

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

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

○ Major efforts

- **Enhancement on responses to child abuse including at night or on holidays**

[Policy No. 52]

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare subsidizes Child Guidance Centers so that they can streamline a system to provide 24-hour consultation. Such a system has been installed in all Centers (210 places of 69 municipalities as of March 2017) for every day's availability.

- **Enhancement of collaboration between schools and Child Guidance Centers and other organizations for the protection of juvenile victims**

[Policy No. 54]

The Child Welfare Act and the Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse which have been amended under the Act for Partial Revision to the Child Welfare Act enacted in May 2016, stipulate that if hospitals, clinics, child welfare institutions and schools which usually contact with children may find a child whose guardian needs to be taken care (hereinafter referred to as an aid-requiring child), they must inform the local municipality, and that institutions involved in children's medical care, welfare or education must submit material regarding child abuse prevention when Child Guidance Centers may seek such material. Based on the above amendments, relevant bodies are communicating information among them.

To early discover and protect abused children, the Regional Councils on Aid-Requiring Children in local governments shall share information on aid-requiring children and their guardians with the Child Consultation Offices, schools, Education Boards, and police, and discuss the contents of support with such organizations.

Based on the results of the discussion, the relevant organizations have been responding to the issues under mutual cooperation. Such Councils were established in 99.2% of municipalities as of April 2016.

- **Improvement of school counseling system for juvenile victims**

[Policy No. 55]

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,

Science and Technology has been making efforts to improve the educational counseling system in schools to respond to students' and crime victim's consultations: specifically, subsidizing the arrangement/urgent dispatch of school counselors with rich knowledge and experience on children's psychology. In FY 2016, the Ministry secured a budget for the cost of school counselors in elementary and middle schools (for 25,500 schools). The Ministry has also been subsidizing educational institutions for school social workers with expertise and techniques.

In FY 2016, the Ministry secured a budget for the cost of school social workers in elementary/middle/high schools (for 3,047 workers).

- **Enhancement of counseling services offered by police for sexual crime victims**

[Policy No. 58]

As of April 2016, 37 prefectural police departments arranged 134 certified counselors (out of them, 82 are clinical psychologists), and 13 police departments utilized the public expenditure system to cover the counseling cost.

Counseling by the police



- **Promotion to establish one-stop support centers**

[Policy No. 65]

The National Police Agency secured a budget in FY 2017 for the unification of telephone numbers in each prefectural police used for telephone counseling for sexual crime victims to a nationally-standardized four-digit one, so that sexual crime victims could easily consult their problems.

The Cabinet Office established in FY 2017 the “Grant for supporting victims of sexual crime/sexual violence” so that prefectures can improve and streamline a one-stop support center. The grant is aimed so that sexual crime victims can receive support at a single place to recover mental and physical health and prefectures can stably run the operation. Eligible costs for the subsidy are as follows.

With the establishment of this grant, the Cabinet Office instructs prefectures to accelerate the support for victims of sexual crime/sexual violence.

○ **Operation costs of consultation centers**

The eligible costs shall be expenses to operate consultation centers to support victims of sexual crime/sexual violence, including expenses for personnel (consultants), facility rentals and fittings/appliances, as well as transportation of supporters to take and refer victims to relevant agencies/organizations.

○ **Costs of training supporters and health workers of obstetrics and gynecology hospitals (obstetricians and gynecologists and nurses)**

The eligible costs shall be expenses for training supporters and health workers of obstetrics and gynecology hospitals (obstetricians, gynecologists and nurses), who perform pivotal functions (counseling, coordination*, and obstetrical and gynecological medical care) at a one-stop support center.

○ **Costs of PR and enlightenment about a one-stop support center**

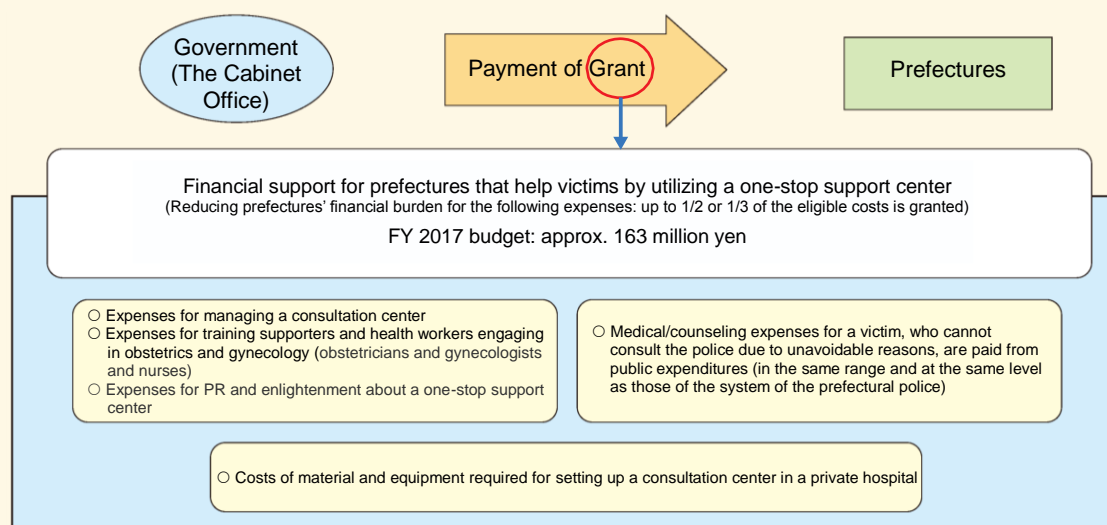
○ **Fees for medical treatment and counseling**

If a victim cannot consult the police due to unavoidable reasons and cannot be covered by the public expenditure system, the eligible costs are medical treatment and counseling expenses borne by a prefecture in the same range and at the same level under the public expenditure system.

○ **Costs of material and equipment required for making a hospital a core clinical center**

When installing a consultation center in a private hospital in order to make it a core clinical center of the one-stop support center, the eligible costs are expenses of necessary material and equipment.

Financial support for prefectures with the Grant for Supporting Victims of Sexual Crime/Sexual Violence



*Coordination means that those persons offer options to a victim and explain advantages or disadvantages to lead to his/her desirable support.

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

○ Major efforts

- Protection of information about crime victims, etc.

[Policy No. 80]

The Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecutors Office have properly been managing such a system regulated as victim's name/address and others to identify him/her shall not be disclosed in an open court if the court decides to do so, and victim's name/address must not be informed to the

defendant if a prosecutor imposes such a condition to the attorney when disclosing evidences (this system was introduced in 2016 under the revised and enforced Code of Criminal Procedure). Also the Ministry and the Public Prosecutors Office are making this system known to prosecutors at meetings and trainings. Also, offender rehabilitation offices are to ensure the appropriate management of the stored personal information of involved people including crime victims, etc. at meetings and trainings.

Column 3

▶ Nationwide common dial number of Child Guidance Centers (189)

The nationwide common dial number is the one, through which a case of child abuse or likelihood can be informed quickly and consulted to Child Guidance Center: the place of such an occurrence can be identified by the Child Guidance Center with jurisdiction from the area code of the territory.

Since July 2015, such calls (incoming calls) have greatly been increased due to change of the former ten-digit number to the three-digit number (189). If people find child abuse cases, they can inform quickly and consult to Child Guidance Center without hesitation. Further, because the voice guidance time was reduced to about 30 seconds from about 70 seconds, the rate of telephone connections to the Center has been raised.

Through the nationwide common dial number, Child Guidance Center accepts not only consultations about child abuse but also problems of childbirth/childrearing. Such callers' identities and the contents of consultation are kept in secrecy and also he/she can make a call under anonymity.

For the detail, refer to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website (<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/koyoukintou/gyakutai/>).

- **Proper treatment of offenders for the prevention of re-victimization** [Policy No. 94]

The police, in close and continuous cooperation with the Probation Office, have been taking necessary measures while promptly grasping specific behaviors of persons, who are under probation with suspension of execution of the sentence due to involvement in violence from troubles of love affairs. In June 2016, based on the introduction of the system on partial suspension of execution, the National Police Agency issued “Measures for parolees and persons under probation with suspension of execution of the sentence, who were involved in violence from troubles of love affairs” (notice of Director of the Community Safety Bureau dated May 31, 2016), thus expanding information sharing with the Probation Office on up to parolees.

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

○ Major efforts

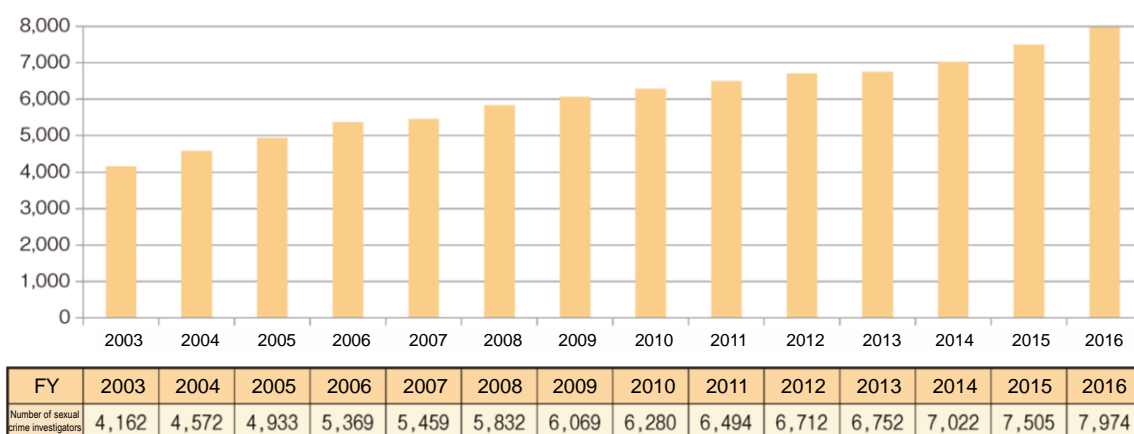
- **Placement of female police officers and other measures**

[Policy No. 109]

The police have increased female police officers in the prefectural police headquarters and police stations who deal with sexual crimes, and give them training for skill-up in crime investigation, in order to reduce mental burden of sexual crime victims during the process of investigation if they desire to be interviewed by the same-sex police officer.

As of April 2016, the prefectural police across the country have 7,974 police officers including female police officers who have been designated as sexual crime investigators to interview with victims of sexual crime.

Transition in designated sexual crime investigators



As of April 2016

In addition to arranging sexual crime investigation supervisors in the Sexual Crime Investigation Department in the nationwide prefectural police headquarters, the National Police Agency has been solidifying a leadership system for sexual crime investigation by arranging female police officers in the same Department. As of April 2016, there are 295 sexual crime investigation supervisors in the prefectural police; out of them the number of female police officers is 124.

As of April 2016, in order to reduce sexual crime victim's mental burden, the police have 3,013 sampling kits needed to collect evidence, including essential devices, victims' clothes,

and spare clothes when keeping their clothes as evidence. Also, to reduce victims' mental burden when the criminal situations are reproduced, the police have 2,182 dummies around the country that are used in place of actual victims.

Further, the police have built a network with the Obstetrical and Gynecological Association to collect evidence immediately after the occurrence of cases, and to provide a victim with diagnosis/treatment by a female doctor in a consultation room or in a victim-support car, thus promoting sexual crime investigations properly and smoothly.

Situation of a victim-support car (simulated victim)



- **Consideration when interviewing a child victim**

[Policy No. 110]

The Prosecutors Office, the police and Child Guidance Center have been cooperating with each other in order to reduce the burden on a child victim and keep trustworthiness of their testimonies. For example, they discuss each other in advance when interviewing a child victim, so that they take a due care of the place, frequency, and the way of interviewing.

Diagnosis situation by a female doctor (simulated victim)

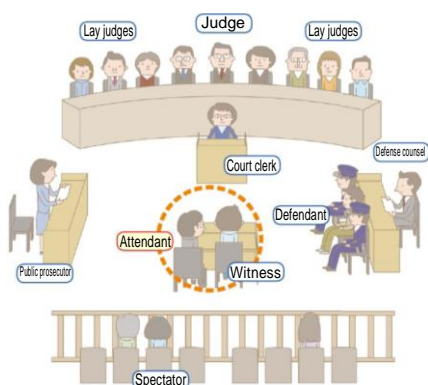


- **Appropriate operation of measures such as video links**

[Policy No. 111]

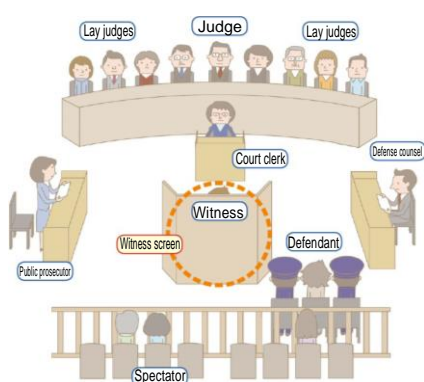
Regarding criminal procedure, the Ministry of Justice has, through meetings and trainings, been improving the operation of the opinion statement system and the video link system, so that a prosecutor responds properly to a crime victim and reflect his/her opinions on the trial, and mitigates witness's anxiety and burden upon testimony, thus the Ministry makes efforts to make it known to prosecutors to properly respond to the system. The Ministry prepares the information on these systems in pamphlets for crime victims.

Attendance to witness



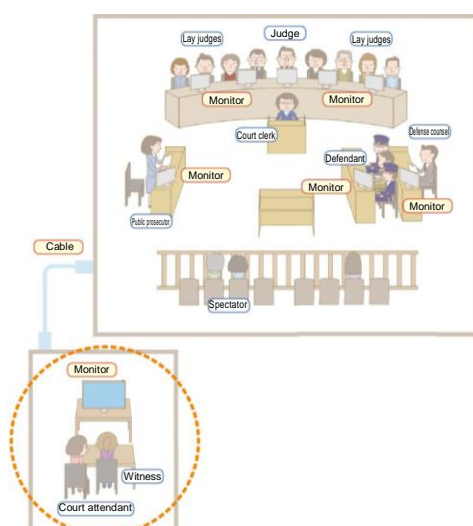
Source: Ministry of Justice

Cover screen for a witness



Source: Ministry of Justice

Video link system



Source: Ministry of Justice

Application of witness protection

Year	Witness Protection Measures		
	Attendant	Shield	Video link
2012	121	1,757	288
2013	116	1,792	278
2014	112	1,661	299
2015	141	1,563	290
2016	128	1,623	303

(Notes)

1. Data (approx. figures) from General Secretariat of the Supreme Court
2. The number of witnesses represents the total number who appeared at High Court, District Court and Summary Court

Source: Ministry of Justice

In April 2008, the Code of Civil Procedure was revised to allow a crime victim to be accompanied by an attendant, and use a cover screen or a video link when he/she is questioned in civil suit.

In 2016, the frequency of attendance was seven, use of cover screen was 204, and use of video link was 17 (the figures show at the time of questioning of witness/victim, and the combined use was calculated as one time).

In 2016, 128 witnesses were accompanied by an attendant, 1,623 witnesses accumulated used a cover screen, and 303 witnesses accumulated used a video link system.