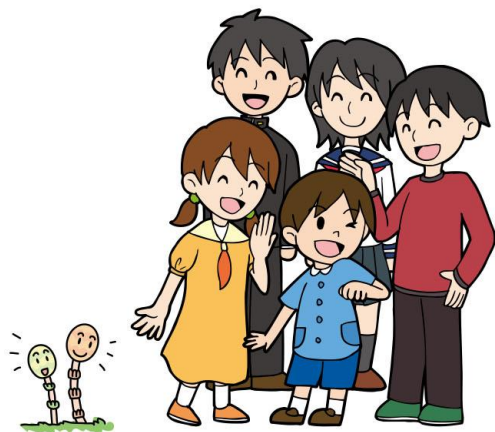




## Considerations for your child during the conciliation process

- While a conciliation is a process for discussing the marital relationship, it is also a mechanism for thinking about what you can do as a parent for the future and happiness of the child. Therefore, you will also discuss matters concerning your child, such as custody, visitations and other contacts, and child support.
- During conciliation, it is important to discuss calmly so as to keep your child out of the dispute.
- A conciliation should pursue a resolution that considers the welfare of your child. To ensure that, a conciliation committee (judge and conciliation commissioners) may ask the mother and/or father about the child's situation. Also, if necessary, a family court investigator with professional knowledge of psychology and other behavioral science may see the child in person to ask about how he or she feels.



- \* The amended Civil Code enacted in April 2012 sets forth that “if parents divorce by agreement, the matters of who will have custody over a child, visitation and other contacts between the father or mother and the child, sharing of expenses required for custody of the child and any other necessary matters regarding custody over the child shall be determined by agreement, and in this case, the child’s interests shall be considered with the highest priority” (Article 766).
- \* The Domestic Relations Case Procedure Act enacted in January 2013 sets forth that in proceedings for conciliation and adjudication, the family court should take the child’s welfare (intentions) into consideration (Article 65, etc.).

### Also check out the following:

#### Related leaflet

#### Guide for Visitations and Other Contacts

For continuing a fruitful parent-and-child exchange

Cooperation of mother and father is essential for successful visitations and other contacts with the child. This leaflet explains a number of useful approaches in an easy-to-understand manner.

#### Court Web Site

<http://www.courts.go.jp/>

\* You can access an introductory video from the “動画配信” menu on the Home page.

#### Video

“離婚をめぐる争いから子どもを守るために”

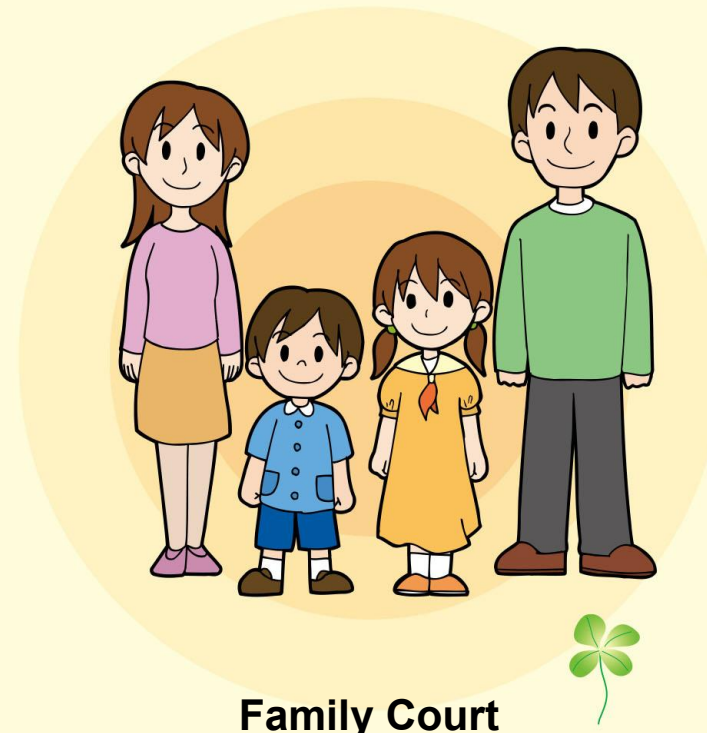
The video explains matters that parents should consider for the child upon seeking conciliation on divorce, including visitations and other contacts, with movies and audio provided in an easy-to-understand manner.

\* The audio and captions are in Japanese.

## What You Can Do for Your Child’s Sound Development

For Mothers and Fathers Using the Domestic Relations Conciliation

Why not go over the matters that each of you as mother or father should think about your child, including your child’s feelings and situation, upon using the family court’s conciliation process?



Family Court





## What is your child feeling in a situation where his or her parents may divorce or separate?

For a child, parents divorcing or separating is a huge life event. Children will have mixed feelings in such circumstances.

Some children may be able to explain their feelings in words while others may not be able to. Adults must try to understand these unspoken feelings.



## What should you consider for your child as a parent?

While it is essential to calmly discuss future child rearing for your child's sound development as a parent, it is very and almost certainly more important to consider the following for your child.



### Think about your child as top priority

- Make sure you don't quarrel or put down the other parent in front of your child.
- Never be violent in front of your child as it will emotionally scar your child.

### Make your child feel at ease

- Your child may think that the divorce or separation is his or her fault or feel anxious about what's going to happen to him or her. Your child may also be carrying a lot of insecure feelings that he or she is unable to communicate.
- In a relaxed state, tell your child that the divorce or separation is not his or her fault, and both parents will remain to be his or her parents no matter what. Communicate that you will continue to cooperate with the other parent to watch over his or her development and that both parents care about him or her.

### Respect your child's feelings

- Even young children have their own feelings, which may not be the same as those of his or her parents.
- Be calm and think about how your child may be feeling.

