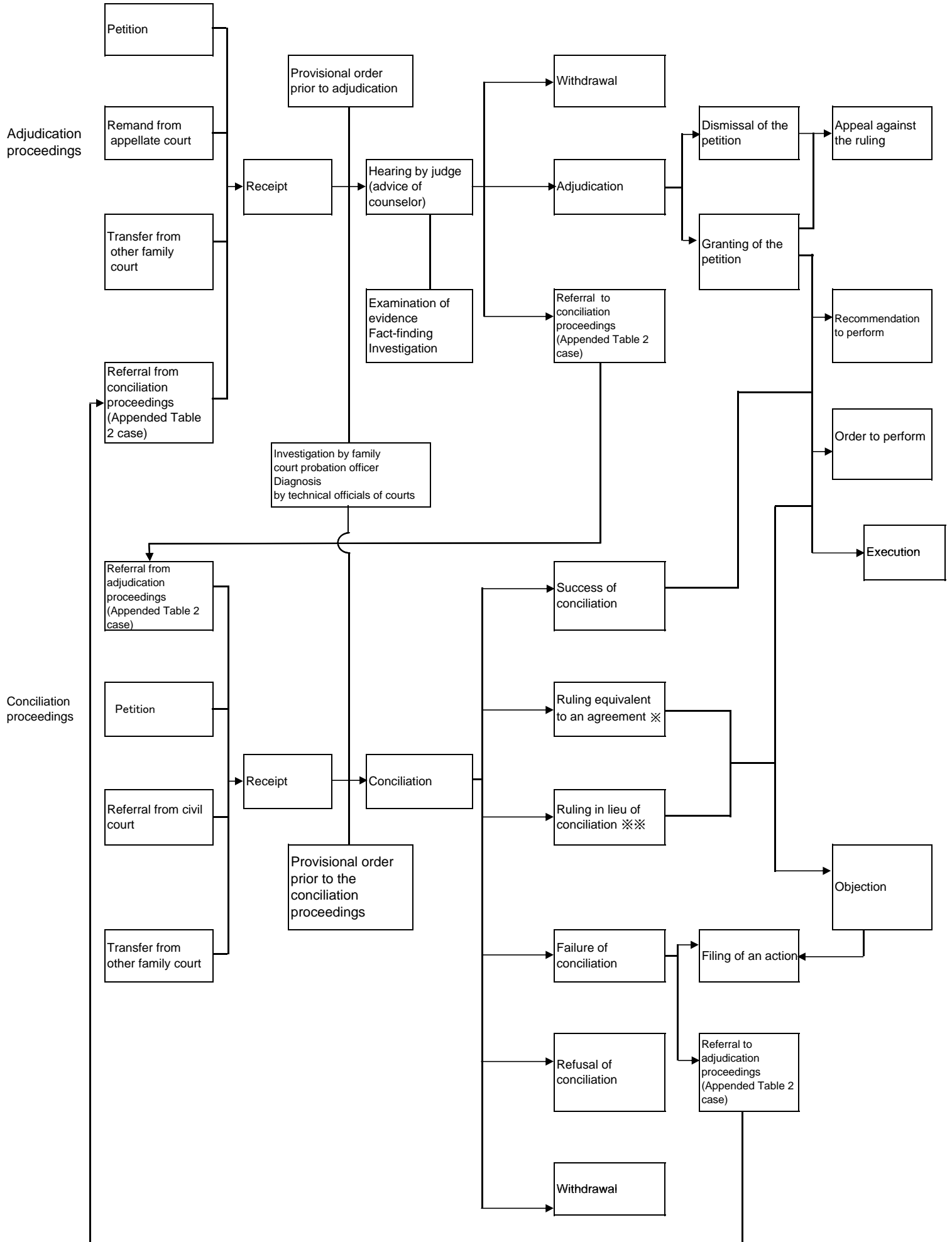


Domestic Relations Case Proceedings



* Ruling equivalent to an agreement

In proceedings for conciliation of domestic relations regarding a matter against which an action concerning personal status may be filed (excluding an action for divorce and an action for the dissolution of an adoptive relationship), if both requirements set forth in the following items are satisfied, and when the family court, having examined the necessary facts, finds the agreement set forth in item (i) to be legitimate, it may make a ruling equivalent to said agreement ("ruling equivalent to an agreement"), after hearing the opinions of the domestic relations conciliation commissioners if the proceedings are conducted by a conciliation committee (Article 277 of the Domestic Relations Case Procedure Act).

Item (i): The parties have reached an agreement whereby they will be subject to a ruling to the same effect as the object of the petition.

Item (ii): The parties do not dispute any cause of annulment or rescission or cause of the formation or existence of a family relationship which pertains to the petition.

** Ruling in lieu of conciliation

If conciliation is unsuccessful and the family court finds it to be appropriate, it may make a necessary ruling for the resolution of a case ("ruling in lieu of conciliation") by its own authority, giving consideration to equity in the interests of both parties and taking into account all relevant circumstances, after hearing the opinions of the domestic relations conciliation commissioners if the proceedings are conducted by a conciliation committee (Article 284 of the Domestic Relations Case Procedure Act; provided, however, that this shall not apply in proceedings for conciliation of domestic relations regarding the particulars prescribed in Article 277, paragraph (1)).