

### Counseling system

After being exposed to the heavy stress, victims sometimes shows symptoms such as sleeplessness, reduced appetite, and overreaction to noise. These symptoms will diminish as time passes. However, counseling by a qualified psychology specialist is available if the victim's anxiety continues. Please ask the police support staff for details.

### Contact with victims

The police keep contact with victims and their families who were involved in a hit-and-run case, a traffic accident causing death or injury requiring a month or more to recover, or a dangerous driving causing death or injury case to inform them of the following items.

- Information about the other person(s) involved in the accident
- Criminal measures taken against the other person(s)
- Whether or not the driver's license of the other person was revoked
- Consultation services regarding car accidents

Also, the police officer assigned to the neighborhood will visit the victim to give advice regarding crime prevention measures if the victim needs it. Please ask the police officer in-charge of the case for details. If you don't need such assistance, please tell that to the officer.

### 5. Benefit payment for criminal damage

If the offender isn't able to pay all the damages, the government provides financial support for **those who have been severely injured or disabled** by deliberate acts of crime and for the **bereaved** if the victim was killed.

<Benefit restrictions>

- Those who have Japanese nationalities or addresses in Japan when the crime was committed are eligible for the benefit.
- Benefit requests cannot be accepted if more than two years have passed since the one eligible for the benefit became aware of the existence of criminal damages or if more than seven years have passed since the occurrence of the crime.
- In the case where the victim should be blamed for the occurrence of the crime, the benefit may be reduced either totally or partially.

Please ask your neighborhood police station for details.

### 6. Consultation services

#### Consultations in Japanese Language

Police consultation	
General police matters	Tel. 018-864-9110 (or #9110)
Office of crime victim support at Akita prefectural police Headquarters	Tel. 018-863-1111
HP <a href="https://www.police.pref.akita.lg.jp/kenkei">https://www.police.pref.akita.lg.jp/kenkei</a>	

Consultation services of traffic accident provided by prefectural government	
Seikatsu Center, Consultation desk of traffic accident	Tel. 018-836- 7804,7805
HP <a href="https://www.akita.lg.jp">https://www.akita.lg.jp</a>	

Private institutions for victim support	
Public Interest Incorporated Association Akita Victim Support Center	Tel. 0120-62-8010 (toll-free)
HP <a href="https://www.av.s.or.jp">https://www.av.s.or.jp</a>	

#### Consultations in Foreign Languages

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

## Traffic accident victim's guide English Version

This leaflet provides Traffic accident victim with the information concerning criminal procedure, police investigation and victim support systems available in Japan.

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The Police/highway patrol station conducting the investigation is \_\_\_\_\_.

Tel :

The police officer in charge of your case is \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ section.

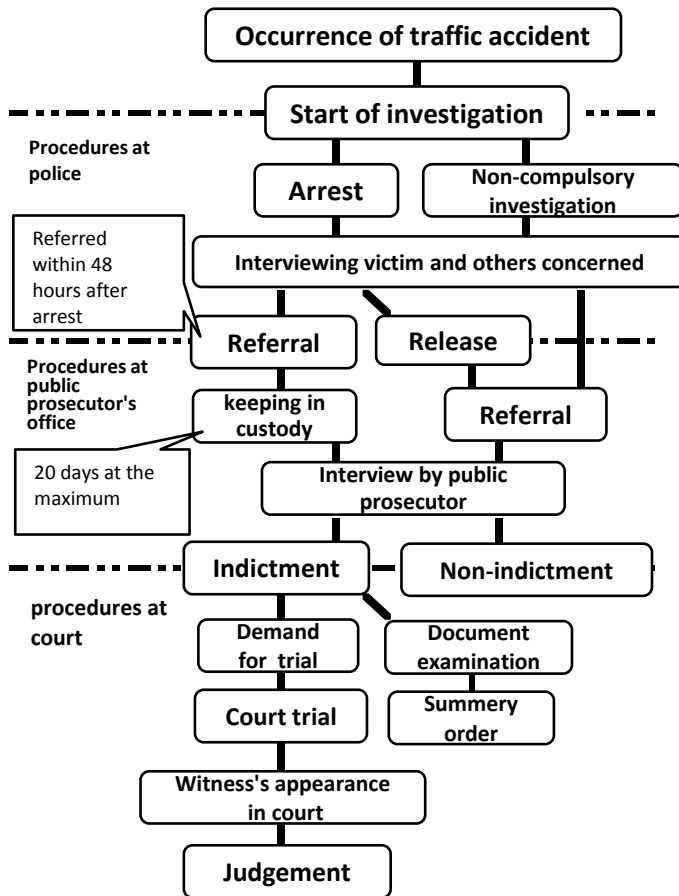
Tel : (Extension )

Officer \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ section of \_\_\_\_\_ police station is assigned to make contact with you to provide information concerning the case.

Tel : (Extension )

Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters

## 1. Outline of criminal procedures in Japan



※The procedure is altered if the suspect is juvenile.

“**Criminal Procedure**” means identifying the suspect of the crime and deciding the penalty for it. It consists of three phases: **Investigation, Indictment, and Court trial**.  
**Investigation**: Activities to solve the crime.  
**Indictment**: The decision whether or not to bring the someone to trial.  
**Court trial**: The trial to decide guilt and punishment. The victim and their family might be asked to assist in the trial.

## 2. Police procedure ~ Request for Cooperation ~

It is crucial for the police to get cooperation from the victim and the family of the victim to solve the crime. **It could be a burden for the victim**; however, we need to request the cooperation in the following to bring the criminal to justice.

### ① Interview

The police officer in-charge of the case asks the victim about the traffic accident and the description of the suspect.

Depending on your request, male or female officer will conduct the interview. When a child is interviewed, parents might be allowed to attend the interview. Throughout the investigation, we sometimes ask the same questions over and over. We would like you to understand that we have to do that because it is necessary for confirming the crucial facts.

### ② Evidence

The Victim might be required to provide evidence item to establish the traffic accident.  
 The item provided will be returned after establishing the traffic accident.

The item might be temporarily returned upon the request from the victim even if it needs to be kept by the police. The victim can abandon the ownership of the item if the victim doesn't need it to be returned. In that case, the item is disposed of after establishing the traffic accident.

### ③ On-site inspection of traffic accident scene

Reconstructing the circumstances of the traffic accident scene to prove the facts and establish the traffic accident.

It is sometimes time-consuming, however, it is necessary for finding the truth and establishing the traffic accident. If you feel anxiety or embarrassment over the procedure, please tell the police officer in-charge of the case.

### ④ Autopsy

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

## 3. Public prosecutor's office and court procedures

### Interview by public prosecutor

The public prosecutor interviews the victim to decide whether to indict the suspect or not. The public prosecutor may ask what the police officer in-charge of the case has already asked. This is because it is crucial for the public prosecutor to be convinced enough to make the decision.

### Testimony in court

The victim might be required to testify in court to establish the crime (examination of a witness). The setups which would ease the emotional stress of the victim during the testimony are available in the court. Please ask the public prosecutor or the court in-charge of the case for details.

### Participation of victim(s)

The victims of negligent driving causing death or injury case, dangerous driving causing death or injury case etc. can participate in a trial as the party concerned, a status provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure, by getting a permit of the court. Please ask the public prosecutor or the court in-charge of the case for details.

## 4. Police support for victim(s)

### Victim support staff

When the police acknowledge the incident which requires specially arranged treatment for victim (hit-and-run cases, traffic accidents causing death or injury requiring a month or more to recover, or cases of dangerous driving causing death or injury) they designate a police personnel who isn't involved in the investigation as “victim support staff.” This person conducts activities which ease the impact of the criminal damage caused to the victim and the family. The activities include

- attending to hospital
- attending to interviews
- attending to on-site inspections
- driving victims to and from the victim's home
- counseling on anxiety and taking care of victims at home
- providing information about other support systems and consultant institutions.

