

## Chapter 2

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

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

#### ○ Main Efforts

- **Enhancement of Collaboration between Schools and Child Guidance Centers and Other Organizations for the Protection of Juvenile Victims**

[Policy No. 54]

A regional council of countermeasures for Children Requiring Aid established by local governments, shares information about organizations such as Child Guidance Centers, schools, Education Boards and the police, with children requiring protection and their guardians (hereinafter referred to as supported children, etc.) and deliberates on the content of the support with the aim of identifying abused children early and arranging appropriate protection for them. Based on the results of these efforts, the relevant organizations coordinate their responses appropriately.

As of April 2017, 99.7% of municipalities have such a council in place.

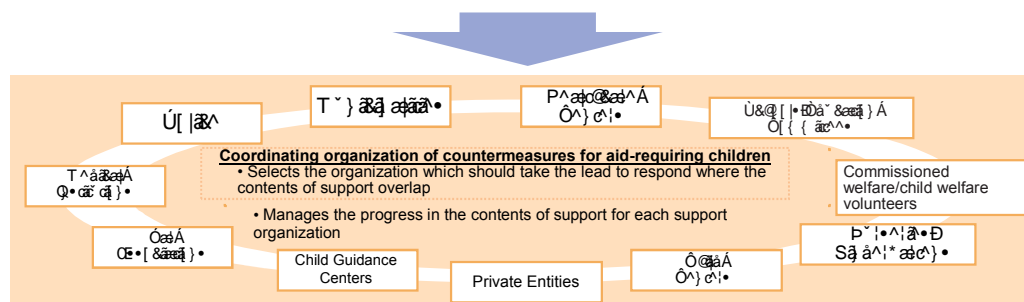
The Child Welfare Act and the Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse which have been amended under the Act to revise parts, such as Child Welfare Act concluded in May, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the “Act for Partial Revision to the Child Welfare Act”), stipulate that if hospitals, clinics, child welfare institutions and schools, which usually have contact with children, find a child who requires needs to be taken care of (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.

#### Regional councils on juveniles requiring support

##### Functions

To detect problems early and provide appropriate protection and support for juveniles requiring support, it is crucial for:

- Relevant organizations to share their information and opinions about the juveniles and
  - Respond through appropriate cooperation,
- and for the regional councils on support to children targeted for aid to be established in the municipalities and to clarify:
- (1) a system of accountability, such as clarifying collaboration among the relevant organizations and those coordinating the division of roles
  - (2) a method of appropriately protecting personal information and sharing information with the relevant organizations



	2015	2016	2017
Number of municipalities with councils*	1,726 (99.1%)	1,727 (99.2%)	1,735 (99.7%)
Number of registered cases (number of child abuse cases)	191,806 (92,140)	219,004 (97,428)	260,018 (101,807)

\*The number of "municipalities with councils" and "registered cases" are as of April 1 of the respective year

Source: Average employment figures from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for 2015 and 2016; the Child and Family Policy Bureau family welfare survey for 2017

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

### • Improvement of School Counseling System for Juvenile Victims

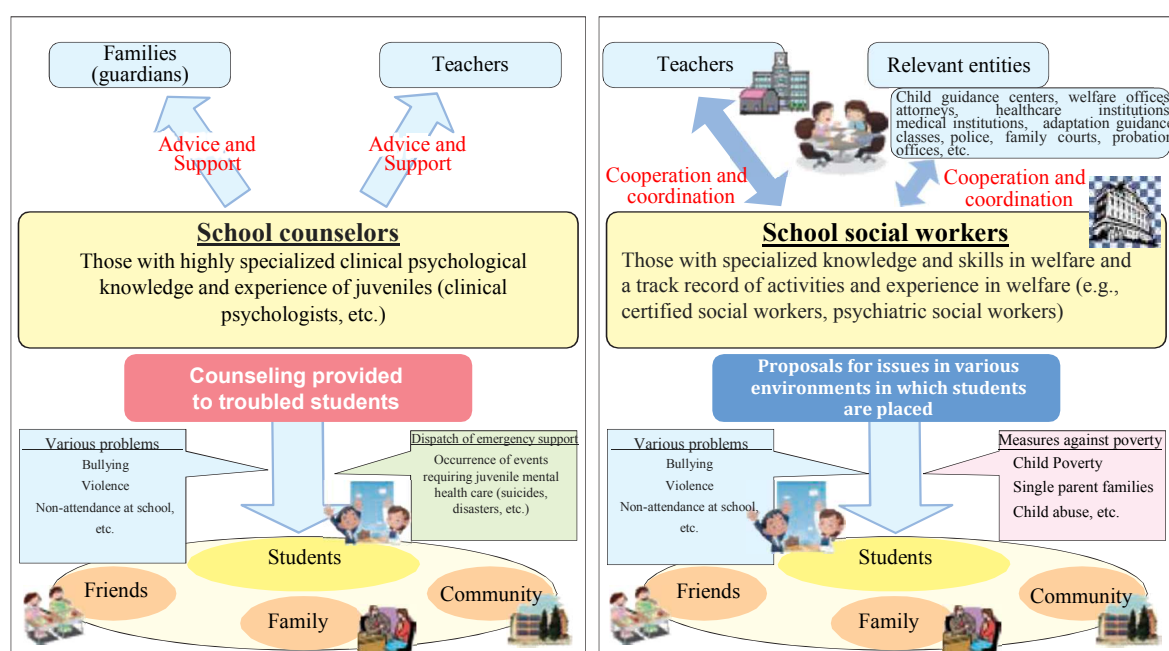
**[Policy No. 55]** The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is undertaking efforts to enhance the school educational counseling system to enable appropriate responses to requests for counseling by students, including those who are crime victims. Specifically, the Ministry provides support in placing school counselors with a high level of knowledge and expertise in the psychology of school-aged children in schools or dispatching them to schools in emergency cases.

The current aim is to place school counselors in all 27,500 public elementary and junior high schools by 2019, and in 2018, the Ministry secured a budget covering the placement of counselors at 26,700 schools. Further support is being provided by placing school social workers with special knowledge and expertise in educational institutions to support students. The Ministry aims to place 10,000 such social workers in all of the junior high school districts by 2019, and in 2018, the Ministry secured a budget covering the placement of these schools (for 7,547 workers).

### Outline of the activities of school counselors and school social workers

#### Towards enhancing the education counseling system in schools

In order to enhance the education counseling system for pupils with various challenges due to diverse social backgrounds, it is crucial to place expert staff such as school counselors and school social workers, etc. with expertise and experience different from those of teachers to work with the latter on behalf of the pupils.



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology

- **Promotion of Continuous Support in Order to Reduce Mental Damages Suffered by Juvenile Victims**

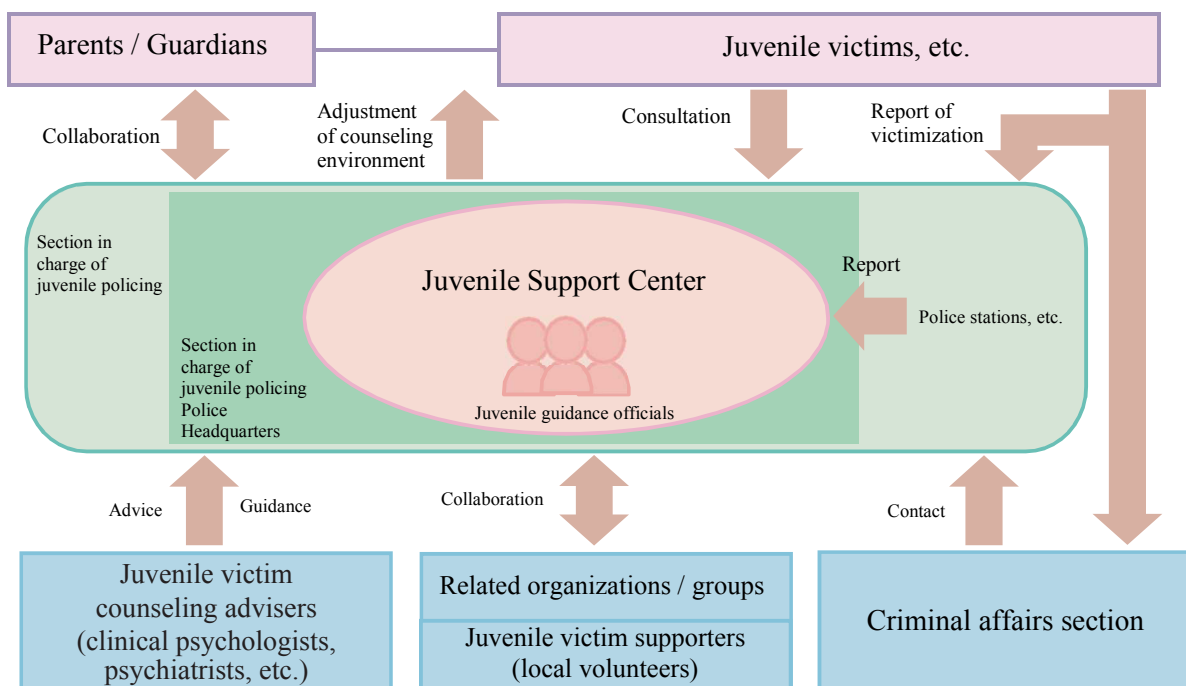
**[Policy No. 57]**

Given the large, negative impact that victimization has on the healthy psychological development of juveniles in their formative years, the police are not only endeavoring to prevent the recurrence of victimization of juvenile victims, but also providing support through the guidance and advice given by juvenile guidance officers and others and continuous support such as counselling.

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 advisers, and support is implemented while receiving appropriate guidance and advice from these advisers, and also in each region, the changes in the everyday environment

and living situation of the juveniles are grasped in close collaboration with the parents and guardians, while support activities are promoted with the collaboration of supporting volunteers who are commissioned as juvenile victim supporters. The current situation pertaining to the child sexual exploitation has become more serious, with 1,276 children newly specified as victims in cleared cases related to child pornography; of these, 22% were younger children (below elementary school age) without any ability to resist, and a further 1,811 children became victims of child prostitution, etc. organized through social media. Given this situation, the police are coordinating its efforts with the relevant ministries and government agencies to provide speedy protection and appropriate support for victims based on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation”, which was formulated in April 2017 by the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime.

## Support activities for juvenile victims



- **Enhancement of Counselling Services Offered by Police for Sexual Crime Victims**  
[Policy No. 58]

As of April 2019, the police in 44 prefectures have placed 166 in-house counsellors (of whom 93 are clinical psychologists), and all prefectural police departments are utilizing the public expenditure system to cover the counseling costs.

**Counseling by the police (simulation)**



- **Promotion to Establish One-stop Support Centers**

[Policy No. 65]

The Cabinet Office accelerated efforts to achieve the target of establishing a one-stop support center for victims of sexual crimes and violence in at least one prefecture by 2020 and the centers were established in all prefectures by October 2018. Also, by utilizing the Grant for supporting victims of sexual crimes and violence, created in FY 2017, the Cabinet Office is enhancing the efforts in accordance with the situation of each local government to stabilize and improve the operations of the said centers.

- **Training Specialists with Knowledge and Expertise in Crime Victims, etc.**

[Policy No. 66] The National Police Agency is not only working with the Japanese Society of Certified Clinical Psychologists (JSCCP) to promote the training of clinical psychologists with specialist knowledge and expertise in crime victims, etc. but is also dispatching personnel to attend gatherings of persons overseeing support for crime victims at prefectural associations of clinical psychologists to deliver talks on measures for support for crime victims, etc. Further, during “Crime Victim Week,” the National Police Agency distributes informational posters and programs of relevant educational events to the JSCCP, prefectural clinical psychologists’ associations, and post-graduate institutions with degree programs in clinical psychology to invite clinical psychologists to participate.

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

### ○ Main 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 system which enables a prosecutor to impose a condition on the attorney when disclosing evidence not to notify the victim’s name/address to the defendant. The Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecutors Office are also working to disseminate this information among prosecutors through conferences and training programs. Similar efforts are being made by the Offender Rehabilitation Offices through conferences and training programs to ensure that the personal information of victims is appropriately stored.

- **Improvement of Systems for Prevention, Earlier Detection, and Rapid Response to Child Abuse**

**[Policy No. 90]**

The Act for Revision of the Child Welfare Act clarified the principle underlying the Child Welfare Act by focusing for the first time in Japan on the rights of children and has aided in establishing Comprehensive Support Centers for Family-raising Generation, strengthening relevant systems in the municipalities and Child Guidance Centers, enhancing the foster care system, and other necessary measures. Further, the Act for Revision of the Child Welfare Act and the Act on the Prevention, etc. of Child Abuse, which was ratified in June 2017 and came into effect in April 2018, strengthens measures such as the right of civil legal intervention, including the power of family courts to issue recommendations to prefectures to provide guidance to the guardians of abused children in order to secure the latter's protection.

Also, based on the comprehensive emergency measures, efforts are underway to establish firmly rules allowing entry into premises for investigative purposes in cases where the safety of children cannot otherwise be verified and other rules for the protection of all children. Furthermore, in accordance with these measures, the systems and expertise of Child Guidance Centers and the municipalities are being reinforced following the launch of the "Comprehensive Plan for Strengthening Child Abuse Prevention Systems" in December 2018 along with a projected increase of child welfare workers at Child Guidance Centers from the 2017 figure of about 3,240 to 5,260 over four years starting in 2019, establishment of a

Comprehensive Support Center for Family-raising Generation in all municipalities, and other measures. Moreover, a national hotline, "Dial 189," linking Child Guidance Centers throughout Japan, was launched to enable the public to report or consult on suspected cases of child abuse immediately. Other improvements were also made, such as shortening the waiting time required to connect with Child Guidance Centers by telephone, shortening the automated telephone prompts (December 2018), and adapting the call center system to receive calls made by mobile telephone (February 2018), among others.

### 3 Consideration in the Process of Protection, Investigation, and Trial, etc.

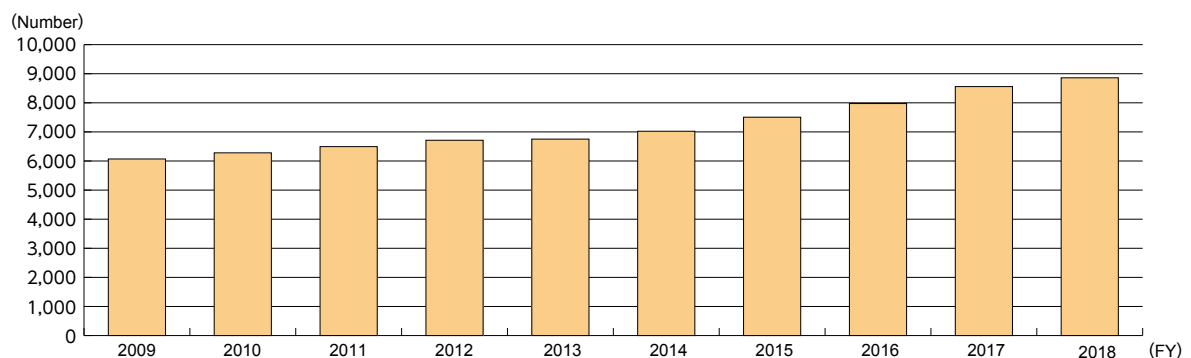
#### ○ Main Efforts

- **Placement of Female Officers and Other Measures (related to Article 19 of the Basic Act)**

**[Policy No. 109]**

It is necessary that the police alleviate as much as possible the psychological burden felt by sexual crime victims through enabling them to choose an officer of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. With this view, the police have promoted the deployment of female officers in the sections in charge of sexual crime investigation at prefectural police headquarters and police stations and are engaged in improving the competency of such personnel by conducting training programs in investigation methods of sexual crimes.

**Number of sexual crime investigators (as of April 1 each year)**



Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number	6,069	6,280	6,494	6,712	6,752	7,022	7,505	7,974	8,557	8,859



As of April 2018, 8,859 female police officers have been deployed in prefectural police across the country as designated sexual crime investigators who are trained to question victims and perform other relevant tasks. The prefectural police headquarters have also established the investigation instruction framework by promoting the deployment of designated instruction officers in the divisions which deal with sexual crime investigation and by placing female officers in the sections in charge of investigation instruction within the said divisions.

As of April 2018, there were 296 officers providing instruction in investigation methods of sexual crimes in the prefectural police departments, of whom 128 are female officers. Further, the police have installed equipment to alleviate the psychological burden on sexual crime victims, such as sexual crime evidence collection kits which include the tools necessary to collect and preserve evidence and spare clothes for the victims whose clothes are to be collected as sources of evidence, and mannequins to be used in place of the victims when reconstructing crime scenes as part of the investigation.

Consultation rooms for questioning victims and victim support vehicles are available as well.

In addition, the Japanese Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the police have established a network and strengthened coordination in order to provide concrete forms of support for sexual crime victims, such as prompt and appropriate diagnosis, treatment and evidence collection procedure (conducted by female physicians when needed), and to promote sound and smooth investigation of sexual crimes.

○In the Japan Coast Guard, female Coast Guard officers question or accompany female victims of sexual crimes and other matters in order to alleviate their psychological burden during the investigation.

Victim transportation vehicle (simulation)



Diagnosis by a female physician (simulation)



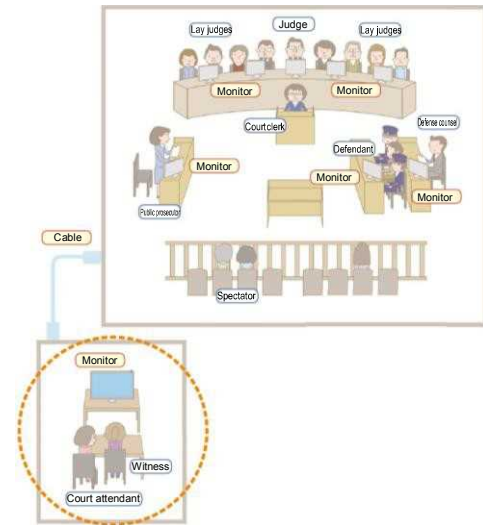
• **Appropriate Operation of Measures such as Video links**

**[Policy No. 111]**

The Ministry of Justice is making efforts to disseminate information at conferences and through training programs about the policy on the statement of opinions by crime victims, etc., which aims to represent the opinions of crime victims, etc. more appropriately to the court during criminal proceedings and the policy on the use of video links, etc. during witness testimony, which aims to reduce the stress and anxiety felt by witnesses, to ensure the appropriate implementation of these policies during a trial, while also analyzing the status of their implementation. The informational pamphlet, “To Crime Victims,” contains further information on these policies.

In 2018, in total, 144 witnesses giving testimony requested the presence of an attendant, 1462 witnesses requested a shield to hide their identity during testimony, and 317 had recourse to a video link (of whom 15 had recourse to an off-premise video link).

**Videolink system**



Source: Ministry of Justice

**Status of witness protection, etc.**

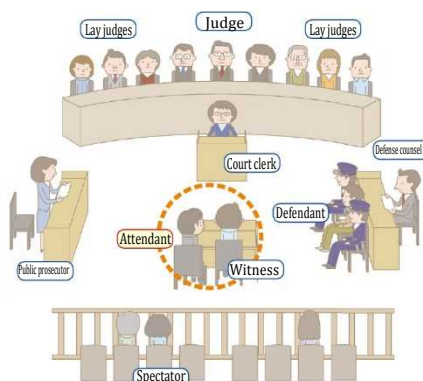
Year	Witness Protection Measures, etc.		
	Attendant	Shield	Videolink
2014	112	1,661	299
2015	141	1,563	290
2016	128	1,623	303
2017	78	1,105	225
2018	144	1,462	317(15)

(Notes)

1. Data (approx. figures) source: General Secretariat of the Supreme Court
2. The number of witnesses represents the total number of those appearing at High Court, District Court, and Summary Court
3. The figures for each item are based on the date on which the decision was made until the year of 2017, 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 2017 or after, the figures are based on the date on which the decision was made). Please take note that due to these changes, the 2017 figures show a temporary decrease.

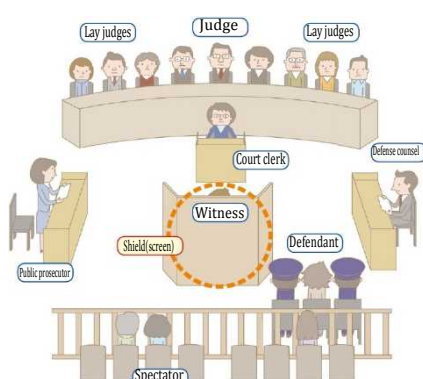
Source: Ministry of Justice

**Attendant accompanying witness**



Source: Ministry of Justice

**Shield for witness**



Source: Ministry of Justice

In April 2008, the Code of Civil Procedure was partially revised to allow the presence of attendants and the use of shields and video links when crime victims are asked to give their testimony to the court in civil litigation.

In 2018, in civil litigation (including administrative litigation), the presence of attendants was requested 19 times, a shield was used 243 times, and a video link was used 26 times (each figure represents the number of testimonies by witnesses and parties, with each instance of use counting as one even in cases of combined use).



## A New National Qualification: Certified Public Psychologist

In light of the situation surrounding the psychological health of the citizens of Japan, The Certified Public Psychologist Act was established in September 2015, and enforced from September 2017 to improve the competency of persons engaged in psychological counselling and to optimize the duties such as victim support to ensure the appropriate performance of these duties.

The title, “Certified Public Psychologist,” is reserved exclusively for the use of persons who have been officially registered as a Certified Public Psychologist and possess knowledge as specialists and skills in psychology as applied to the domains of healthcare, welfare, education, etc. and are competent to perform the following activities:

- i) Observation and analysis of the psychological state of persons requiring psychological support
- ii) Provision of consultations, advice, guidance, and other forms of support to persons requiring psychological support
- iii) Provision of consultation, advice, guidance, and other forms of support to parties related to persons requiring psychological support
- iv) Provision of education and information aimed at disseminating knowledge about persons requiring psychological support

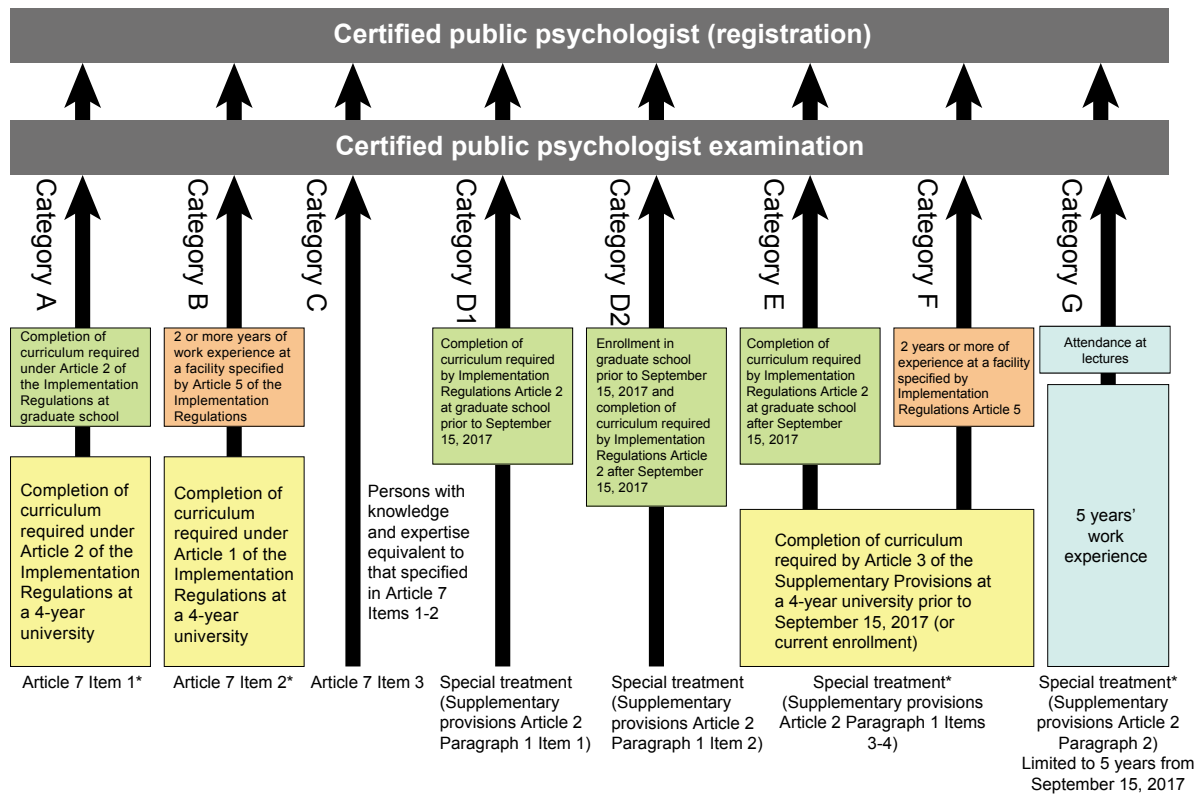
The following persons are eligible to take the certification examination for the license of Certified Public Psychologist:

- i) Persons who have completed the prescribed curriculum in psychology at university and graduate school
- ii) Persons who have completed the prescribed curriculum in psychology at university and have acquired relevant experience for a specified period after graduation
- iii) Persons recognized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare as possessing knowledge and skills equivalent to those of the persons described in i) and ii) above.

Further, an exception may be made in the eligibility for certification examination for persons already possessing the qualifications of a professional psychologist.



## Process of obtaining Certified Public Psychologist qualification



\*Persons qualifying for examination pursuant to the relevant articles include those specified by the Implementation Regulations as "equivalent."

The first national examination was carried out in September 2018 (an additional date was set in December 2018 due to the disruption caused by the Hokkaido-East Iburi Earthquake), with 36,103 persons taking the examination and 28,574 persons passing.

Eligible persons (Successful examinees) are registered in order upon application. As of the end of March 2019, 24,056 persons were registered and are expected to contribute their expertise to healthcare, welfare, education, law, and various other domains.