

System for contacting victims

The police maintain contact with victims (bodily injury, sexual assault, etc.) or the family of a murder victim to provide information concerning

- criminal investigations procedures and systems for crime victim
- the state of the investigation
- the arrest of the suspect
- the punishment of the suspect.

Also, the neighborhood police officer will visit the victim to provide crime prevention advice if the victim needs it. Please ask the police officer in charge of the case for details.

If you don't wish further contact or updates, please inform the officer in charge of the case.

Assurance of safety

If there is the possibility that the offender will harm a victim or the relatives of a victim again in the future, they will be designated as "Persons at Risk for Repeat Victimization" or "Persons at Risk" to ensure their safety and help them avoid repeat victimization by providing

- safety advice
- necessary security measures
- information, such as the release of the offender.

In cases such as domestic violence, child abuse, stalking and so on, other concerned institutions will be involved to help ensure the safety of the victim. Please ask the police officer in charge of the case for details.

5. Benefits System for Crime Victims

The government provides financial support for **those severely injured, disabled or bereaved** by deliberate acts of crime if the offender is unable to provide sufficient compensation.

<Restrictions>

- Those who have Japanese nationalities or addresses in Japan when the crime was committed are eligible for the benefit.
- Benefit applications cannot be accepted if more than two years have passed since the one eligible for the benefit became aware of the existence of the criminal damage, or if more than seven years have passed since the occurrence of the criminal damage.
- If the victim should be held at fault for the occurrence of the crime, the benefit may be reduced either totally or partially. Please ask at your neighborhood police station for details.

6. Consultation Services

Japanese Language

Police	
General consultation	Tel. 018-864-9110 (or #9110)
Sexual crimes	Toll-free Tel. 0120-028-110 (or #8103)
Juvenile-related matters	018-824-1212
Homepage https://www.police.pref.akita.lg.jp/kenkei/ (English language page available)	

Private Victim Support Institutions	
Public Interest Incorporated Association Akita Victim Support Center	Tel. 0120-62-8010 (toll-free)
HP https://www.av.s.or.jp	

Foreign Language

Akita International Association (AIA)	
AIA provides foreign residents with the telephone consultation services. It informs about who to contact when they have questions or problems while staying in Japan.	
Every Thursday 1:00~3:00 pm 6:00~8:00 pm Tel. 018-884-7050	
Available languages:	
Japanese•English	Every Thursday
Chinese•Korean	

CRIME VICTIM'S GUIDE

English Version

This leaflet provides victims of crimes with information about criminal procedures, police investigations and victim support systems available in Japan.

< Items >

1. Criminal Procedures in Japan
2. Police Procedure ~Cooperation Requests~
3. Prosecution and Court Procedures
4. Police Support for Victims
5. Victim Benefit Payments
6. Consultation Services



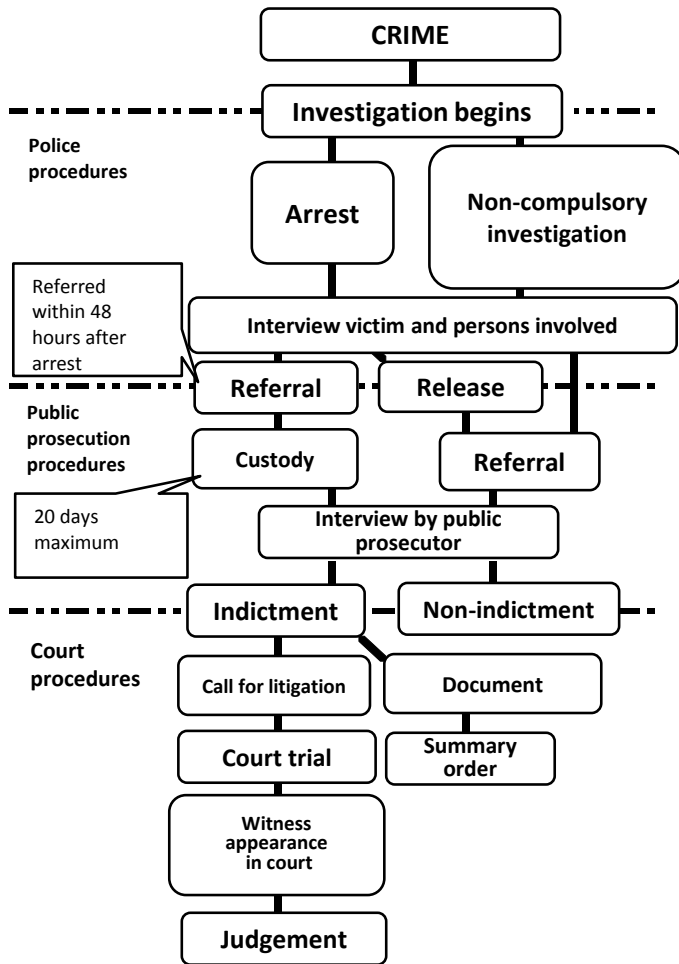
The _____ Police Sta. is investigating the case.
Tel :

_____ of _____ section is in charge of the investigation.
Tel : _____ (Extension _____)

_____ of _____ section of _____ police Sta. will contact with you with information concerning the case.
Tel : _____ (Extension _____)

Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters

1. Criminal Procedures in Japan



※Procedures differ if the suspect is juvenile.

“**Criminal Procedure**” means identifying the perpetrator of a crime and deciding the penalty for it. It consists of three phases: **investigation, indictment, court trial**

Investigation: Activities to solve the crime.

Indictment: To bring the criminal to the court trial.
(Non-indictment if the perpetrator cannot be charged.)

Court trial: Trial to impose criminal punishment.
Victims and family may be asked to provide necessary assistance in each phase.

2. Police Procedures ~Cooperation Requests~

It is crucial for the police to receive the cooperation of victims and their family to solve the crime. **Although this may be difficult for the victim, we must request their cooperation in the following to bring the criminal to justice.**

① Interview

The police officer in charge of the case asks the victim to describe the crime and the perpetrator.

Depending on your request, male or female officer will conduct the interview. When a child is interviewed, parents may be allowed to attend the interview. Throughout the investigation, we will sometimes ask the same questions over and over. We would like you to understand that this is a necessary process to confirm crucial facts.

② Provision of evidence

The victim may need to hand over items as evidence. Items provided will be returned once the case has been closed.

The item can be temporarily returned upon request from the victim, even if it must be kept by the police. If the victim doesn't need or desire the item to be returned, he/she can relinquish the ownership. In that case, the item will be disposed of after the case is closed.

③ On-site inspection of crime scene

Reconstructing the crime scene to prove facts and prove the crime.

This is sometimes time-consuming. However, it is necessary to find the truth and establish the crime. If you feel anxious or embarrassed by the procedure, please inform the police officer in charge of the case.

④ Autopsy

If the victim is dead, the police examine the body and autopsy it to determine the cause of death.

3. Prosecution and Court Procedures

Interview by public prosecutor

The public prosecutor interviews the victim to decide whether to indict the suspect or not. This interview is very important in deciding if the suspect will be prosecuted, so the public prosecutor may repeat questions that the officer in charge of the case has already asked.

Court testimony

The victim may be required to testify in court (examination of a witness). Systems are in place to ease the emotional stress on the victim during the trial. Please ask the public prosecutor in charge of the case for details.

4. Police Support for Victims

Victim support staff

If the police notice the incident where the victim should be treated carefully and requires specialized treatment (cases such as murder, bodily injury, sexual assault, etc.), they designate a police personnel not involved in the investigation as “victim support staff.”

The staff conducts activities which would ease the criminal damage to the victim and his/her family.

This includes

- accompanying to hospital
- accompanying to interviews
- accompanying to on-site inspection
- driving victim to and from the victim's home
- anxiety counseling (helping victim tend to his/her affairs)
- providing information about other support systems and consultation institutions.



Counseling

Being victimized is a source of heavy emotional stress. Victims sometimes become sleeplessness, lose their appetite, become hyper-sensitive to noise, etc. These symptoms will diminish as time passes. However, counseling by a clinical psychologist is available if the situation continues. Please ask the support staff for details.