

Counseling system

When people dealing with severe stress caused by a crime, the following physical and mental reactions may occur to varying degrees.

These are not unusual and may happen to anyone.

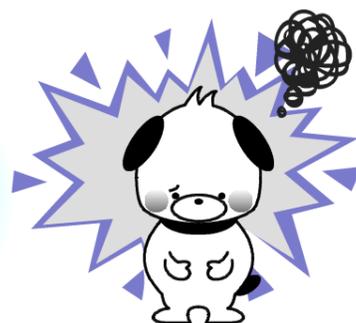
Mental reactions

Fear, guilty conscience
Anxiety, apathy
Sense of hopelessness
Loneliness
Feelings of alienation
Anger
Vengefulness



Physical reactions

Tension
Palpitation
Diarrhea, nausea
Loss of appetite
Insomnia
Nightmares



Sensory-related reactions

Sensory and emotional paralysis
Detachment from reality
Decline in memory and decision-making ability

Affected people will gradually recover from these reactions as time goes by, but the amount of time needed for recovery depends on the individual.

Some people may also suffer from mental conditions such as PTSD.

The Prefectural Police has stationed clinical psychology counseling specialists, who, with the collaboration of other psychiatrists, provide mental support and treatment for affected victims.

【 Inquiries 】

Crime Victim Support Office, Police Administration Division,
 Police Administration Department, Miyagi Prefectural Police
 Headquarters

Tel 022 - 221 - 7171 (Ext. 2693)

Consultation Services

● Police Consultation Line

The police provide consultation regarding crime prevention, concerns or worries on safety in daily life, and other topics.

#9110 or 022 - 266 - 9110

● Sex Crime Victims Consultation Line

Consultation line for victims of sex crime

#8103

● Miyagi Support Center for Foreign Nationals

This support center provides multilingual consultation services for foreign nationals in Miyagi Prefecture.

Consultation with other special consultation services is also available through their three-way calling system.

Consultation number 022 - 275 - 9990

[Available languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese
 Tagalog, Indonesian, Nepali, Portuguese etc.]

● Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) provides information about the Japanese law system and support services in various languages.

Multilingual information services 0570 - 078377

[Available languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish
 Portuguese, Vietnamese, Tagalog]

● Victim Support Center of Miyagi

The Victim Support Center of Miyagi provides the following services for victims and their families.

- Consultation regarding criminal damage by phone or in person
- Escort support to hospitals, police and courts

022 - 301 - 7830 or
 0570 - 783554 (Nationwide navigation dial)

Person in charge of your case

Police Station _____ Division _____

Name _____

Tel. _____ (Ext. _____)

For crime victims

This leaflet provides the following information to victims.

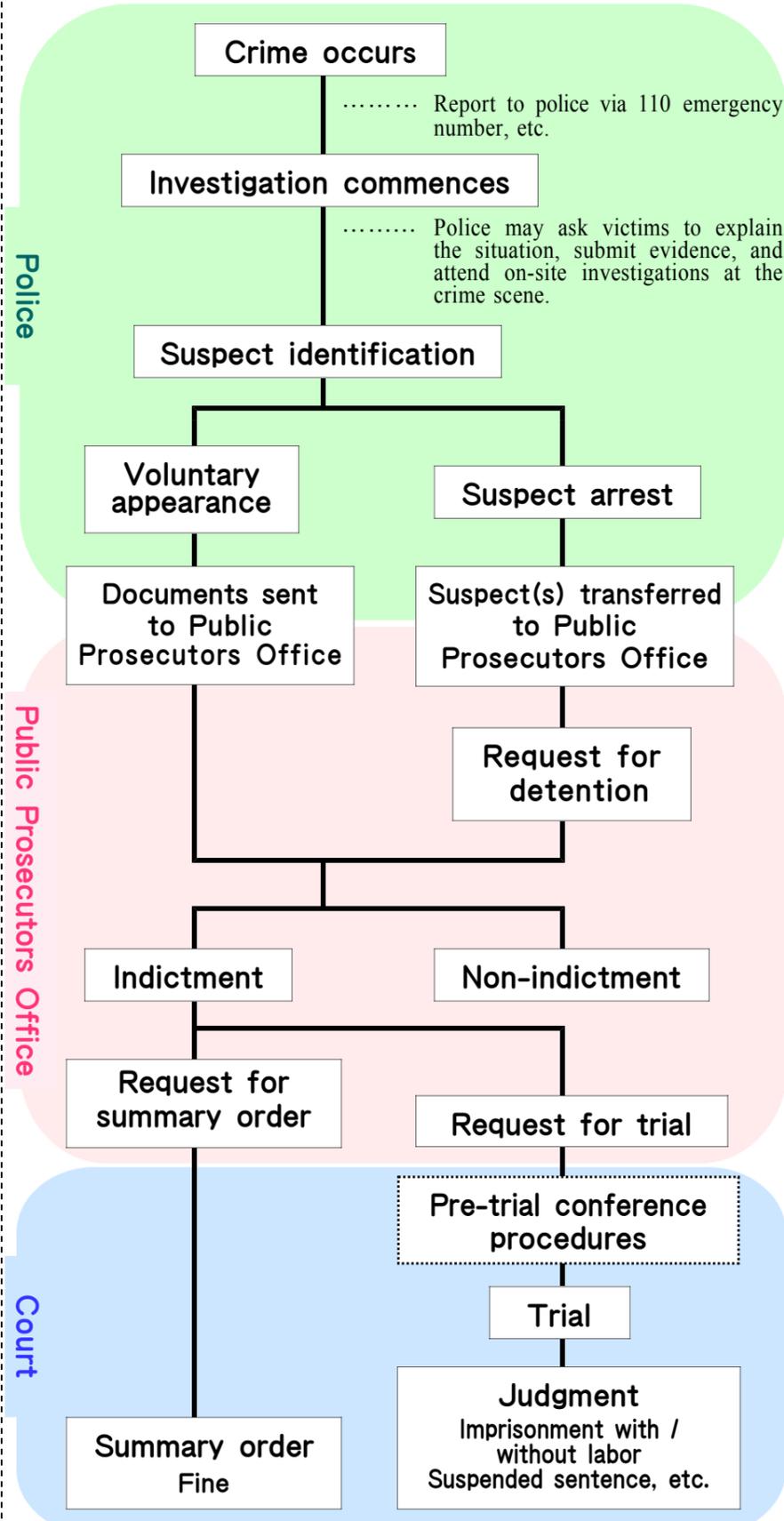
* Procedures related to police investigation, court trial, and the punishment imposed on offenders.

* Support services available to victims.

Miyagi Prefectural Police

Criminal Procedures in Japan

“Criminal procedure” refers to the adjudication process starting with identifying the crime and offenders and ending with a decision on the criminal's sentence. In Japan, criminal procedures are broken up into three stages: investigation, prosecution, and trial. Organizations such as the police, the prosecution, and the court are involved.



Police support systems



Some parts of the investigation may be inconvenient, but we ask for your cooperation in order to catch criminals and prevent similar incidents.



① Designated victim support personnel system

Separate from investigators, designated police personnel provide support for victims.

Designated victim support personnel carry out the following activities:

- Arranging hospital logistics and accompanying victims to hospitals and the crime-scene investigation
- Explaining criminal procedure and systems set up for victims
- Assisting with police questioning, creating records (written statement on what the victim said), etc.
- Consulting victims about their worries and introducing related counseling systems and organizations
- Escorting victims to their home and other locations

【 For further inquiries 】

Contact the police station in charge of your case

② Publicly financed medical treatment system

The national government pays for the following medical expenses out of public expenditure to lighten the economic burden on victims.

- For bereaved families
A part of the postmortem examination certificate fee, body transportation fee and embalming fee
- For injured victims
Initial examination fee, medical certificate fee, STD test fee, etc.
- ※ There are fixed conditions to receive national financial support.

③ Benefit system for crime victims

Victims who have received physical, monetary, or other forms of damages from an intentional criminal act are compensated by the national government under a benefit system.

※ This system is intended for people who hold Japanese citizenship or have an address in Japan.

- Survivor Benefit ... Paid to bereaved family members.
- Serious Injury or Illness Benefit ... Paid to victims who suffer a serious injury or illness (injury or illness requiring more than one month of medical treatment and three or more days of hospitalization)
- Disability Benefit ... Paid to victims left disabled.

【 For further inquiries 】

Crime Victim Support Office, Miyagi Prefectural Police Headquarters

Tel 022-221-7171

Support systems offered by the Public Prosecutors Office

① Victim Support Officers

Victim Support Officers are available at Public Prosecutors Offices to ease the worries and burdens of crime victims as much as possible.

Victim Support Officers carry out the following activities:

- Responding to questions from victims, guiding and accompanying victims to the courthouse
- Helping victims access case records and returning items used as evidence
- Introducing victims to organizations that can provide psychological, daily life, economic, and other forms of support, according to their needs

② Victim Notification System

The Public Prosecutors Office has established the Victim Notification System. Under this system, victims and their families will be notified of information pertaining to the disposition of the case, the outcome of the trial, the treatment of the perpetrator(s) in prison and the time of their release to the extent possible.

※ Notifications are sent via telephone, mail, or other means.



③ Victim Support Hotline

The Victim Support Hotline has been set up in all District Public Prosecutors Offices throughout Japan to provide convenient assistance to victims seeking advice or inquiries about their case.

Sendai District Public Prosecutors Office's Victim Support Hotline

(Tel 022-222-6159)

Victim Support during Trials

Victims may be asked to testify in court to provide proof regarding the defendant's alleged crime.

The court provides various support systems and services for victims during these trials.

- Accompanying attendants
- Screen to protect witness identity
- Testimony via video link
- Inspection and photocopying of trial case records
- Protection of victim's information
- Statement of opinion
- Priority attendance at trials
- Criminal proceeding settlement
- Access to opening statement documents



○ Victim participation system

Victims and their bereaved families are able to question defendants by attending the trial as “victim participants.”

○ Travel expenses for victim participants

Upon request, the national government provides travel expenses, etc. to victim participants who take part in criminal trials.

○ State-appointed attorney system for victim participants

Victim participants can delegate certain actions, including trial attendance and criminal defendant questioning, to an attorney. If their financial resources do not exceed 2 million yen, victim participants can request for the appointment of an attorney.

○ Restitution order system

Victims or their heirs can request the court to order the criminal defendants to pay compensation of damages caused by the offense mentioned in the indictment.