

1 Support of healthcare and welfare services (related to Article 14 of the Basic Act)

○ **Major efforts**

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

[Policy No. 54]

To discover and protect abused children as early as possible, the Regional Councils on Aid-Requiring Children in local governments shall share information on children requiring aid and their guardians (hereinafter referred to as supported children, etc.) 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 discussions, 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.

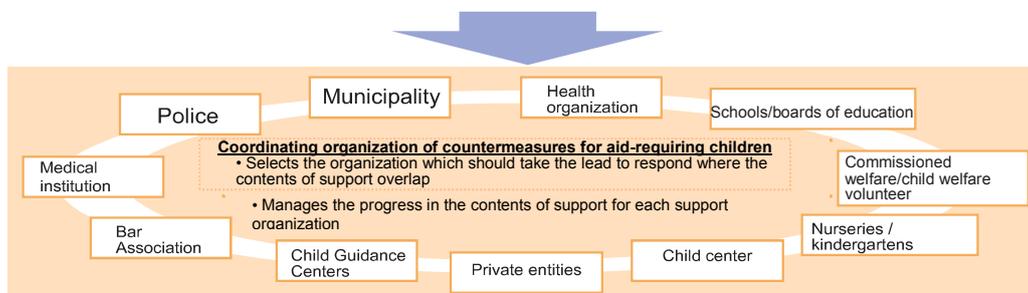
The Child Welfare Act and the Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse which have been amended under the Act for Partial Revision to the Child Welfare Act, stipulate that if hospitals, clinics, child welfare institutions and schools which usually have contact with children find a child who requires 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 seek such material.

The Regional Councils on Aid-Requiring Children

Functions to be

In order to achieve early detection and appropriate protection and support for supported children, etc., it is necessary for:

- The relevant organizations to share information and thinking about the children,
- To respond through appropriate cooperation, and for The Regional Councils on Aid- Requiring Children to be established in the local municipality, and it is also important to:
 - (1) Clarify the responsibility system such as clarifying collaboration among the relevant organizations as well as the organizations which will coordinate the division of roles,
 - (2) Clarify ways of appropriately protecting personal information and sharing information with the relevant organizations



		FY 2013	FY 2015	FY 2016
Number of municipalities establishing councils (proportion of all municipalities)		1,722 (98.9 %)	1,726 (99.1%)	1,727 (99.2%)
Number of registered cases (Number of child abuse cases)		78,610 (84,917)	91,806 (92,140)	219,004 (97,428)
Number of coordinating organization staff	(1) Staff with professional qualification similar to child welfare officers	1,586	1,800	1,663
	(2) Other professional qualified staff	3,091	3,873	3,403
	(3) Staff other than (1) or (2) (clerical work, etc.)	3,556	3,647	2,967
	(4) Total	8,233	9,320	8,033

* Figures as of April 1 each year for the "Number of municipalities establishing councils" and "Number of coordinating organization staff"
Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

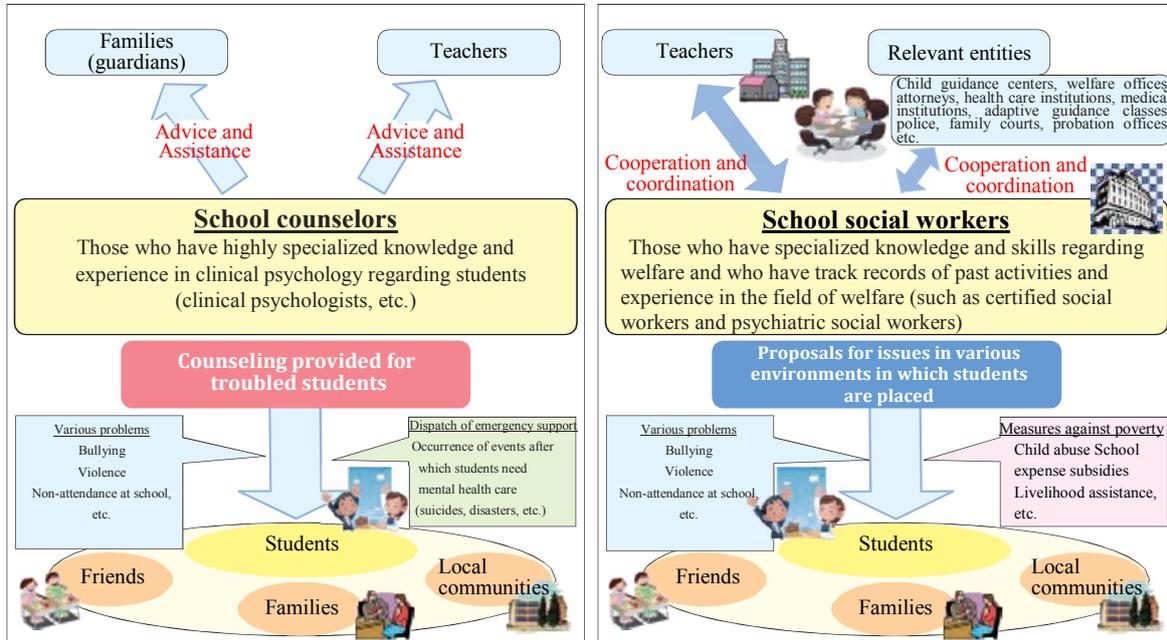
• **Improvement of school counseling system for juvenile victims**

[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 to school. A goal has been set to assign school counselors

to all of the approximately 27,500 public elementary and middle schools by FY 2019, and in FY 2017 the Ministry secured a budget for the cost of school counselors in elementary and middle schools (for 26,000 schools). The Ministry has also been subsidizing educational institutions for school social workers with expertise and techniques. A goal has been set to assign approximately 10,000 school social workers to all of the middle school districts by FY 2019, and in FY 2017 the Ministry secured a budget for the cost of school social workers in these schools (for 5,047 workers)

Outline of the activities of school counselors and school social workers



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology

- **Promotion of continuous support in order to reduce mental damages suffered by juvenile victims**

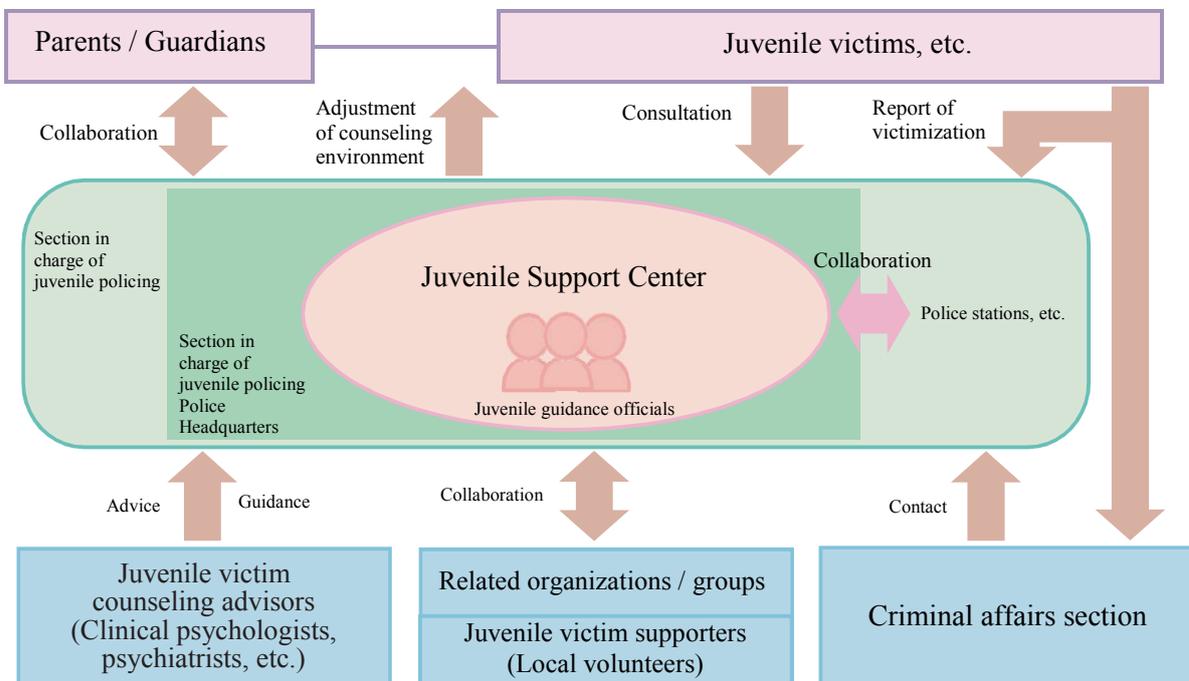
[Policy No. 57]

Juveniles who suffer abuse experience a huge impact on their subsequent sound development since they are in the process of forming their personalities, and therefore, the police give guidance and advice through the use of juvenile guidance officers and others, as well as ongoing support such as counseling in order to prevent the re-victimization of juvenile victims and to support their recovery. With regard to support for juvenile victims, outside experts with advanced knowledge and skills of clinical psychology and psychiatry are commissioned as juvenile victim counseling advisors, and support is implemented while receiving appropriate guidance and advice from these advisors, and the changes in the everyday environment and living situation of the juveniles are monitored in each region in close collaboration with the parents and guardians, while support activities

are promoted with the collaboration of volunteers who conduct frequent visits and engage in other activities as commissioned juvenile victim supporters.

Regarding the circumstances of the sexual victimization of children, 1,216 children were newly identified through the clearing of child pornography offenses during 2017, of which 21.6% were younger age children who are unable to resist (elementary school children or younger), and the number of children who have become victim of child prostitution and other offenses as a result of the use of social networking services has continued to increase in recent years, leading to an extremely serious situation. In light of these circumstances, pursuant to the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation” approved by the Ministerial Meeting concerning Measures Against Crime in April of the same year, the police have been promoting countermeasures in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies to promptly protect child victims and provide appropriate support.

Support activities for juvenile victims



Column 2

Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation

1 Background

Child sexual exploitation, such as the production of child pornography or child prostitution, is an extremely heinous act that causes harm to children mentally and physically, and seriously violates their human rights, which should not be forgivable.

In Japan, the number of juvenile victims of child pornography has increased in recent years, and many children have been sexually victimized due to the use of social networking service, and in addition, the situation of the sexual victimization of children is becoming extremely serious with the emergence of new business which focus on children's sexuality such as so-called JK business.



Poster to prevent sexual victimization of children

Under these circumstances, pursuant to the “Basic Policy on Work Relating to Measures against the Sexual Exploitation of Children,” (Cabinet Decision in March 2016), from April 2016, the planning and drafting of countermeasures to prevent the sexual victimization of children, and the work of general adjustment between the related ministries and agencies is to be conducted by the National Public Safety Commission, and after consideration by the liaison meeting consisting of the related ministries and agencies, the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation ” was formulated at the Meeting on concerning Measures Against Crime in April 2017.

2 Summary

Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation was compiled on the premise of the current law, and is based on the six pillars of measures to be taken by the government towards eradicating the sexual exploitation of children with a view to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation

Main measure

1. Enhancement of public awareness for the eradication of child sexual exploitation, development of social awareness, and the strengthening of collaboration with international society

- Convening of a public-private conference for the promotion of social awareness
- Promotion of public relations and public awareness-raising activities toward the general public for the prevention of victimization through child prostitution and child pornography and for the prevention of the distribution of and access to images of child pornography on the internet
- Participation in "WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online"
- Dissemination of information to international society regarding domestic efforts

2. Support for children and families to ensure the sound growth of children without victimization by sexual exploitation

- Assistance in publicity and awareness-raising activities at the local and family level for proper use of the internet by children
- Enhancement of information on moral education at schools
- Strengthening of assistance in cybercrime prevention volunteer activities
- Support for single-parent families

3. Promotion of measures to prevent the occurrence and spread of victimization that focuses on tools used for child sexual exploitation

- Assistance in voluntary efforts by mobile carriers, etc., to promote the use of filtering services
- Promotion of various measures toward improvement in the effectiveness of blocking
- Measures for the business operators of online dating sites and community sites
- Elimination of criminal organizations and illegal adult entertainment establishments in entertainment/amusement areas and the destruction of "criminal infrastructure"

4. Prompt protection of child victims and the promotion of appropriate support

- Creation of a comfortable environment for children and their parents/guardians for consultations
- Promotion of guidance for children involved in businesses focused on children as sexual objects
- Support, etc., for children at Child Guidance Centers and local governments
- Enhancement of support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence

5. Strengthening of crackdowns based on the situation of victimization and the rehabilitation of offenders

- Assistance in the establishment of ordinances prohibiting businesses focused on children as sexual objects
- Strengthening of crackdowns on and strict punishment for crimes involving child sexual exploitation
- Strengthening of collaboration among related organizations in efforts to implement interviews with consideration of children's psychological stress
- Implementation of guidance to prevent repeat sexual crimes at penal institutions

6. Strengthening of the foundation for realizing a society where children will never become victims of sexual exploitation

- Enhancement of investigative capacity for dealing with child sexual exploitation crimes
- Enrichment of the contents of training for officials in charge of supporting child victims
- Promotion of the deployment of school counselors, etc., for the early detection of child victims and for support activities at school
- Strengthening of the structure and specialization of Child Guidance Centers

3 Future direction

Based on the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation, the entire government will be promoting countermeasures through collaboration with various citizens, private enterprises and related organizations and groups as well as the international community, and will also be examining the situation of the efforts in a timely and appropriate manner.

• Enhancement of counseling services offered by police for sexual crime victims

[Policy No. 58]

As of April 2018, 40 prefectural police departments arranged 135 certified counselors (out of them, 85 are clinical psychologists), and 45 police departments utilized the public expenditure system to cover the counseling costs.

Counseling by the police



• Promotion to establish one-stop support centers

[Policy No. 65]

In order to promote the establishment by the prefectural governments of one-stop support centers for victims of sexual crimes and violence and to stabilize the operations, the Cabinet Office created the Grant for supporting victims of sexual crimes and violence in FY 2017.

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 the system which restricts the disclosure of the victim's name/address and others detail which will identify him/her in an open court if the court decides to do so, and the

victim's name/address must not be notified to the defendant if a prosecutor imposes such a condition on the attorney when disclosing evidence (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 training. 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.

- **Improvement of systems for prevention, earlier detection, rapid response to child abuse**

[Policy No. 90]

The Act for Revision of the Child Welfare Act and Other Related Laws clarifies the philosophy of the Child Welfare Act such as positioning the child as the subject of rights for the first time ever, and also ensured that measures could be taken such as the establishment of a comprehensive support center for the child-raising generation, strengthening of the structure of the municipalities and child guidance centers, and enhancement of the foster care system. In addition, the Act for Partial Revision of the Child Welfare Act and Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse enacted in June 2017 and which came into force in April 2018 enables measures to be taken such as allowing the family courts to recommend the prefectural government provide guidance for parents and guardians in order to protect abused children and others, and the strengthening of judicial involvement.

In order to systematically strengthen the structure and expertise of child guidance centers, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare incorporated an increase in the number of professionals such as child welfare workers and enhancement of their skills, as well as strengthening of cooperation with the relevant organizations and other matters into the "Plan to Reinforce the Child Guidance Centers" drawn up in April 2016.

In addition, the nationwide common dial number of child guidance centers (189) is being operated by the child guidance centers throughout the country so that it is possible to

notify and consult the child guidance centers without hesitation when a child is thought to have suffered child abuse, and moreover, the length of the voice guidance was shortened in the same month to enable a reduction in the time it takes to connect to a child guidance center, and further improvements were also made such as implementing a call center for calls coming from a mobile phone from February 2018.

Furthermore, in addition to the explanations given about the latest child abuse prevention measures through the National Meeting of Directors of the Child Guidance Centers, case examples are given of efforts in information-sharing with the police, schools, etc. by the Regional Councils on Aid-Requiring Child, and measures are also being promoted to strengthen the structure of the municipalities and the child guidance centers.

- **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 parolees and persons under probation with suspension of execution of the sentence due to involvement in violence from troubles of love affairs.

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

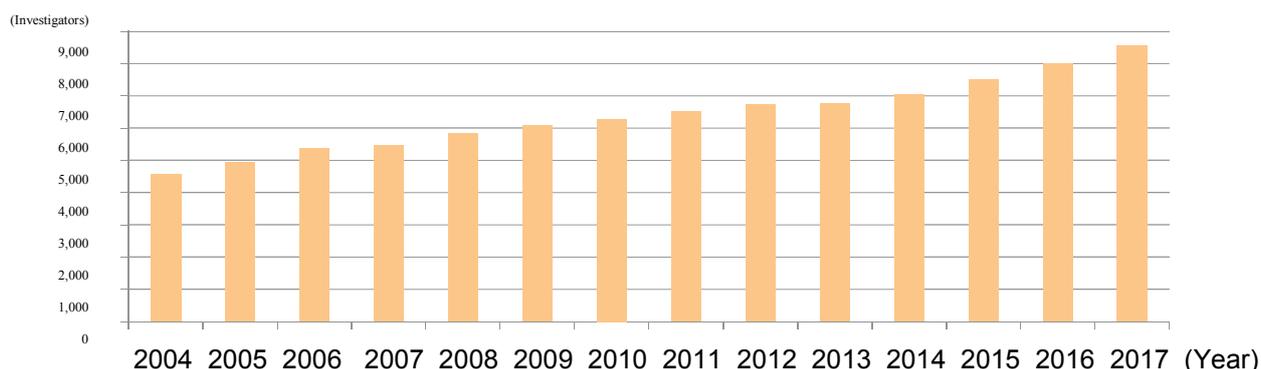
○ Major efforts

- **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 up-skills training in crime investigation, in order to reduce the mental burden of sexual crime victims during the process of investigation if they desire to be interviewed by a same-sex police officer. As of April 2017, the prefectural police across the country have 8,557 police officers including female police officers who have been designated as sexual crime investigators to interview victims of sexual crime.

Transition in designated sexual crime investigators (at the time of April 1 each year)



FY	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of sexual crime investigators	4,572	4,933	5,369	5,459	5,832	6,069	6,280	6,494	6,712	6,752	7,022	7,505	7,974	8,557

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 2017, there are 298 sexual crime investigation supervisors in the prefectural police; out of them the number of female police officers is 121.

As of April 2017, in order to reduce sexual crime victim's mental burden, the police have 3,024 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 2,233 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)



Diagnosis situation by a female doctor (simulated victim)

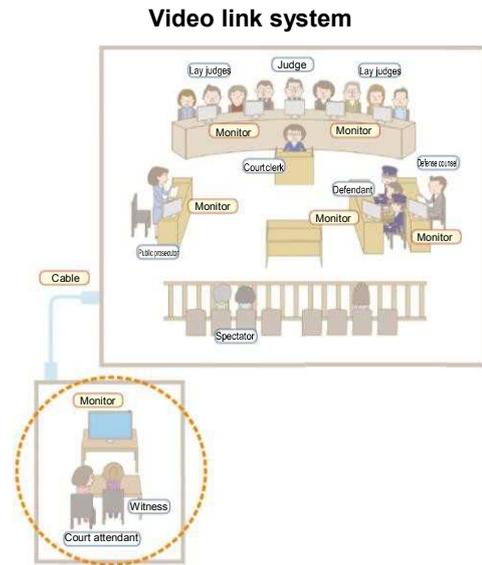


- In order to reduce the mental burden imposed on female victims of sexual crimes during the process of investigation, the Japan Coast Guard ensures female Coast Guard officers conduct the interviews or accompany the victim.

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

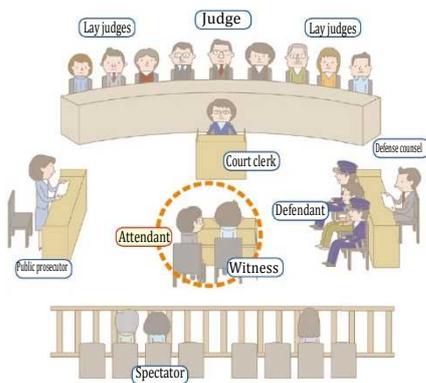
[Policy No. 111]

Regarding the criminal procedure, the Ministry of Justice has, through meetings and training, 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 reflects his/her opinions on the trial, and mitigates the 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 information on these systems in pamphlets for crime victims. In 2017, 78 witnesses were accompanied by an attendant, 1,105 witnesses used a cover screen, and 225 witnesses used a video link system.



Source: Ministry of Justice

Attendance to witness



Source: Ministry of Justice

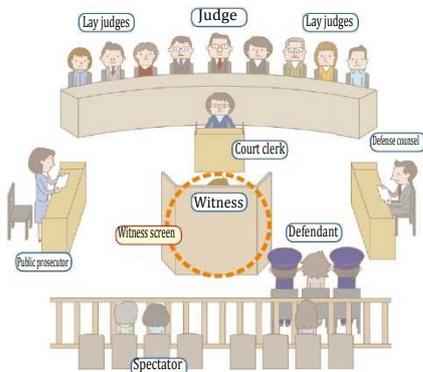
Application of witness protection

Year	Witness Protection Measures		
	Attendant	Shield	Video link
2013	116	1,792	278
2014	112	1,661	299
2015	141	1,563	290
2016	128	1,623	303
2017	78	1,105	225

- (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
 3. The figures for each item were posted on the basis of the date on which the decision was made until the year of 2016, but from 2017, they are based on the date of conclusion of the case (note that with regard to cases where the decision was made in 2016 or earlier but the date of conclusion of the case was in 2017 or after, the figures are based on the date on which the decision was made). Please take note that due to the changes in the record base date, the figures for 2017 temporarily declined.

Source: Ministry of Justice

Cover screen for a witness



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 a civil suit. In 2017, the frequency of attendance was 22, use of the cover screen was 238, and use of the video link was 17 (the figures show at the time of questioning of witness/victim, and the combined use was calculated as one time).