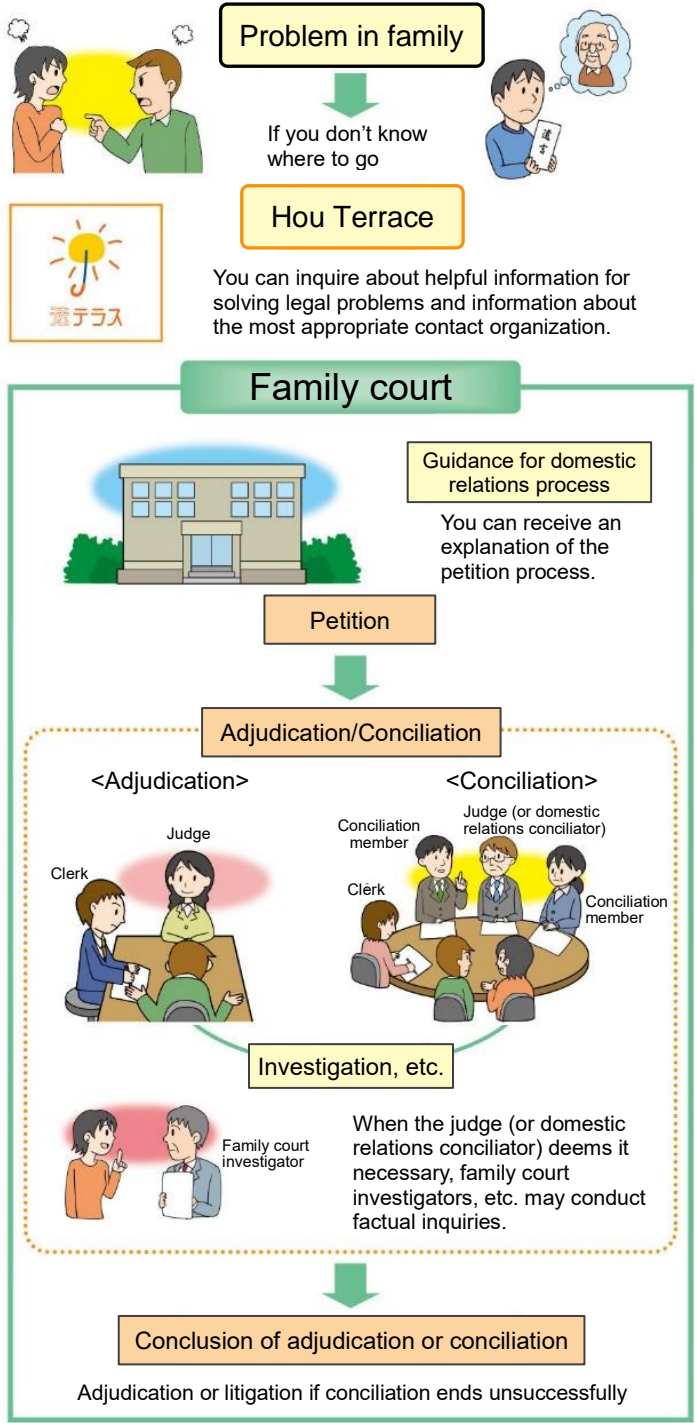


Process for Domestic Relations Cases



Japan Legal Support Center ("Hou Terrace")
<https://www.houterasu.or.jp/>

For legal problems, call:
 0570-078374

Weekdays 9:00 - 21:00 Saturdays 9:00 - 17:00

- * You can call at a rate of 8.5 yen (tax excluded) for 3 minutes from anywhere in Japan from a landline phone.
- * From an IP phone, dial 03-6745-5600.
- * Inquiries are also accepted via e-mail on the Web site.

Court Web site

<http://www.courts.go.jp/> 裁判所 Search

The Web site provided general information about processes handled by the family court and standard petition forms for typical domestic relations cases along with examples of filling out those forms. The Web site also has a list of locations and phone numbers of family courts.

Phone numbers of family courts (main offices) nationwide

A total of 50 family courts (main offices) are situated in 47 locations where there are prefectural government buildings as well as in Hakodate, Asahikawa, and Kushiro. There are also branches and satellite offices.

If you need information about domestic relations processes of a family court and are uncertain about where your nearest family court is, public transportation, and open hours, contact the following and visit the relevant family court.

Guidance on domestic relations processes is not provided over the phone.

東京	03-3502-8331	広島	082-228-0561
横浜	045-345-3463	山口	083-922-9148
さいたま	048-863-8844	岡山	086-222-4168
千葉	043-333-5327	鳥取	0857-22-2171
水戸	029-224-8175	松江	0852-35-5200
宇都宮	028-333-0048	福岡	092-711-9651
前橋	027-231-4275	佐賀	0952-38-5633
静岡	054-273-5454	長崎	095-822-6151
甲府	055-213-2541	大分	097-532-7161
長野	026-403-2038	熊本	096-206-3534
新潟	025-266-3171	鹿児島	099-222-7121
大阪	06-6943-5745	宮崎	0985-68-5146
京都	075-722-7211	那覇	098-855-1273
神戸	078-521-5221	仙台	022-745-6230
奈良	0742-88-6521	福島	024-534-2439
大津	077-503-8154	山形	023-623-9511
和歌山	073-422-4191	盛岡	019-622-3165
名古屋	052-223-3411	秋田	018-824-3121
津	059-226-4711	青森	017-722-5732
岐阜	058-262-5346	札幌	011-221-7281
福井	0776-91-5069	函館	0138-38-2350
金沢	076-221-3114	旭川	0166-51-6251
富山	076-421-8154	釧路	0154-41-4171
		高松	087-851-1942
		徳島	088-603-0140
		高知	088-822-0440
		松山	089-942-0077

* The Court Web site provides information on the locations, public transportations, phone numbers, and other information pertaining to family courts (main office, branches, and satellite offices).

List of common domestic relations cases and family courts of jurisdiction

1. Cases for adjudication only (800 yen petition service charge per case)

Type of case	Court of jurisdiction
Case related to commencement of guardianship, curatorship, or assistance	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the person receiving the adjudication, etc. of commencement of guardianship
Case related to adjudication of disappearance	Family court with jurisdiction over the conventional place of domicile or residence of the missing
Case related to change of child's family name	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the child
Case related to adoption of minor	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of adopted child
Case related to dissolution of adoptive relationship after death	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of petitioner
Case related to special adoption and dissolution thereof	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of adoptive parents
Case related to appointment of guardian of minor	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the minor
Case related to renunciation of inheritance and limited acknowledgment	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of commencement of inheritance (place of domicile of decedent)
Case related to management or disposition of inheritable properties in case there is no heir	Same as above
Case related to will	Same as above
Case related to voluntary guardianship	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the ward (mandator of voluntary guardianship agreement)
Case related to change of family name or given name	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of petitioner
Case related to registration of unregistered person	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of registration
Case related to establishment of obligation of support	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the individual with obligation of support

2. Cases for adjudication or conciliation (1,200 yen petition service charge per case)

Type of case	Court of jurisdiction when filing a petition for adjudication
Case related to a couple's shared residence, cooperation, and mutual assistance	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of petitioner or opposite party
Case related to custody of child	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the child
Case related to division of properties upon divorce	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of petitioner or opposite party
Case related to designation or change of the person who has parental authority	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the child
Case related to determination of order of dependency	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the opposite party
Case related to division of estate	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of commencement of inheritance (place of domicile of decedent)
Case related to amount of contribution	Family court with jurisdiction over the pending estate division case

*1: Aside from the above, a family court agreed upon by the parties can be the family court of jurisdiction for petition for adjudication.
 *2: The court of jurisdiction for filing a petition for conciliation is the family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the opposite party or the family court determined upon agreement between the parties.

3. Cases for conciliation only (1,200 yen petition service charge per case)

Type of case	Court of jurisdiction
All domestic relations cases other than those listed under 1 and 2 above (divorce, dissolution, etc.)	Family court with jurisdiction over the place of domicile of the opposite party or a family court agreed upon by the parties

リサイクル適性 (A) (令和元年10月 最高裁判所)
 この印刷物は、印刷用の紙へリサイクルできます。

Leaflet for Domestic Relations Cases

For people using domestic relations adjudication and conciliation



Family Court

What is a Domestic Relations Case?

For all sorts of problems regarding couples, parent-child relationships, relatives, inheritance, etc., the family court handles cases for which they have received a petition for the resolution of such problems. These cases are called domestic relations cases.

Domestic relations cases are handled by either adjudication or conciliation. As shown in the list in the back, some cases are only handled by adjudication while other cases are only handled by conciliation. Certain cases can be handled by both.

* * *

As domestic relations cases involve problems within a household, unlike litigation where allegations and evidence are presented in an open court, an adjudication or a conciliation is judged non-publicly to strictly protect the privacy of those involved. Also, you can speak your thoughts in a sociable atmosphere without being constrained by formalities, so please feel at ease when using the family court.

* * *

At the reception of each family court, you can receive a guidance on domestic relations processes for family problems, such as whether your case can be handled by a family court or which family court to go to for a certain kind of petition.

What should I do to file a petition?

To file a petition, you need to submit a petition form describing the problem you want to resolve and the circumstances leading to the petition.

You can find standard petition forms for your convenience at the reception of a family court. If you have any problems filling out the form, please ask the

domestic relations process guide or the reception counter.

When filing a petition, you will also need to submit certain documents, including a copy of your family register, so please check with the domestic relations process guide or the reception counter.

How much does it cost to file a petition?

To file a petition, you will need to affix revenue stamps worth 800 yen or 1,200 yen on your petition form as the service charge depending on the case you are petitioning for (see list on back). Additionally, you will need postal stamps, etc. for communication, etc. Please ask the domestic relations process guide or the reception counter for details.

Other expenses may be necessary depending on the type of case.

What is the process after filing a petition for adjudication?

In a case where there is an opposite party, you notify the other party by sending a copy of the petition form, or by other means, of what has been petitioned.

Also, depending on the case petitioned, the family court may inquire for certain information in writing. In such a case, be sure to fill in and return the response paper.

The petitioner and/or interested parties may be called for examination and/or hearing. On the day of the examination, etc., the family court investigator, etc. asks about the circumstances, and on the day of hearing, the judge directly asks about the circumstances. The judge will comprehensively review the documents, etc. obtained to make a judgment on the petition.

What is the process after filing a petition for conciliation?

The family court notifies the other party by sending a copy of the petition form, or by other means, of what has been petitioned. For a conciliation, the date/time, location, and other details of conciliation will be communicated to both the petitioner and the opposite party, and the actual individuals must show up at the conciliation. In attending a conciliation, you may bring reference documents for explanation, if there are any. In a conciliation, a conciliation committee consisting of a judge or a family court investigator and two or more family court conciliation members will inquire about the circumstances with both parties and listen to their opinions in the effort to bring about a reasonable resolution with the consent of both parties.

Once an agreement to settle the dispute has been come to by the parties, the particulars are described in the record of conciliation, which constitutes a successful conciliation. If an agreement cannot be reached, the conciliation itself may be unsuccessful, but a case that falls under List 2 in the back will be automatically subjected to an adjudication process and is finalized. On the other hand, a case that falls under List 3 in the back will end as an unsuccessful conciliation without proceeding to an adjudication. However, if such case involves personal status matters, such as divorce or dissolution, filiation, or declaration of existence or non-existence of parent-child relationship, an action may be filed with the family court for judicial resolution.

How are documents submitted to the family court handled?

Documents submitted by the petitioner or the opposite party may be used as materials for making a judgment during the course of adjudication by the family court. Documents submitted to the family court cannot be returned, so please make copies before submission.

The petitioner and the opposite party may look at the documents submitted to the family court by the other party and make copies with permission from the court.

If you have any questions about how to submit documents, please ask the domestic relations process guide or the reception counter before filing a petition, or, if you have already filed a petition, please ask the court clerk, etc. in charge of your case.

If any agreement described in the record of conciliation or any ruling of the adjudication is not obeyed, what should I do?

The family court has a process to ensure fulfillment. By using this process when any agreement described in the record of conciliation or any ruling of the adjudication is not obeyed, the family court will investigate the status of performance and prompt the party responsible for fulfillment to perform the necessary acts.

If the necessary acts are not performed, a process for compulsory performance of obligation (civil execution proceedings) can be sought with a district court or a family court.

For more information, please inquire with your nearest court.

