



Have you been the victim of criminal activity?



This provides the following information:

- Details about the investigation and trial processes.
- Details about support systems for victims of crime.

We hope that this leaflet will help support people in this unfortunate situation.

Criminal Procedure Outline

Murder, assault, theft, etc. are crimes prohibited by law. The process of finding the perpetrator, proving his or her guilt or innocence and finally deciding on punishment is called the Criminal Procedure. This procedure is divided into 3 steps

1 Criminal Investigation

Searching for criminals, collecting evidence, and other related activities constitute the “Criminal Investigation”. After the police arrest a suspect, they must send him or her to the prosecutor within 48 hours. If the prosecutor decides it is necessary to detain the suspect, he or she will ask the judge to issue a detention order. If a detention order is issued the suspect may be detained for a maximum of 20 days.

If the suspect is not likely to flee the police may investigate without arresting him or her. After the police have collected evidence, they will send the results to the prosecutor.

2 Indictment

While the suspect is being detained, the prosecutor will decide whether to indict the suspect or not to indict the suspect. Bringing the suspect to trial is called “Indictment.” Choosing to not to bring him or her to trial is called “Non-indictment”.

3 Trial

After the suspect is indicted, he or she is referred to as the “Defendant”. This proceedings leading to the judgment are called the “Trial.” A trial is held and a judgment is handed down in the court. Anyone may attend a trial. If you would like to attend a trial please contact the court in charge of that case and ask for information.

Please note that if the suspect is a juvenile (less than 20 years of age) a juvenile trial proceeding etc. May be followed. A juvenile trial follows a different set of procedures than listed here.

Victims of Crime

Victims of crime and the bereaved will be asked for a great deal during the course of the criminal procedure. It may be impossible to ensure that justice is carried out without the support of the victim or bereaved. Please cooperate with the police in the following ways.

1 Police Questioning

When you file a victim report, the police investigator in charge will ask you about the situation in detail; damage, suspect’s appearance, etc. The more details discovered the faster and smoother the investigation will proceed.

2 Submission of Evidence

Victims may submit evidence such as the clothes or items worn at the time of the crime. Such items are called “Material Evidence”. As material evidence can have a large impact on the outcome of a trial it is recommended that victims cooperate with the police in supplying anything that might be related to the crime. If it is not necessary to keep items submitted to the police as material evidence the items will be returned.

3 Crime Scene Visit and Review

Victims may be asked to revisit the crime scene. A Crime Scene Visit and Review involves the victim explaining exactly what happened to police officers in attendance. Crime Scene Visits and Reviews may take some time to complete but are very important to the course of the criminal investigation. Victims are asked to cooperate with police to the best of their ability.

4 Appearances in Court

If the suspect is indicted, a trial will begin. Victims may appear at the trial as witnesses.

Support Systems



1 Victim Information System

Police understand that victims of crime have a vested interest in how the investigation proceeds, whether the criminal is caught or not.

The police investigator in charge of the case will provide the victim or the bereaved with information concerning crimes of homicide, robbery, rape, kidnapping and etc.

Please contact the police investigator in charge of the case.

2 Victims of Crime Notification System

The Prosecutor’s Office manages the Victims of Crime Notification System. The system provides victims and witnesses with information related to the proceedings and outcome of a case.

For inquiries please contact the Nagoya District Prosecutor’s Office [in Japanese](#).

3 Victims of Crime Benefits System

The Victims of Crime Benefits System provides support for the bereaved who have not received any restitution from the perpetrator or public relief after someone is seriously injured, disabled or killed through deliberate criminal conduct, such as random acts of violence. The government issues these benefits.

Please contact the Center for Victims of Crime in the Civic Service Division in the Aichi Prefectural Police Headquarters. ([Service is in Japanese](#) Tel. 052-951-1611 Ext. 2935.)

4 Civil Law and Financial Restitution

Crime is considered illegal action under Civil Law which means victims can claim damages for financial loss and mental anguish. The system is based on the civil procedures for civil suits.

Please note that police officers cannot become directly involved.

Please refer to “Counseling Services” for more information.

Counseling Services

1 Japanese Counseling Services (All Consultation in Japanese)

Consultation unavailable

From December 29 through January 3

National holidays

| Name | Tel | Category/Hours |
|--|---|--|
| Center for Victims of Crime Civic Services Division Aichi Prefectural Police Headquarters | 052-954-8897 Heartful Line | Telephone consultation for victims of crime and accidents Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm |
| Nagoya District Prosecutor's Office | 052-951-4538 Hot Line for Victims | Consultation and information related to the proceedings and outcome of a criminal case for victims Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fax and answering machine service available after business hours |
| Aichi Victim Support Center | 052-232-7830 | Telephone consultation Monday through Friday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| | | Legal consultation 2nd and 4th Wednesday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Free telephone consultation by lawyers) |
| | | Face-to-face consultation (Free consultation by clinical psychotherapists) By appointment only |
| Japan legal support Center (Legal Terrace) Aichi Branch Office | 0570-079714 | Information about victim support service groups, introduction of criminal procedures and law experts in support for criminal victims Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm |
| Aichi Bar Association | 052-571-5100 | Free telephone consultation for victims of crime Fridays 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm |

2 Foreign Language Counseling Services

Consultation unavailable

From December 29 through January 3

National holidays

| Name | Tel | Category/Hours |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Aichi International Association | 052-961-7902 | Daily Living Consultation (Jobs, taxes, medical services, education, etc.) Face to face consultation [Portuguese, Spanish and English] Monday through Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm [Chinese] Mondays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Telephone consultation [Portuguese, Spanish and English] Monday through Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm [Chinese] Mondays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Consultation by lawyers [Portuguese, Spanish and English] Fridays 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (By appointment only. Free of charge) |
| Nagoya International Center | 052-581-6111 (Received by a answering machine) | Consultation by lawyers for foreign residents [English, Spanish, Chinese and Portuguese] Saturdays 10:00 am - 0:30 pm (By appointment only) |
| | 052-581-0100 | Municipal consultation for foreign residents [English, Portuguese and Spanish] Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 am - noon , 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm [Chinese, Korean and Pilipino] Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm |
| | 052-581-0100 | Counseling for foreign residents addressing the concerns and worries of daily life [English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese and Korean] (By appointment only) |