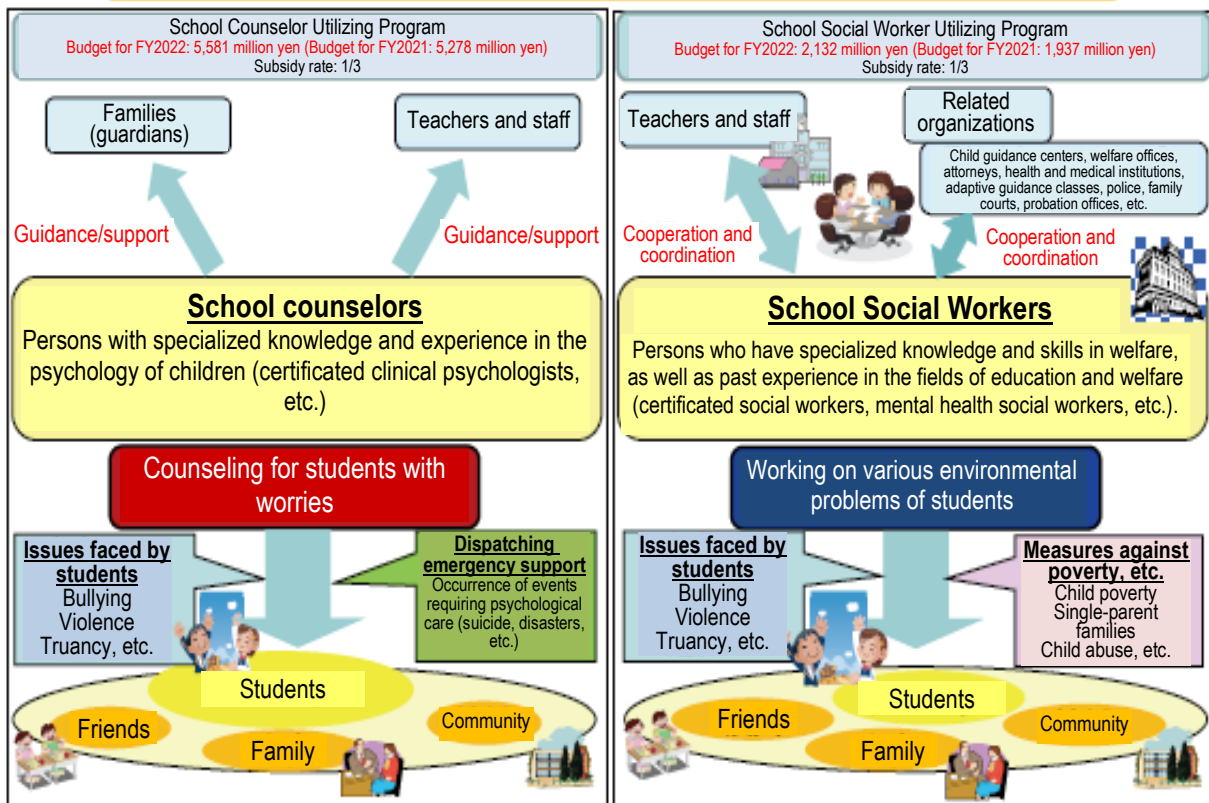
The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has been working on enhancement of the educational counseling system in schools to provide counseling to children, including crime victims, etc. Specifically, the Ministry has been providing schools with budget support for the assignment and emergency dispatch of school counselors with specialized knowledge and experience of child psychology. The Ministry set a goal to assign school counselors to all public

elementary and junior high schools (about 27,500 schools) by FY2019, and the budget for FY2019 was earmarked for the necessary expenses for the assignment. Budget support has also been provided for the assignment of school social workers to educational institutions, who have specialized knowledge and skills in welfare to support students. By setting a goal to assign them to every junior high school district (about 10,000 junior high school districts) by FY2019, the budget was earmarked for the expenses for this assignment. The Ministry continued to provide for these expenses for FY2021, and worked to increase the amount of time for assignment.

Outline of Activities of School Counselors and School Social Workers

**Toward the Enhancement of Educational Counseling System at Schools**

To enhance educational counseling for facing challenges due to diverse social backgrounds, it is important to assign professional staff, such as school counselors and school social workers, with different areas of expertise and experience to work with teachers at schools to share their expertise.



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology



## **Support for Juvenile Victims at the Juvenile Support Center and Cooperation with Multiple Organizations**

**Juvenile Division, Fukuoka Prefectural Police Headquarters  
Deputy Director  
National Expert Designated by the National Police Agency  
YASUNAGA Tomomi**

### **1. Introduction**

Juvenile offenders involved in the Juvenile Support Center have the following backgrounds: abuse by family members, inappropriate parenting, sexual abuse, and other poor environments that hinder the healthy development, as well as their own experiences of physical and mental trauma. These children start out as victims themselves before hurting others or engage in deviant behavior. This is exactly what it means when a “child that causes trouble is a child in trouble,” and a delinquent is an “unhappy child” forced to survive adverse experiences.

As supporters, we should be prepared to face these children, unmoved by their “testing the limits,” contrariness and/or swearing that is peculiar to juveniles, who for various reasons remain tight-lipped, until their hearts are opened. We must also provide appropriate support for children by having related organizations collaborate across professional boundaries to resolve the various problems that children face in their multilayered and multifaceted lives at home and/or at school.

At this time, I would like to report a case in which I was involved by providing effective support to a juvenile victim of sexual abuse through inter-organizational cooperation, in reference to the activities of the Juvenile Support Center in Fukuoka Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as the “Support Center” in this TOPICS) and its significance.

### **2. Activities of the Support Center in Fukuoka Prefecture**

#### **(1) Provisions in Laws and Regulations**

Article 2-14 of the Regulations on Juvenile Police Activities (Rules of the National Public Safety Commission No. 20, 2002) defines a Support Center as “an organization playing a central role in juvenile police activities that require specialized knowledge and skills or require continuous implementation,” and is currently established in prefectural police departments nationwide.

At the Support Center, various juvenile police activities are provided mainly by juvenile guidance staff, who are responsible for “juvenile counseling, continuous guidance, continuous support for juvenile victims, and other juvenile police activities that require particularly specialized knowledge and skills,” as stipulated in Article 2-13 of the Regulations on Juvenile Police Activities.

#### **(2) Characteristics of Fukuoka Prefecture's Support Center - Close cooperation with related organizations -**

In Fukuoka Prefecture, all the five Support Centers located outside of police headquarters or police stations, which makes it easier for not only children and their guardians, but also staff, etc. of related organizations to contact and consult with them. Such facts have been widely disseminated to related organizations.

In addition, juvenile guidance staff, who are primarily responsible for the activities of the Support Center, are required to have specialized knowledge and skills necessary to understand the characteristics of children and provide support in a way that is appropriate to their emotional needs. For this reason, our prefecture employs personnel with either a

certificated social worker, a certified public psychologist, a certificated clinical psychologist, or a teacher's license. The Support Center has staff with not only police knowledge, but also educational and/or welfare perspectives, which enables police to cooperate with other organizations related to education and/or welfare with an understanding of the "differences" between the two parties. Cooperation with the related organizations is very close.

The following are the main objectives of the activities of the Support Center in our prefecture.

- Counseling mindsets: "professional and empathetic listening"
- Welfare-oriented casework: "care and problem-solving in cooperation with other professions"
- Outreach-type counseling and support activities: "from a wait-and-see attitude to an active approach"
- Preventive education is a "preemptive activity" to prevent harm and abuse

### **(3) Specific Situation of Cooperation among Multiple Organizations Centering on Support Centers in Fukuoka Prefecture**

#### **A. Overview of Efforts by Three Organizations (Police, Child Guidance Centers, and Board of Education)**

Four of the five Support Centers in the prefecture are located in the same facility as the Child Guidance Centers (hereinafter referred to as "CGCs" in this TOPICS). Two of these centers also serve as sub-offices of the Board of Education.

In Kitakyushu City, a police agency (Support Center), a welfare institution (CGC/Child Comprehensive Center), and an educational institution (Board of Education, Juvenile Support Team) are all located on the same floor, and personnel exchange among them is also encouraged.

The members of these three agencies are as follows.

- Police agencies (Support Center): police officers, juvenile guidance staff, dispatched staff of Board of Education (ex-teachers)
- Welfare institutions (CGC/Child Comprehensive Center: CGC staff, teachers, principal alumni, dispatched police officers (Chief Inspector), police officer alumni)
- Educational institutions (Juvenile Support Team: police alumni, principal alumni)

#### **B. Efforts of Support Centers in Kitakyushu City**

As mentioned in (A) above, all related organizations are located on one floor at the Support Centers in Kitakyushu City, which eases face-to-face contact, familiarity with each organization's expertise and areas of strength and weakness, and fosters deep mutual understanding. This also allows the organizations to perform their immediate and organic functions (strengths) in concert to protect and save their subjects.

Also, practitioners from related organizations can exchange information with each other on a daily basis. This allows three organizations to obtain pertinent information at almost the same time when it is received at one location, and to share it the same day. This information sharing is the first step, not the goal, of cooperation among related organizations. It is important to consider how to make use of the shared information to ensure the safety of child victims and to provide them with support. As cooperation among related organizations has been achieved in Kitakyushu City, it is possible for them to move into coordinated action immediately after information is shared.

### **3. Introduction of Cases of Support for Victimized (Sexually Abused) Children**

Girl A (5th grade elementary school student at the time), who had participated in a delinquency prevention class I ran, stated in her written report of the class, "I can travel out of



my body.” When I interviewed her, she confided in me that she had been sexually abused by her own father. Girl A later told me, “When Daddy touched my hair, I would go into astral projection and sing my favorite cartoon song until his (sexual intercourse) was over.”

The “astral projection” talked about by Girl A was recognized as a dissociative symptom (a defensive instinct to protect one's self by separating the mind from the body), which is commonly seen in children who have been sexually abused.

She was five years old when she was abused for the first time. The young girl had no way of understanding the meaning of what was happening to her, and she believed what her father told her, “This is just a lesson for you to become a nice grownup someday.” However, in her fifth grade elementary school, she was taught sex education and realized that what her father had told her was a lie. However, she continued to be sexually abused for a long time after that, unable to tell anyone or resist her father, thinking, “I could see Mommy's sad face.” For Girl A, who was unable to seek help from the adults around her, the “way” for surviving sexual abuse was her “astral projection (dissociative escape)”.

After recognizing this situation as sexual abuse, in cooperation with the police station that handled this case, I promptly shared the information with the teachers dispatched to the Support Center and the CGC located on the same floor. Then, with the Child Abuse Specialist of the CGC, I had a joint interview with the girl. As a result, she was temporarily taken into custody by the CGC. In this case, the prompt sharing of information by the Support Center, the CGC, and the school, followed by the coordinated actions of the organizations involved, made it possible to secure the safety of Girl A at an early stage.

As for this girl, it was also necessary to take care of the physical and mental conditions she had suffered from the sexual abuse. Therefore, continuous victim support activities were provided by related organizations, including closely cooperating medical institutions, exercising their respective functions until she recovered.

The father was charged after the investigation. However, when he was arrested, the girl initially became “unable,” rather than “unwilling” to speak about the details of the abuse. When the victim is a child, the closer the perpetrator is, the more likely he or she will not be to “talk.” During the interview with the girl, I encouraged her many times by saying, “It is not your fault,” “I believe you,” and “I will do my best to protect you.” As a result, she was eventually able to talk about the full extent of her victimization, leading to her father's arrest.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Sexual violence, including sexual abuse, has been called a “murder of the soul.” When children who have been victimized by sexual violence reach puberty, they learn the meaning of the acts committed against them and are deeply hurt, deprived of self-esteem, and sometimes driven into a situation where they are unable to care for themselves and others.

As a result, some children became addicted to drugs, such as paint thinner or methamphetamine, saying “it relieved my suffering.” Others turned to sex with random partners, prostitution, and other self-destructive acts, saying “I wanted to defile myself more.” In addition, the experience of victimization led some of the boy victims to engage in sexual assault, such as forcing others to engage in non- consensual sexual acts.

As with Girl A introduced in this report, there are always children close to us who are unable to say “help” in words waiting for adults to notice them. To protect and save children from sexual abuse and other forms of sexual violence, “collaboration and connection” among related organizations is crucial. I would like to make this widely known.



- **Enhancement of Counselling Services Offered by Police for Sexual Crime Victims**  
[Policy No. 56]

As of April 2022, the police in 46 prefectures have placed 177 in-house counselors (of whom 132 are licensed as certified public psychologists or certificated clinical psychologists), and all prefectural police departments are utilizing the public expenditure system to cover counseling costs.

**Counseling at the police station (simulation)**



- **Strengthening the System of the One-stop Support Center**

[Policy No. 59]

With the subsidies for supporting victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence, the Cabinet Office is working to stabilize the operation and improve the quality of the One-stop Support Center through the following measures: providing 24/7 service; promoting the development of base hospitals; establishing a regional coordination system, such as by assigning full-time coordinators; securing human resource development and management systems, such as by enhancing expertise; and ensuring appropriate treatment for counselors, etc. In addition, the Cabinet Office has publicized the nationwide abbreviated helpline number “# 8891 (*Hayaku* (quickly) One-stop)” on its website and through the “Campaign for Eliminating of Violence against Women” every November. In October 2021, a Night and Holiday Call Center for Victims of Sexual Violence was established, and in order to provide consultation and emergency support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence during evening hours outside the operation hours of the One-stop Support Center, the Office provides

support in cooperation with One-stop Support Center which has not previously been available at night or on holidays.



## Enhancement of Consultation System for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence

Sexual crimes and sexual violence are serious violations of human rights and must never be tolerated.

To alleviate the physical and mental burden of victims, it is necessary to provide counseling on sexual crimes and sexual violence immediately after victimization, and to provide medical support such as prescription of emergency contraception, evidence collection, and psychological support in a single location as much as possible. The One-stop Center for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence plays a central role in supporting victims in the community.

At the One-stop Support Center, the number of consultations in FY2020 was approximately 1.2 times that of the previous year, and in the first half of FY2021, it was 1.3 times that of the same period in the previous fiscal year. It is an important issue to improve the consultation system.

For this reason, the Cabinet Office introduced a nationwide abbreviated helpline number for One-stop Support Centers, “#8891” (*Hayaku* (quickly) One-stop), in October, 2020. By dialing #8891, you will be connected to the nearest One-stop Support Center.

Since October 2021, the “Night and Holiday Call Center for Victims of Sexual Violence” has been established, and in order to provide consultation and emergency support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence during evening hours outside the operating hours of the Center, the Office provides support in cooperation with the One-stop Support Center which has not been previously available at night and on holidays.

Furthermore, to make it easier for young people to seek advice, the “Social Media Consultation Service ‘Cure Time’ for Victims of Sexual Violence” is available via chat.

Under the principle of “Victims First,” the Cabinet Office is striving to strengthen the support system of One-stop Support Centers by promoting a nationwide network of One-stop Support Centers, improving the treatment of counselors by utilizing subsidies to support victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence, and disseminating information about One-stop Support Centers. The Cabinet Office is to continue to further improve the consultation system for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence.

## Enhancement of Consultation System for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence

One-stop Support Center  
Nationwide abbreviated helpline number (from Oct. 1, 2020)



“#8891”  
(Hayaku (quickly) One-stop)

### Night and Holiday Call Center for Victims of Sexual Violence (from October 1, 2021)

Provide consultation and emergency support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence during evening hours outside of the operating hours of the One-stop Support Center, in cooperation with the Center which has not been available at night or on holidays

Social Media consultation on sexual violence  
“Cure Time”  
From October 2, 2020



Cure time

検索

## 2 Securing Safety (related to Article 15 of the Basic Act)

- **Improvement of Systems for Prevention of Child Abuse and Early Detection and Response to Child Abuse**

[Policy No. 93]

The police strive to improve the expertise and skills of personnel in charge of child abuse by providing thorough education and training that contributes to the early detection of child abuse, etc. and having “officers for child abuse” assigned to the prefectural police headquarters to further strengthen their ability to respond to child abuse. The police have these officers in charge engage in guidance and education concerning professional responses to child abuse, such as coordination with related organizations such as Child Guidance Centers, initial response when a suspected case of child abuse is recognized, and interviews based on the psychology of the victimized child in order to further enhance their ability to respond to child abuse.

[Policy No. 96]

As an effort to prevent child abuse in local communities, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has been promoting efforts to support for education at home according to the local situation, while taking into consideration families with worries and anxieties about child rearing who have difficulties accessing places for learning and consultation. Such families are provided with learning opportunities, information and consultations by support teams for education at home consisting of various local human resources.

In order to respond to child abuse cases at an early stage in the community, the Ministry also encourages people involved in support for education at home and/or after-school children’s care and other collaborative activities with local schools, to make use of “Key Points for Responding to Child Abuse: Watching Over, Aware of, and Connecting” (published in August 2019, partially revised in March 2021), which summarize the points that they should keep in mind when responding to child abuse cases.

Prior to the Child Abuse Prevention Promotion Month in November of the same year, the Ministry sent a message from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to all children nationwide, in addition to school and community officials and guardians involved in the upbringing of children, in an effort to eradicate child abuse.

## Home visits by support teams for education at home



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

[Policy No. 97]

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, based on the Comprehensive Emergency Measures to Strengthen Child Abuse Prevention (decided by Ministerial Meeting on Child Abuse Prevention Measures on July 20, 2018; hereinafter referred to as “Comprehensive Emergency Measures”), has been making efforts to follow rules to protect all children thoroughly, including on-site inspections in cases where the safety of a child cannot be confirmed. In addition, the Ministry is to increase the number of child welfare officers from approx. 3,240 (as of FY2017) to 5,260 by the end of FY2022, and to establish the Comprehensive Support Center for Children and Families in every municipality, based on the “Comprehensive Plan Strengthening Child Abuse Prevention Measures System” (decided by the Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies to Child Abuse Prevention Measures on December 18, 2018). The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare aimed to increase the number of child welfare officers by approximately 5,260, one year ahead of the plan’s target. In light of the continuing increase in the number of consultations concerning child abuse, on January 20, 2022, the Ministry decided to increase the number of child welfare officers to 5,765, and this goal is expected to be achieved. Based on the “Further Measures to Strengthen Child Abuse Prevention” (decided by Ministerial Meeting on Child Abuse Prevention Measures on September 2, 2022), the Ministry intends to formulate the next plan in 2022 to replace the Comprehensive Plan Strengthening Child Abuse

Prevention Measures System in order to systematically strengthen the system of Child Guidance Centers and municipalities from FY2023 onward.

Moreover, the Ministry has been operating a child guidance center abuse response hotline, “189,” so that someone who discovered a child being abused can report it and consult the Child Guidance Center without hesitation. To reduce the time taken for a call to reach the Center, operational improvements were made so far, such as shortening the voice guidance in April 2016, and introduction of a call center system for incoming calls from cell phones in February 2018. In December 2019, the name of the existing “Nationwide Child Guidance Center Hotline” was changed to the “Child Guidance Center Abuse Response Hotline,” and the “Nationwide Exclusive Child Guidance Center Consultation Telephone” has been newly established. The call charge for the “Child Guidance Center Abuse Response Hotline” and “Nationwide Exclusive Child Guidance Center Consultation Telephone” has been made free of charge successively to improve its convenience.

interview, and giving consideration to the place, frequency, and method of interviewing the victimized child.

Based on the government's “Policy for Enhancement Measures against Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence” decided in June 2022, the Public Prosecutors Office and the police have been implementing a trial program in some prefectures to have a representative from the related organization interview victims with mental disabilities in sex crime cases since April 2021.

### **3 Consideration in the Process of Protection, Investigation and Trial, etc. (related to Article 19 of the Basic Act)**

- **Enhancement and other Efforts with regards to Trainings of Staff**

[Policy No. 110]

To promote investigation and support in consideration of the feeling of sexual crimes victims, the police provide training at the police schools for police officers, including handling cases in which a man or a sexual minority person is victimized. Specifically, the police invite lecturers with specialized knowledge to give lectures to police officers, etc. engaged in the investigation of sex crimes and support for victims of sex crimes.

- **Consideration when Interviewing a Child Victim**

[Policy No. 121]

The Public Prosecutors Office, police and Child Guidance Centers, etc. are strengthening their cooperation from the viewpoint of reducing the burden on the victimized children and ensuring the credibility of their statements. Specifically, they promote efforts such as consultation prior to interviewing the victimized child, having a representative of the related organization conduct the