GUIDE to the

FAMILY COURT of JAPAN

2021

(Partial revised edition in April 2022)

Supreme Court of Japan

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I. JAPANESE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM

A family court specially deals with domestic disputes, such as divorce and inheritance cases, and cases involving juvenile delinquents. Family courts are independent lower courts, along with high courts, district courts, and summary courts.

A family court hears cases that differ in nature from ordinary civil and criminal cases, through procedures that suit the particularities of those cases. Since cases of domestic disputes often involve emotional conflicts between the parties, in order to thoroughly resolve such cases, the court must not only render a legal determination, but must also deal with such emotional conflicts in reaching a resolution. Therefore, domestic dispute cases are dealt with non-publicly, except for litigation relating to personal status. The court must attempt to resolve domestic disputes through conciliation in accordance with reason, but also with a sense of humanity, rather than resorting from the beginning to legal proceedings such as litigations or adjudication. Meanwhile, juveniles who are immature compared to adults, are very likely to be reformed through education. Therefore, a disposition on a juvenile is to be determined by a family court after taking an educational approach to prevent repeated delinquency, rather than imposing a criminal punishment through litigation proceedings in an open court.

In this manner, a family court does not merely make a legal determination, but explores the causes underlying a dispute or delinquency, and gives top priority to finding a way in which various problems within a family or between relatives can be resolved comprehensively or a way to prevent a delinquent juvenile from repeating delinquency. On such basis, the court takes appropriate and reasonable measures that suit individual cases, and resolves the cases with an eye to the future.



The Courthouse of Kobe Family Court

II. HISTORY OF FAMILY COURTS

In January 1923, the Juvenile Act came into effect in Tokyo and four other prefectures, and juvenile protection offices (quasi-administrative agencies under the direct control of the Ministry of Justice) were established in Tokyo and Osaka. Later, in January 1942, the Juvenile Act came into effect nationwide, and more juvenile protection offices were established. However, in order to respond to the principles of the new Constitution and to the rapid increase in juvenile offenses after World War II, the possibility of establishing juvenile courts that are of the same level as district courts was considered in the discussions for revision of the Juvenile Act that were held starting in 1946.

Domestic relations cases were originally treated as civil cases, but given the particularities of domestic relations cases, courts of domestic relations were established as branches of district courts specializing in such cases, when the Domestic Relations Trial Act came into effect in 1948.

Given that the Domestic Relations Trial Act came into effect and the courts of domestic relations were established, in the subsequent legislative process for establishing juvenile courts, it was considered reasonable to also separate courts of domestic relations from district courts and consolidate them with juvenile protection offices, because maintaining domestic peace and ensuring the sound development and protection of juveniles are closely related to each other. As a result, family courts were established on January 1, 1949.

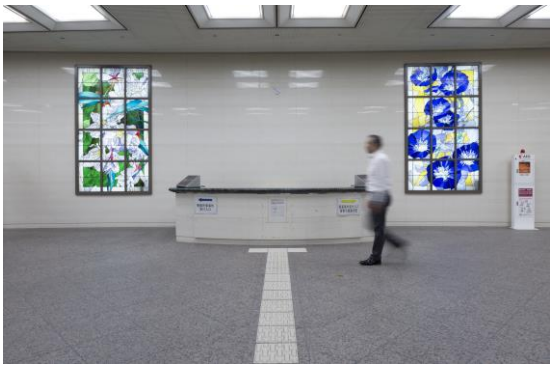
At present, family courts exist in 50 locations nationwide: in each of the 47 prefectural capitals along with Hakodate, Asahikawa, and Kushiro. There are also 203 branches and 77 local offices of family courts throughout the country.

From April 1, 2004, family courts began to also handle litigation on husband and wife relations and parent and child relations, with the coming into effect of the Personal Status Litigation Act. By becoming capable of handling litigation for domestic disputes, it became possible to achieve coordination between the procedures, while the distribution of jurisdiction became easier to understand and the system became more accessible for citizen users. At the same time, family courts became capable of using the knowledge and experience in domestic dispute resolution that they had accumulated since their establishment also in litigation proceedings, and also capable of using the later-mentioned family court investigating officers.

Furthermore, the Domestic Relations Case Procedure Act came into effect on January 1, 2013, completely revising the former Domestic Relations Trial Act. In order to make the domestic relations case procedure more accessible for citizens and to have the contents of the law better match the demands of modern society, the new Act increased the provisions that contribute to procedural guarantees for the parties and introduced new systems for making the procedures easier to use.

In addition, on April 1, 2014, the Act for Implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Implementation Act of the Hague Convention) came into effect, and disputes regarding the return of the child in such cases as where a child under the age

of 16 has been wrongfully removed from the state of his/her habitual residence to Japan are now subject to the jurisdiction of Tokyo Family Court and Osaka Family Court.



Ⅲ. CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILY COURTS

A. Family court investigating officer system

1. Experts on domestic and juvenile delinquency problems

Changes in the social and economic situations have substantially affected the modes of families and the environment surrounding children, and the issues handled by family courts have become more and more complex and difficult in recent years. In order to appropriately deal with such cases, family courts have family court investigating officers.

Family court investigating officers are court officials (national government employees) who are assigned to family courts and high courts. By using their knowledge and methods in behavioral science, such as psychology, sociology, and pedagogy, they investigate facts through interviews with the parties in domestic disputes and their children or with juvenile delinquents and their custodians, and consider ways to resolve the disputes or rehabilitate the juveniles. They serve as experts on domestic and delinquency problems.

2. Training system of family court investigating officers

When a person passes the employment examination conducted by the Supreme Court and is hired as an assistant family court investigating officer, he/she immediately enters the Training and Research Institute for Court Officials. After the person receives training in the family court investigating officer training course for about two years and completes the course, he/she is appointed as a family court investigating officer.

The training, which centers on the theories of behavioral science, law, other study fields and the practice, boasts some of the richest contents in the world.

3. Roles

a. Domestic relations cases

Domestic relations cases include a wide variety of issues, such as divorces, disputes over parental authority or child custody, permission for adoption, and protections against child abuse. In order for a family court to render an appropriate legal determination and promote mutually satisfactory discussions, it must accurately ascertain the objective facts that will form the basis for the trial and adjudication, and must precisely understand the emotions that underlie the respective arguments of the parties. A family court investigating officer must collect information using expert knowledge and methods. Based on such information, they conduct an analysis of situations and causes, make predictions, and report the results to the judge with his/her opinion on the solution. The family court investigating officer encourages the parties to get proactively involved in the dispute, and encourages reaching a resolution when they attend the conciliation on a designated date. They also assist the relevant conciliation committee so that the parties may reach a satisfactory resolution.

With an increasing number of disputes involving children in recent years, the number of cases that require interviews with children has increased. Therefore, the role of family court investigating officers is becoming more and more important.

In a dispute over the custody of the child, such as visitation and other contact between a parent and a child, the highest priority should be placed on a solution in the interest of the child. Therefore, a family court investigating officer investigates what kind of solution would be desirable for the happiness of the child, by holding interviews with the parties or the child, and making home visits, and reports the results to the judge with his/her opinion on the solution.

When there is a child who will be affected by adjudication, a family court tries to ascertain the child's intention. When making adjudication, the family court must take into consideration the child's intention according to the child's age and development. In particular, when adjudicating a measure relating to child custody, the family court is required to hear the opinion of the child if the child's age is 15 or older, except for a disposition on child support.

In practice, a family court investigating officer meets the child and applies his/her expert knowledge, in most cases. In an interview with the child, consideration is given to the feelings of the child, who is in the midst of a dispute between his/her parents. Sometimes, a family court investigating officer attends a scene of interaction between the parent(s) and the child in order to observe their relationship in detail.

The family court investigating officer also explains the results of the investigation to the parties, and encourages them to resolve the issue from the child's viewpoint.

In such cases as where the party is upset and cannot hold discussions calmly, the family court investigating officer mentally assists such a person by using counseling techniques.



Investigation of a child on a domestic relation case
1 Family Court Investigating Officer
2 Child

b. Juvenile cases

In order to decide an effective and appropriate disposition for aiding the rehabilitation of a juvenile who has committed a delinquent act, it is necessary to extensively investigate matters including the juvenile's character, upbringing and surrounding environment, and by clarifying the reason why the juvenile committed the act, examine how he/she can desist from delinquency. A family court investigating officer interviews the juvenile and his/her parent or custodian, carries out an investigation through various means, including a psychological test or home visitation, and reports the results to the judge with his/her opinion.

The results of the investigation serve as important materials when the judge makes adjudication.

In the process of the investigation, the family court investigating officer makes educational approaches, such as providing guidance and advice to the juvenile and his/her custodians, in order to prevent repeated delinquency. There are also cases in which, under a measure called "tentative probation," the family court investigating officer holds interviews with the juvenile and his/her custodians repeatedly on an ongoing basis for a certain period of time, and while continuing to provide guidance, observes the juvenile's behavior and lifestyle before a disposition is rendered.

[Tentative probation]

"Tentative probation" is an intermediate disposition that is made when it is difficult to immediately decide on the final disposition against the juvenile. Under tentative probation, the court suspends the final disposition, and has a family court investigating officer observe the juvenile's behavior and lifestyle for a certain period of time, so as to identify the juvenile's problems and to decide on a disposition that is the most appropriate for the juvenile.

The method and period of tentative probation are not specifically stipulated under law, but are specified on a case-by-case basis. In many cases, during the period of tentative probation, a family court investigating officer observes the juvenile's living conditions by directly confirming the circumstances through holding interviews with the juvenile and his/her custodians on an ongoing basis and indirectly acquiring information from the juvenile's employer or school teacher, and provides the juvenile and his/her custodians with guidance that suits the circumstances at the time.

Tentative probation includes a system called "commission of correctional guidance," whereby the court puts the juvenile under the care of a private volunteer for some time and commissions the volunteer to provide correctional guidance, and observes the juvenile's living conditions. The private volunteers who undertake correctional guidance commissions are various individuals, including managers of construction businesses, farms, and restaurants. Using the results of investigation by a family court investigating officer, a family court selects an appropriate volunteer according to the problem the juvenile has or the challenge the juvenile should overcome. A family court investigating officer also uses his/her expertise in the commissioning of correctional guidance, in such ways as giving advice as required to the juvenile and the volunteer.

In this manner, tentative probation is designed to further increase the accuracy of the social investigation conducted by the family court investigating officer and to allow the court to decide on a disposition that is the most appropriate for the juvenile. It should be noted, however, that this is an active process of placing the juvenile in a specific place or under specific circumstances, and observing the changes in the juvenile while making various educational approaches, rather than simply observing the juvenile statically. Sometimes, this process not only allows the court to collect materials for selecting a proper treatment, but also produces effects that contribute to the juvenile's rehabilitation.

B. Conciliation system

Another characteristic of a family court is that it can carry out conciliation proceedings for personal status cases and some cases regarding family affairs. Unlike arbitration and mediation, the conciliation proceedings are carried out at a court, which is a judicial organ, either by a conciliation committee (composed of one judge and two or more domestic relations conciliation commissioners) or by one judge. In addition to that, the result of successful conciliation is given the same effect as a final and binding judgment or adjudication. Therefore, it can be said that domestic relations conciliation is a powerful means of dispute resolution that performs a judicial function.

In principle, domestic relations conciliation proceedings are carried out by a conciliation committee.

Notable characteristics of the domestic relations conciliation are that it adopts the conciliation-first principle for matters subject to personal status litigation such as divorce, and that it can refer adjudication cases concerning the matters set forth in Appended Table 2 of the Domestic Relations Case Procedure Act to conciliation ex officio at any time.

The conciliation-first principle is a rule whereby matters subject to personal status litigation, such as divorce, must basically undergo domestic relations conciliation proceedings before an action is filed for them. Since it is not desirable, from the viewpoint of maintaining domestic peace and of sound cohabitation by relatives, to have matters subject to domestic relations litigation immediately brought before an open court and disputed through litigation proceedings, this principle was adopted as a measure to have the parties resolve the matter amicably and voluntarily in mutual concession.



Domestic relations conciliation proceeding
1 Judge or domestic relations conciliation officer
2 Domestic relations conciliation commissioners
3 Family court investigating officer
4 Court clerk
5 Parties

IV. STAFF OF FAMILY COURTS

A family court has such staff as judges, court clerks, and court secretaries, just like other courts, but it also has unique staff including the aforementioned family court investigating officers, technical officials of courts who are doctors or nurses. Also, in order to use the knowledge and experience of the general public in processing cases, sometimes conciliation commissioners participate in domestic relations conciliation proceedings and counselors participate in domestic relations adjudication and personal status litigation proceedings, both playing an extremely important role.

A. Judges

Judges of lower courts are appointed by the Cabinet from among a list of candidates designated by the Supreme Court. Their term of office is ten years, and they can be reappointed. They retire at the age of 65.

Judges of family courts deal with domestic relations conciliation cases, domestic relations adjudication cases, personal status cases and juvenile cases, as well as affairs specially provided by law as being under the powers of family courts.

Incidentally, a family court has a domestic relations conciliator system in order to deal with domestic relations conciliation cases. Domestic relations conciliator may exercise authority equivalent to that of judges in processing such cases. They are appointed from among lawyers who have practical experience of five years or more, and serve on a part-time basis. Their term of office is two years, and they can be reappointed.

B. Court clerks

Based on a high educational background in the field of law as a legal professional, court clerks play the role of ensuring proper court proceedings by attending the court proceedings and preparing a record of the proceedings, and preparing and keeping other records and documents. Also, they assist judges in researching laws and regulations and judicial precedents, and ensure smooth proceedings by making preparatory arrangements between the dates of court proceedings and so forth, contributing to realizing prompt and proper justice.

People who intend to become court clerks need to first work as court officials for a specific period of time, and then pass the entrance examination of the Training and Research Institute for Court Officials, and receive training for one or two years at the Institute.

C. Family court investigating officers

By using knowledge and methods of psychology, sociology, social welfare, pedagogy and law, family court investigating officers engage in specialized work that bears the scientific function of family courts, such as investigation of facts and mental coordination, for the appropriate processing of domestic relations cases, personal status cases and juvenile cases

D. Court secretaries

Court secretaries process affairs concerning judicial administration, and assist in work related to handling cases filed with the courts.







E. Technical officials of courts

Technical officials of courts who are doctors (psychiatrists, physicians) diagnose the physical and mental conditions of the parties in domestic relations cases or juveniles as necessary, and technical officials of courts who are nurses assist the doctors.

F. Domestic relations conciliation commissioners

Domestic relations conciliation commissioners are selected from among citizens of great insight and good character, who have rich knowledge and experience in social life or expert knowledge and experience useful for resolving domestic relations disputes. As members of a conciliation committee, they are responsible for achieving voluntary resolution of domestic relations cases by encouraging the parties to make mutual concession or compromise or by making coordination so that an agreement will be reached between the parties according to the law based on a resolution proposed by the conciliation committee.

G. Counselors

Counselors are selected by the family court from among citizens with extensive knowledge and experience.

Counselors, along with the judge, attend the proceedings of domestic relations adjudication cases (commencement and supervision of guardianship, permission to change a first name, permission to change a surname, duty to support, division of estate, etc.) and personal status cases (divorce, etc.), in which citizens' common sense should be reflected, and state their opinions.



V. CASES HANDLED BY FAMILY COURTS

A family court is divided into the domestic relations division and the juvenile division. The domestic relations division handles domestic relations cases and personal status cases concerning issues of families and relatives. The domestic relations divisions of Tokyo Family Court and Osaka Family Court also deal with cases relating to the return of the child under the Act for Implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (the Implementation Act of the Hague Convention). The juvenile divisions deal with juvenile cases.

A. Domestic relations cases

Domestic relations cases refer to the domestic relations cases provided for by the Domestic Relations Case Procedure Act and other laws, and they can be divided into domestic relations adjudication cases and domestic relations conciliation cases.

Domestic relations adjudication cases are further divided into cases concerning the matters set forth in Appended Table 1 of said Act (hereinafter referred to as the "Appended Table 1 cases") and those concerning the matters set forth in Appended Table 2 of said Act (hereinafter referred to as "Appended Table 2 cases"). Appended Table 1 cases include permission to change a child's surname, renunciation of inheritance, permission to change a first name, commencement of guardianship, and permission for adoption. Since these cases have a strong nature of public welfare, the family court involves itself in such cases from a guardian standpoint. Generally, these are the types of cases where the parties are not in an adversarial relationship, and the cases cannot be resolved through an agreement between the parties. Therefore, they are solely handled through adjudication proceedings.

Appended Table 2 cases include designation of a parent to exercise parental authority and alteration thereof, division of estate, a measure relating to child custody such as a request for child support, and share of expenses arising from marriage. As these are the types of cases where the parties are in an adversarial relationship, they are primarily expected to be resolved on a voluntary basis through discussions between the parties, and are handled through conciliation proceedings as well as adjudication proceedings.

Cases subject to domestic relations conciliation are domestic relations cases, which, besides Appended Table 2 cases, are typically divorces of married couples. As mentioned above, matters subject to personal status litigation, such as divorce, must undergo domestic relations conciliation proceedings before an action is filed for them (conciliation-first principle).

In order to facilitate the use of family court procedures, family courts provide explanations and guidance about whether the issue facing the person who has visited for consultation is suitable to be handled through the adjudication or conciliation proceedings of a family court, and if it is, what kind of petition he/she should file.

1. Proceedings of domestic relations cases

a. Petition

Domestic relations adjudication proceedings and domestic relations conciliation proceedings are both commenced upon a petition filed by a party or an interested party, in principle. The court having jurisdiction over a conciliation case is the family court that has territorial jurisdiction over the domicile of the opponent or the family court agreed on by the parties. While the court having jurisdiction over an adjudication case is specified by law for each type of case, in the case of an Appended Table 2 case, the family court agreed on by the parties also has jurisdiction over the case. In order to file a petition, the petitioner submits a written petition, containing specific matters including the issue which he/she wants the family court to resolve and other circumstances, to the reception counter of the family court. The petition forms are available at the counter of the family court, and can also be downloaded at the website of the courts (http://www.courts.go.jp/). (These forms are available only in Japanese.)

When filing a petition, the petitioner needs to pay a prescribed fee (800 yen or 1,200 yen per case) and purchase postal stamps to be used for sending notices to and communications with the parties and interested parties. In addition, the petitioner must attach such documents as a certified copy of the family register to the written petition, depending on the type of procedure.

b. Method of the proceedings

(1) Domestic relations adjudication cases

In a domestic relations adjudication case, a judge in charge of domestic relations cases makes a determination based on the documents submitted upon the filing of the petition, the results of the



investigation conducted by the family court investigating officer, and the results of the hearing he/she has held. In this process, the judge may have a counselor attend the adjudication proceedings and hear the counselor's opinion for reference.

Meanwhile, the family court may refer an Appended Table 2 case to conciliation ex officio at any time.

In some cases, proceedings of either a domestic relations adjudication case or a domestic relations conciliation case can be carried out through a television conference or telephone conference, without the parties having to appear before court.

For an Appended Table 2 case, the family court must decide on the date for concluding the proceedings and the date for rendering the adjudication, while giving a reasonable grace period, unless the petition is unlawful or the petition is obviously groundless.

(2) Domestic relations conciliation cases

In a domestic relations conciliation case, a conciliation committee holds discussions while sufficiently hearing the arguments of the respective parties and interested parties. Then, from a neutral standpoint, the committee makes arrangements so that an appropriate and reasonable solution that is satisfactory for everyone can be gained, while giving

consideration to the interests and equity of both parties. Conciliation proceedings can also be carried out by a judge alone, without a conciliation committee. When an adjudication case or a litigation case is referred to conciliation proceedings, it is not prohibited for the judge who is in charge of the relevant adjudication or litigation proceedings to also take charge of the conciliation proceedings.

In cases where a child's parental authority or custody is disputed, the court often orders a family court investigating officer to investigate the facts. When a party is upset and cannot hold discussions calmly, the court sometimes orders a family court investigating officer to assist in mental coordination. If necessary, the judge or domestic relations conciliation commissioners order a technical official of courts who is a doctor to diagnose a party's physical or mental condition. If an agreement is reached as a result of such procedures, and a statement to that effect is entered in the record, conciliation is regarded to have been reached. The contents of the conciliation record have the same effect as a final and binding judgment.

If an agreement cannot be reached, conciliation fails and the proceedings terminate. If the case is an Appended Table 2 case, it may move on to adjudication proceedings (where conciliation fails and if the family court finds it to be reasonable, it may make necessary adjudication for resolving the case ex officio, while ensuring the equity between the parties and taking all circumstances into account; if the parties file no objection within two weeks from receiving the notice of the adjudication rendered, or if a ruling to dismiss an objection becomes final and binding, the adjudication will have the same effect as the general adjudication in the case of an Appended Table 2 cases, and the



same effect as a final and binding judgment in the case of any other case), and any other conciliation case will be closed. Some cases can be resolved through litigation if a party files an action (e.g., divorce or dissolution of adoptive relation).

c. Results of domestic relations cases

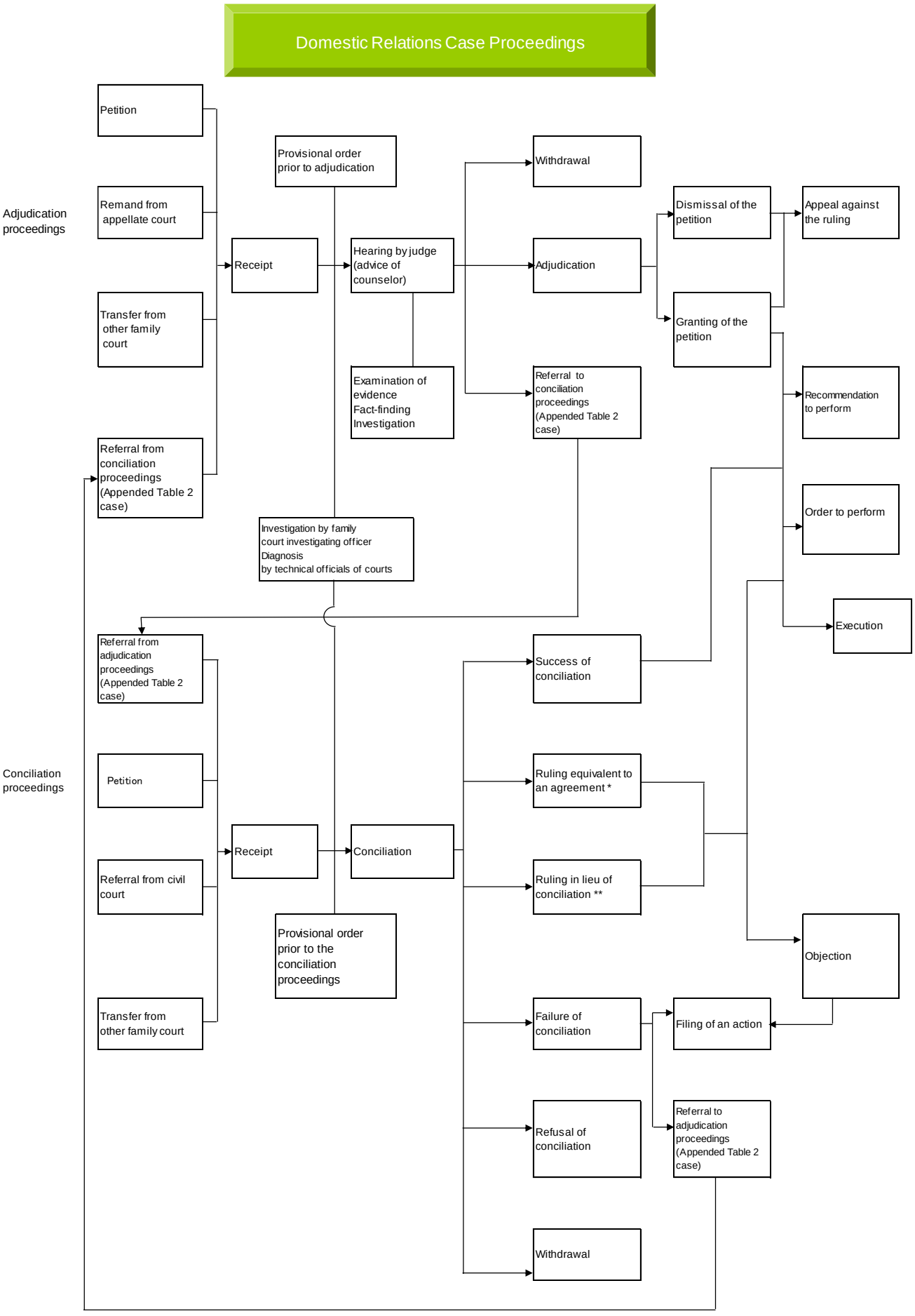
In the case of an adjudication case, if a party is dissatisfied with the adjudication rendered by the judge, he/she may seek proceedings at the high court by filing an appeal within two weeks, though this depends on the type of the case.

If two weeks pass without the filing of any appeal or if the appeal is not accepted by the high court, the adjudication becomes final and binding.

When adjudication becomes final and binding or conciliation is reached, the relevant party may make a family register notification or receive monetary payment depending on the contents of the adjudication or conciliation. If an obligation decided by adjudication or conciliation, such as payment of money, is not performed, the person entitled to receive the payment can use a procedure in which the family court recommends or orders performance of the obligation after investigating the circumstances or a procedure of compulsory execution by filing a request therefor.



Domestic relations adjudication proceeding
1 Judge
2 Counselor
3 Court clerk
4 Attorney
5 Party


Domestic Relations Case Proceedings
Adjudication proceedings
Petition
Remand from appellate court
Transfer from other family court
Referral from conciliation proceedings (Appended Table 2 case)
Receipt
Provisional order prior to adjudication
Hearing by judge (advice of counselor)
Examination of evidence Fact-finding Investigation
Investigation by family court investigating officer Diagnosis by technical officials of courts
Withdrawal
Adjudication
Referral to conciliation proceedings (Appended Table 2 case)
Dismissal of the petition
Granting of the petition
Appeal against the ruling
Recommendation to perform
Order to perform
Execution
Conciliation proceedings
Referral from adjudication proceedings (Appended Table 2 case)
Petition
Referral from civil court
Transfer from other family court
Receipt
Provisional order prior to the conciliation proceedings
Conciliation
Success of conciliation
Ruling equivalent to an agreement *
Ruling in lieu of conciliation **
Failure of conciliation
Refusal of conciliation
Withdrawal
Objection
Filing of an action
Referral to adjudication proceedings (Appended Table 2 case)

* 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.

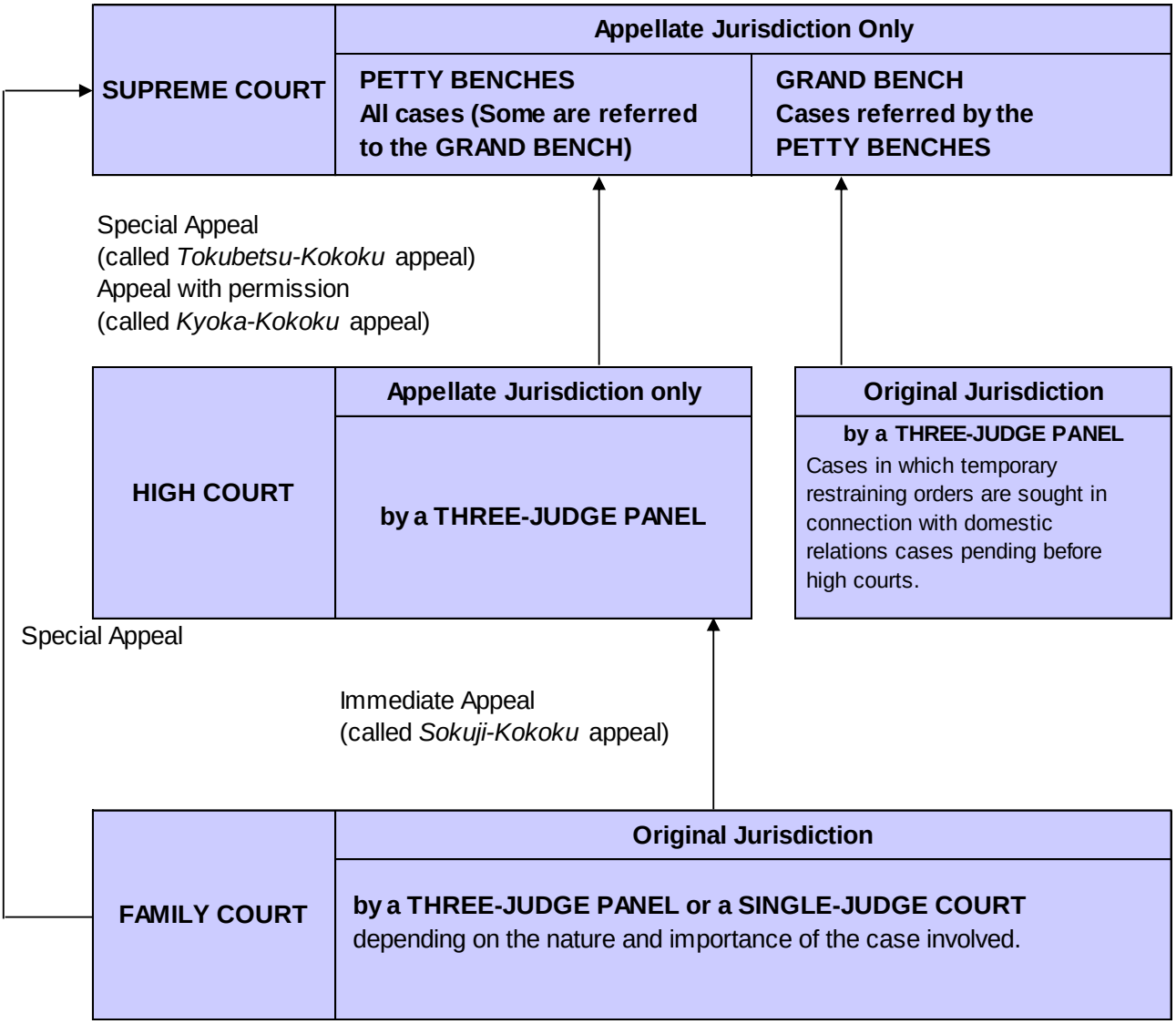
Item (ii): The parties do not dispute any cause of annulment or rescission or cause of the formation or existence of a family relationship which pertains to the petition.

** 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)).



FLOW OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS ADJUDICATION CASES



Note: An immediate appeal is a procedure by which a party may enter an appeal within a certain period of time in cases prescribed by law.

A special appeal may be filed to the Supreme Court against a ruling of the high court or the family court when the appellant claims unconstitutionality of the ruling.

An appeal with permission may be filed to the Supreme Court against a ruling of the high court when the high court gives permission in a case which involves important issues on the interpretation of laws and regulations.

2. Trend of cases (statistics)

The number of filed domestic relations cases in 2019 was about 1,091,804 (about a 2.4% increase over the previous year), showing a continuous upward trend. The number has increased by about 34% during the past ten years.

Adjudication cases, which account for four-fifths of all domestic relations cases, have increased since 1996. The number of conciliation cases has been repeatedly rising and falling since 2011.

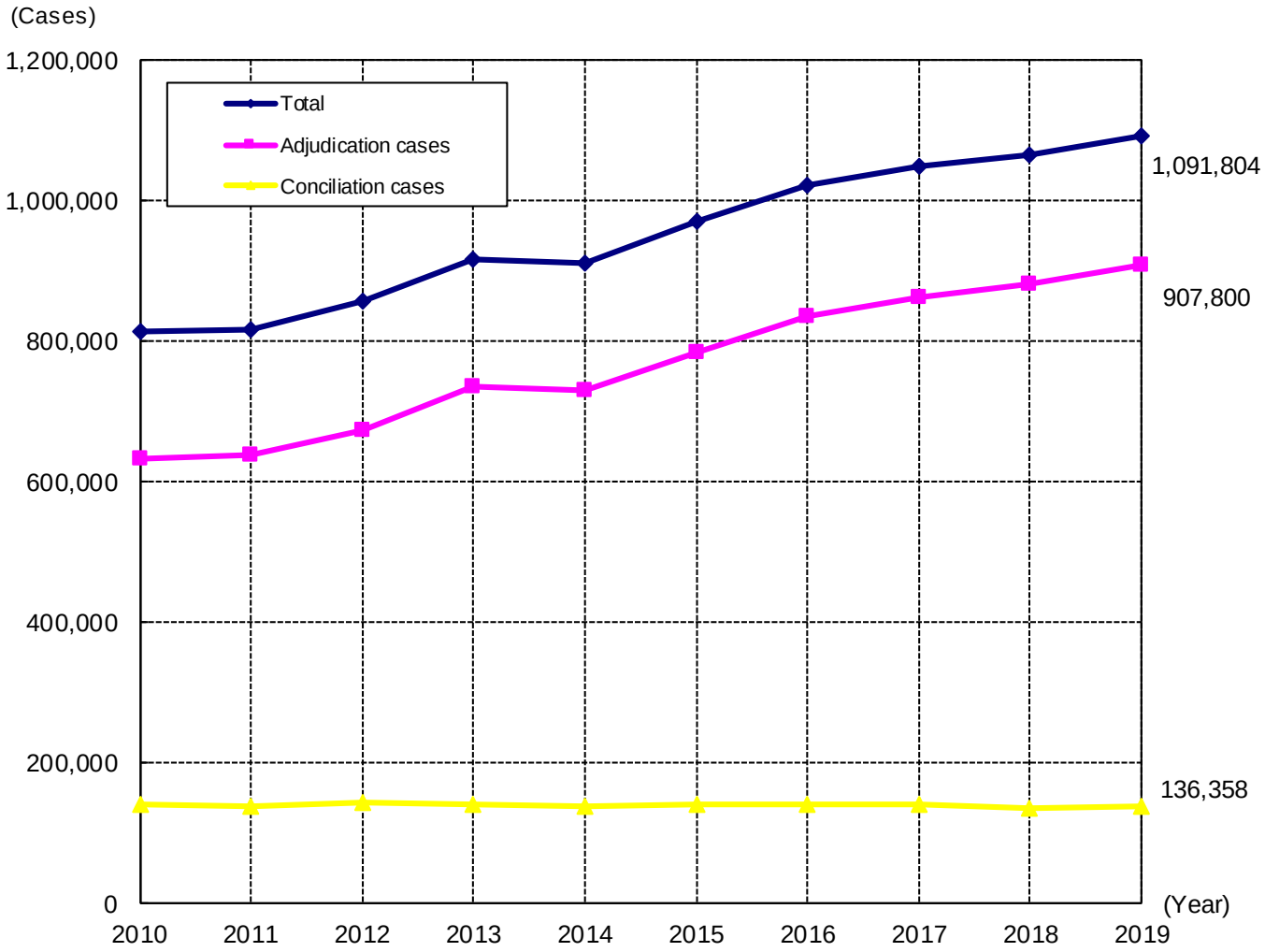
Due to the substantial changes in social and economic conditions, high-conflict, complex and difficult-to-solve cases have been increasing. Therefore, further efforts should be made to review the case management system and to enhance and strengthen conciliation proceedings.

Table 1 Annual Comparison of Numbers of Filed Domestic Relations Cases and Personal Status Cases

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	815,052	815,523	857,230	916,397	910,637	969,925	1,022,765	1,050,185	1,066,333	1,091,804
Adjudication cases	633,337	636,757	672,683	734,227	730,608	784,088	835,713	863,884	883,000	907,800
Conciliation cases	140,557	137,390	141,802	139,593	137,207	140,822	140,640	139,274	135,794	136,358
Judicial cooperation cases	105	117	92	158	698	2,074	3,548	5,567	7,341	9,137
Others	24,343	24,113	24,958	25,457	25,769	26,548	26,903	25,707	25,265	23,887

(Note) The total figures for year 2010 onward include the number of newly received personal status cases, ordinary litigation cases, domestic relations appeal cases, cases seeking the return of the child, civil appeal cases to the second instance, cases of petition for acceptance of direct appeal to the Supreme Court, cases of filing of direct appeal to the Supreme Court, civil retrial cases, and temporary restraining order cases.

Graph 1 Change of the Numbers of Filed Domestic Relations Cases and Personal Status Cases



a. Domestic relations adjudication cases

Among Appended Table 1 cases, which account for about 97.9% of all domestic relations adjudication cases, the number of cases has increased about 1.4 times over the past ten years.

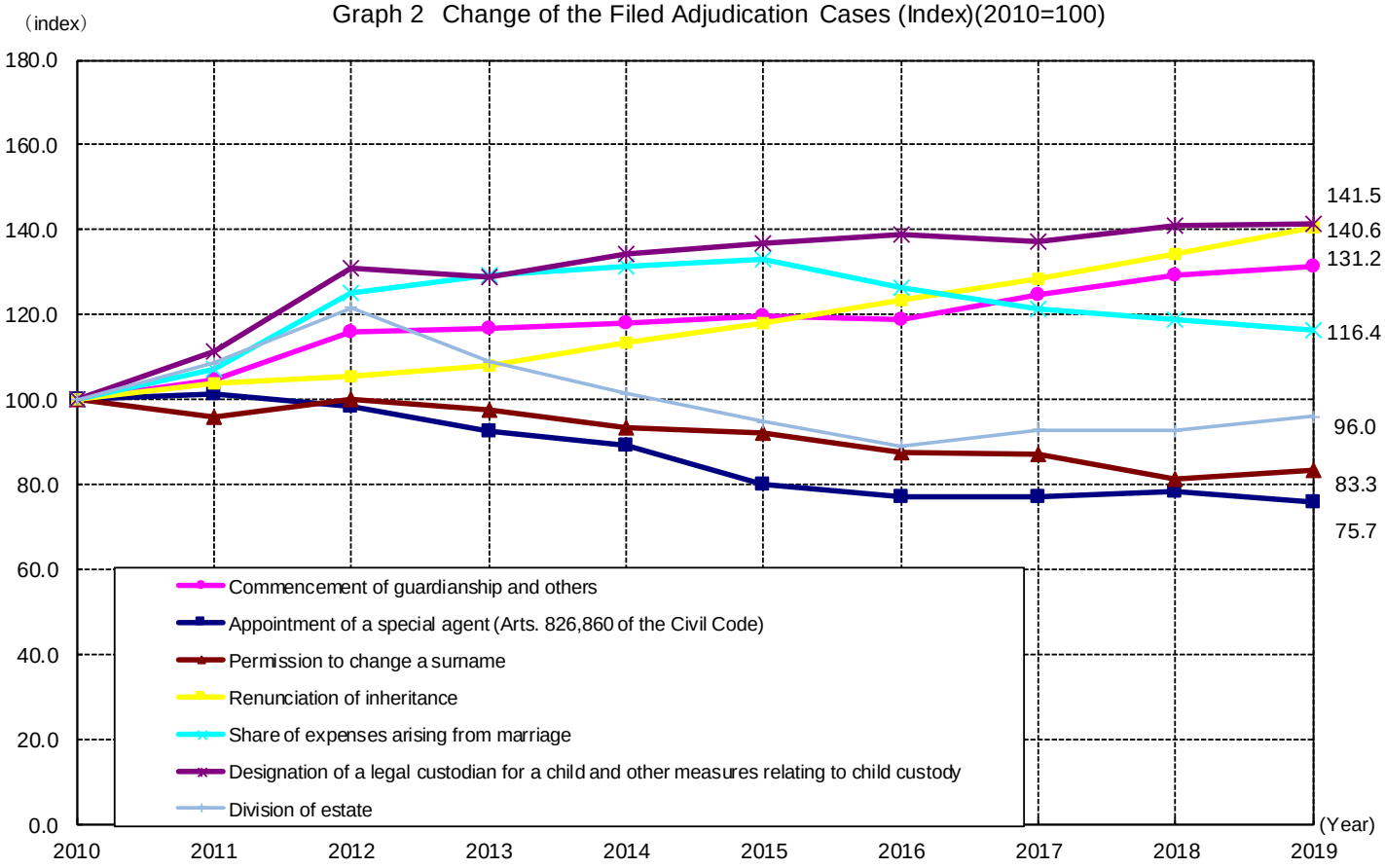
As for Appended Table 2 cases, although the number of such cases is relatively limited (19,185 cases in 2019), the number of cases involving measures relating to child custody (including the designation of a legal custodian, request for child support, visitation or other contacts with the child and surrendering custody of a child) shows a continuous upward trend (about 1.4 times over the past ten years), and the number of high-conflict disputes is also increasing.

Table 2 Annual Comparison of Numbers of Filed Adjudication Cases

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Grand Total	633,337	636,757	672,683	734,227	730,608	784,088	835,713	863,884	883,000	907,800
Total (Appended Table 1 cases)	614,823	617,022	650,529	714,196	710,562	764,361	816,216	844,667	863,915	888,615
Commencement of guardianship and others *	36,381	38,118	42,146	42,545	42,973	43,615	43,287	45,377	47,007	47,747
Appointment of a special agent (Arts. 826, 860 of the Civil Code)	11,907	12,058	11,699	11,039	10,617	9,534	9,163	9,181	9,322	9,017
Permission to change a child's surname	186,206	173,196	175,597	173,624	165,898	169,346	161,460	158,273	153,834	152,631
Renunciation of inheritance	160,293	166,463	169,300	172,935	182,082	189,296	197,656	205,909	215,320	225,415
Appointment of an administrator of inherited property, etc. (cases where the heir is unknown)	14,069	15,676	16,751	17,869	18,448	18,618	19,810	21,130	21,121	21,751
Permission to change a surname	15,215	14,579	15,212	14,869	14,219	14,002	13,316	13,232	12,341	12,669
Others	190,752	196,932	219,824	281,315	276,325	319,950	371,524	391,565	404,970	419,385
Total (Appended Table 2 cases)	18,514	19,735	22,154	20,031	20,046	19,727	19,497	19,217	19,085	19,185
Share of expenses arising from marriage	2,642	2,826	3,310	3,421	3,476	3,515	3,343	3,207	3,138	3,074
Designation of a legal custodian for a child and other measures relating to child custody	6,733	7,502	8,823	8,675	9,042	9,216	9,346	9,228	9,483	9,527
Designation of a parent to exercise parental authority and alteration thereof	2,343	2,459	2,460	2,169	2,042	1,971	1,903	1,856	1,597	1,631
Division of estate, etc.	2,125	2,305	2,586	2,317	2,155	2,012	1,895	1,973	1,967	2,041
Dispositions regarding a pro rata share to be requested	1,944	1,877	1,945	1,984	1,911	1,797	1,843	1,804	1,743	1,779
Others	2,727	2,766	3,030	1,465	1,420	1,216	1,167	1,149	1,157	1,133

* Referring to cases of commencement of guardianship, commencement of curatorship, and commencement of assistance.

Graph 2 Change of the Filed Adjudication Cases (Index)(2010=100)



(Note)The above table shows indices as compared to the figures in 2010, with those figures taken as 100.

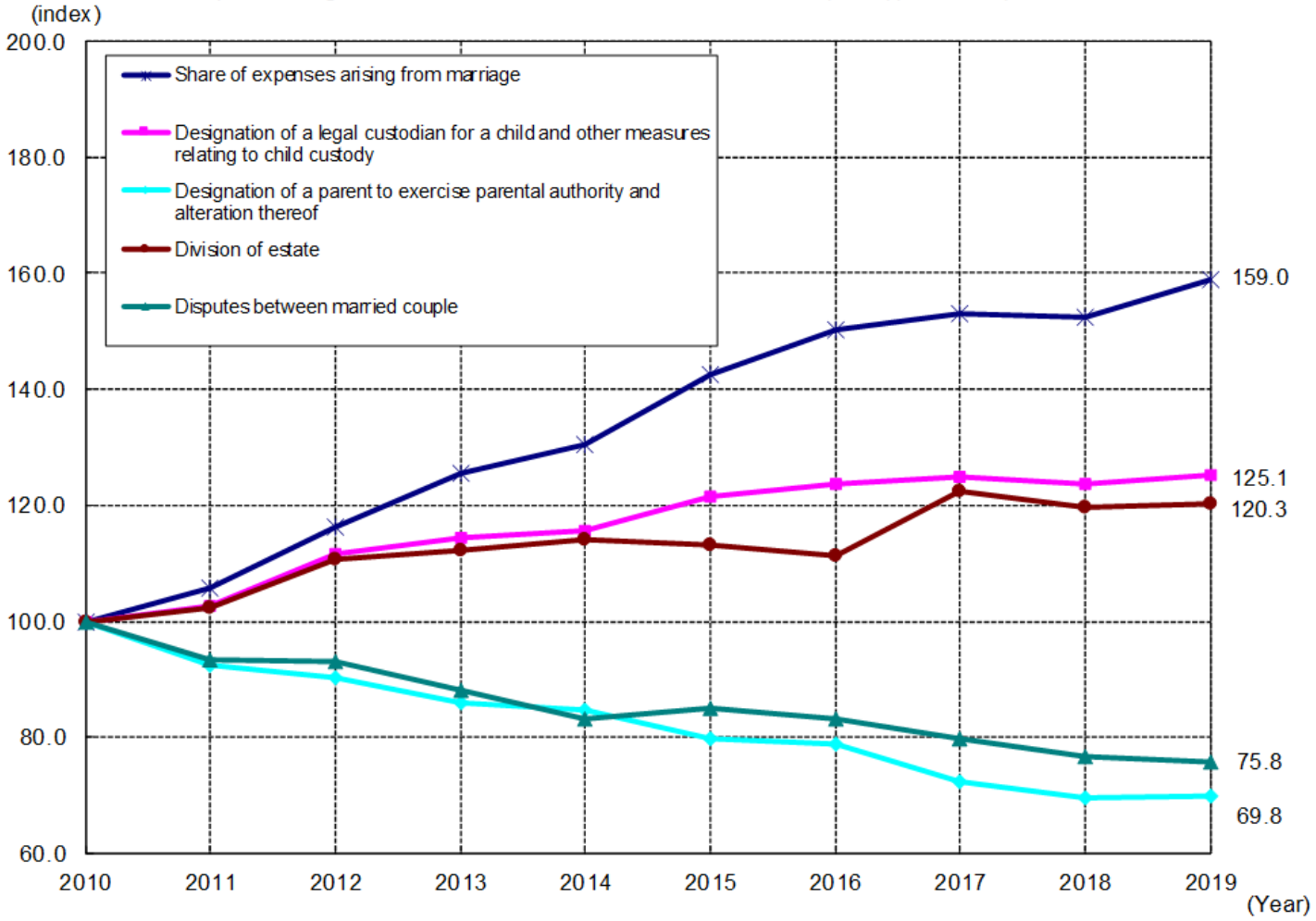
b. Domestic relations conciliation cases

The number of domestic relations conciliation cases, which marked a record high in 2012, slightly dropped in 2019 (about a 3.8% decrease), but still remains high. The number of such cases as share of expenses arising from marriage (increasing by about 1.6 times over the past ten years) and measures relating to child custody (increasing by about 1.3 times over the past ten years) has been increasing.

Table 3 Annual Comparison of Numbers of Filed Conciliation Cases

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Grand Total	140,557	137,390	141,802	139,593	137,207	140,822	140,640	139,274	135,794	136,358
Total (Appended Table 1 cases)	67,034	68,166	73,204	74,870	75,972	78,909	80,213	81,600	80,460	81,793
Share of expenses arising from marriage	14,222	15,022	16,544	17,832	18,570	20,276	21,383	21,761	21,666	22,619
Designation of a legal custodian for a child and other measures relating to child custody	28,180	28,955	31,421	32,208	32,565	34,250	34,811	35,216	34,866	35,250
Distribution of Property	1,500	1,493	1,558	1,605	1,632	1,701	1,666	1,761	1,725	1,809
Designation of a parent to exercise parental authority and alteration thereof	8,501	7,864	7,669	7,306	7,194	6,782	6,710	6,145	5,908	5,930
Division of estate, etc.	11,472	11,724	12,697	12,878	13,101	12,980	12,766	14,044	13,739	13,801
Dispositions regarding a pro rata share to be requested	1,238	1,275	1,412	1,311	1,313	1,373	1,351	1,217	1,103	1,063
Others	1,921	1,833	1,903	1,730	1,597	1,547	1,526	1,456	1,453	1,321
Total (Other than above)	73,523	69,224	68,598	64,723	61,235	61,913	60,427	57,674	55,334	54,565
Disputes between married couple	57,362	53,625	53,427	50,581	47,685	48,764	47,717	45,777	44,048	43,492
Matters for rulings equivalent to agreements	4,353	4,259	4,270	4,146	4,029	3,828	3,763	3,457	3,447	3,280
Others	11,808	11,340	10,901	9,996	9,521	9,321	8,947	8,440	7,839	7,793

Graph 3 Change of the Numbers of Filed Conciliation Cases (Index)(2010=100)



(Note)The above table shows indices as compared to the figures in 2010, with those figures taken as 100.

B. Personal status cases

Personal status litigation refers to litigation for divorce of married couples, dissolution of the adoptive relation between adoptive parents and an adopted child, filiation of a child, declaration of the existence of a parent-child relationship, and formation or declaration of the existence of family relationships.

Most personal status cases are actions seeking divorce. In divorce cases, matters subject to domestic relations cases, such as distribution of property and child support, may be examined simultaneously, upon petition. Also, the family court having jurisdiction over a divorce case may examine any claim for solatium in relation to the facts which constitute the cause of the divorce, in a consolidated manner.

In domestic relations conciliation proceedings, a dispute is resolved by a voluntary agreement between the parties through arrangements by a conciliation committee, but in personal status litigation, a dispute is resolved by a judgment rendered by a judge after both parties state their arguments and produce evidence that supports their arguments. While domestic relations conciliation proceedings are carried out in camera, personal status litigation is carried out in open court, except where open examination proceedings are

suspended by an order of the court due to special circumstances such as where the subject matter being examined is related to a material secret regarding the private life of a party. In principle, matters subject to personal status litigation must undergo domestic relations conciliation proceedings before an action is filed for them (conciliation-first principle).

There were no express provisions of law concerning Japan's international jurisdiction in international cases. However, through the legal amendment regarding international jurisdiction over personal status litigation and domestic relations cases, which came into effect in April 2019, (i) the circumstances in which a Japanese court has jurisdiction over personal status litigation have been specified, and (ii) the circumstances in which a Japanese court has jurisdiction over domestic relations cases have also been specified by type of case. In addition, (iii) it has been provided that a Japanese family court basically has jurisdiction over an action to seek an execution judgment for a judicial decision by a foreign court on a domestic relations case.

Pursuant to Article 27 of the Act on General Rules for Application of Laws, the governing law for a divorce case will primarily be the law of the common nationality of the husband and wife, but if their nationalities differ, it will be the law of their common habitual residence, but if their habitual residences differ, it will be the law of the place most closely connected with them. However, if one of them is a Japanese national who has habitual residence in Japan, their divorce will be governed by Japanese law. As for designation of a parent to exercise parental authority over a minor, the governing law will be the child's national law if it is the same as the national law of either the mother or father, and in other cases, it will be the law of the child's habitual residence (where the child has dual nationality, the national law will be Japanese law if the child has Japanese nationality), pursuant to Article 32 of said Act. The governing law for child support will be the law of the child's habitual residence.

1. Personal status litigation proceedings

a. From filing of an action to submission of a written answer

Litigation is commenced upon submission of a complaint to the family court. In litigation, the person who files the action is called the plaintiff, and the person whom the action has been filed against is called the defendant.

(1) Filing of an action

In principle, an action is filed with the family court having jurisdiction over the place of domicile of a party (in the case of divorce, the husband or wife). However, if such a family court differs from the family court that handled domestic relations conciliation for the case before the filing of the personal status litigation, and if the family court finds it to be particularly necessary, the family court that handled domestic relations conciliation may also handle the personal status litigation, upon petition or ex officio.

In order to file an action, the plaintiff needs to submit a complaint, together with a fee (revenue stamps), postal stamps, a certified copy of the family register, and other necessary materials. The complaint must concretely state the object (the matter sought as the conclusion of the judgment) and statement of the claim, as well as material relevant facts and evidence.

(2) Submission of a written answer

The court may decide on the period within which



Judicial proceeding in
Litigation of personal status
In the court room
1 Judge
2 Counselor
3 Court clerk
4 Party and Attorney
5 Court Secretary

the defendant shall submit a written answer. In the written answer, the defendant shall clarify whether he/she admits to or denies the contents of the complaint, and if he/she denies the contents, he/she needs to state the reason for the denial and submit evidence. Except in the case of an action for divorce, the defendant cannot acknowledge a claim. Since constructive admission is not applied to personal status cases, the court needs to find facts based on evidence if the defendant does not submit a written answer.

The family court has a standard complaint form and written answer form for divorce cases available, and their explanatory documents. The forms can also be downloaded at the website of the courts (http://www.courts.go.jp/).
(These forms are available only in Japanese.)

b. Major proceedings at the family court

Major proceedings are oral arguments, preparatory proceedings to arrange issues and evidence, and examination of evidence.

Oral arguments are proceedings where the parties state their arguments based on documents they have submitted in advance, and produce evidence that supports their arguments. Arrangement of issues and evidence is carried out to confirm the issues and to sort out the evidence that has been produced with regard to those issues. In examination of evidence, the court questions the parties, or others, about the circumstances in the courtroom (examination of parties, or others) in order to make a determination on the issues.

In these proceedings, if the family court finds it to be necessary, it may have one or more counselors attend the proceedings and hear their opinions. The purpose for this is to reflect citizens' common sense in the proceedings of personal status litigation. When designating a legal custodian for a child or taking other measures relating to child custody, or designating a parent to exercise parental authority in a judgment upholding a divorce, the family court may investigate facts or order a family court investigating officer to investigate facts. It is provided under law that a family court investigating officer may report the results of the investigation of facts to the court in writing or orally, but in practice, such report is mostly made in writing.

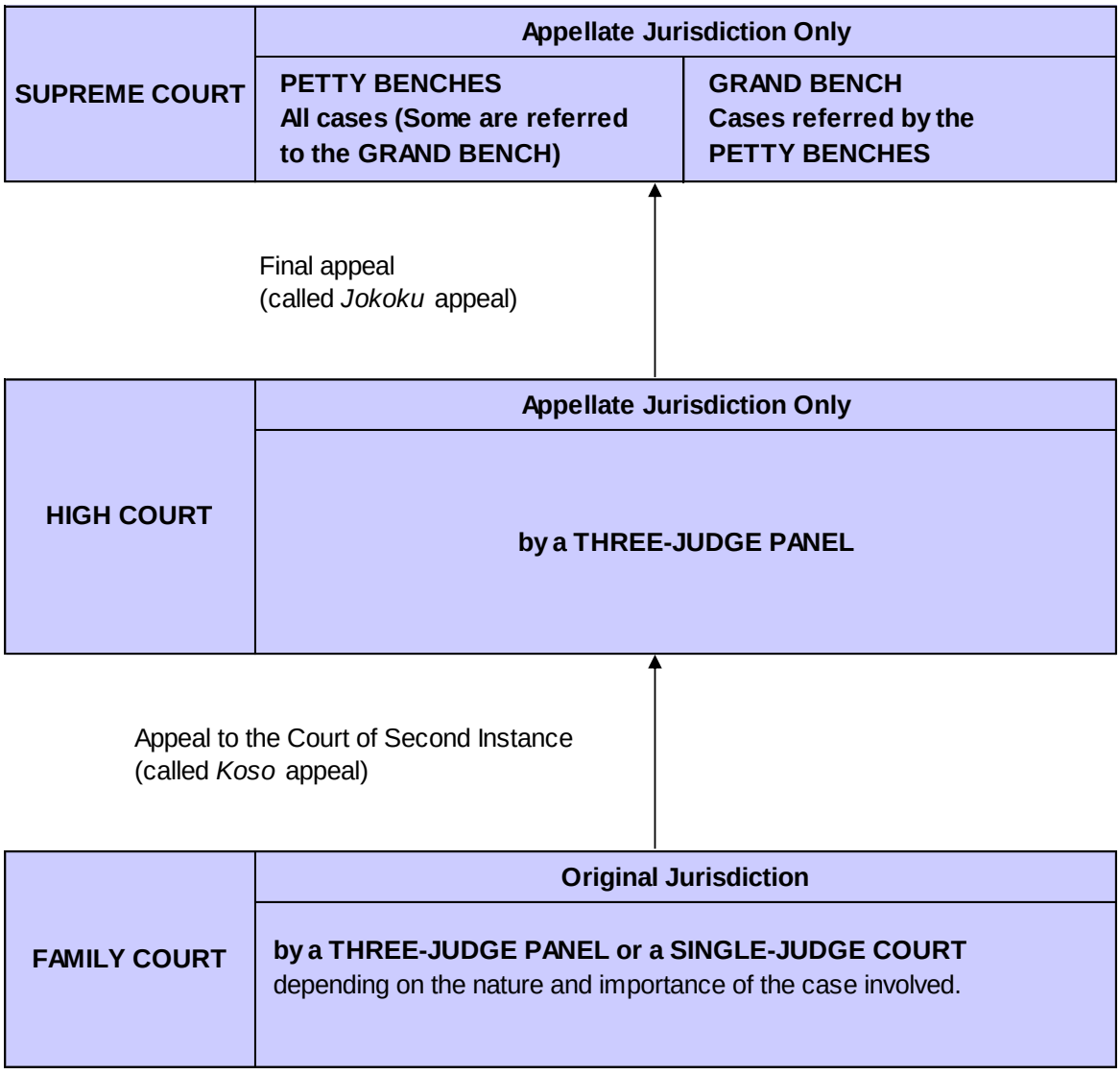
c. Judgment/settlement

The family court renders a judgment based on the proceedings of oral arguments, examination of evidence and so forth. If a party is dissatisfied with the contents of the judgment, he/she may seek proceedings at the high court by filing an appeal within two weeks from the date on which the party received service of the judgment. In litigation pertaining to an action for divorce, if the parties can

reach an agreement, the case can be resolved by settlement. In order to reach a settlement, the parties themselves must appear before court.

If, after a judgment becomes final and binding or a settlement is reached, the decided obligation, such as payment of money for distribution of property or child support, is not performed, the person entitled to receive the payment can utilize a procedure in which the family court recommends or orders performance of the obligation after investigating the circumstances, similar to the case of domestic relations cases (adjudication and conciliation). The fact that a procedure of compulsory execution can be used is also similar to the case of domestic relations cases.

FLOW OF PERSONAL STATUS CASES



Note: An appeal to the court of second instance may be filed against the final judgment of the family court, which is the court of first instance, when the appellant claims the fact-finding or legal determination by the family court to be unreasonable.
A final appeal may be filed against the final judgment of the high court, which is the court of second instance, when the appellant claims the judgment to be unconstitutional or otherwise in violation of law.

2. Trend of cases (statistics)

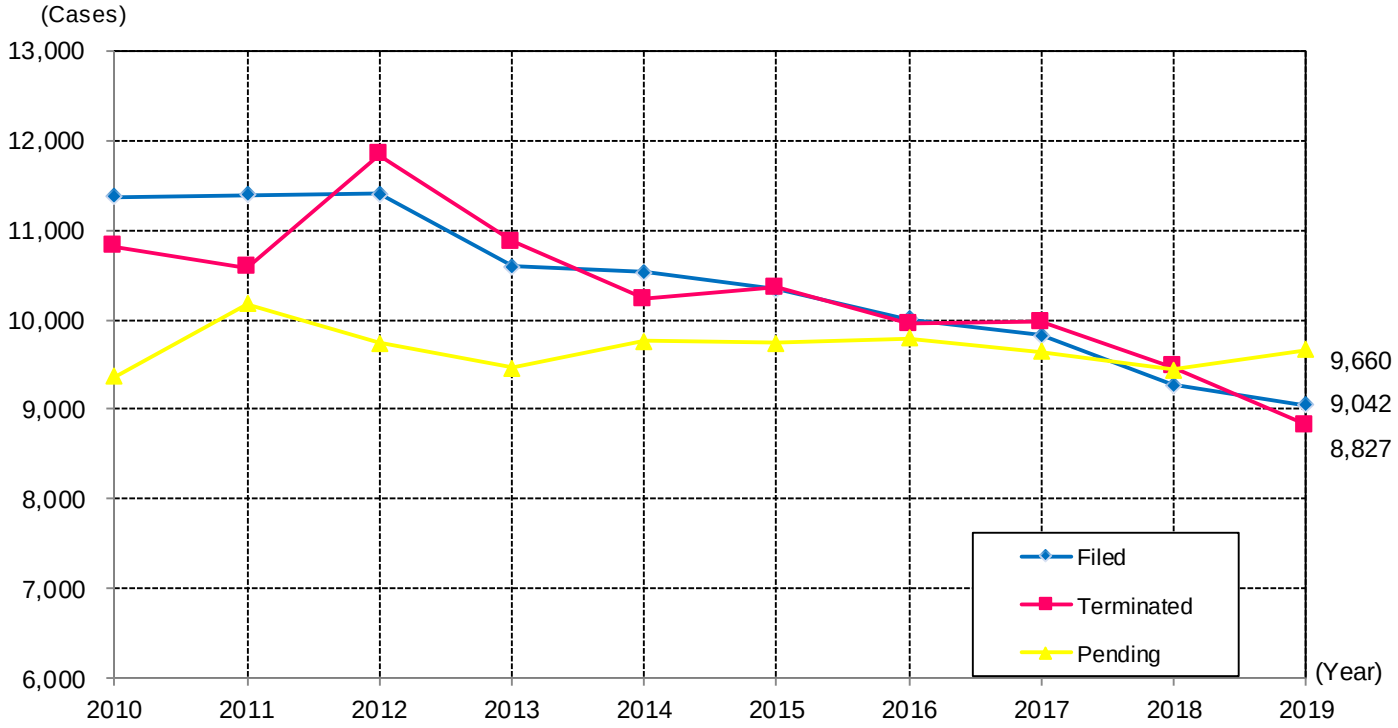
The number of filed personal status cases in 2019 decreased by about 2.5% over the previous year, and the number of pending cases increased by about 2.3% over the previous year.

Over the past ten years, the number of filed cases decreased by about 20.5%, whereas the number of pending cases increased by about 3.1%.

Table 4 Annual Comparison of Numbers of Personal Status Cases

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Filed	11,373	11,389	11,409	10,594	10,527	10,338	10,004	9,827	9,272	9,042
Terminated	10,816	10,583	11,840	10,873	10,231	10,362	9,949	9,973	9,474	8,827
Pending	9,370	10,176	9,745	9,466	9,762	9,738	9,793	9,647	9,445	9,660

Graph 4 Change of the Numbers of Personal Status Cases



C. Cases relating to the return of the child under the Act for Implementation of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

1. Cases seeking the return of the child

Upon Japan's acceptance of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Hague Convention), it is now possible to seek the return of the child to the state of his/her habitual residence in such situation as where a child under the age of 16 has been wrongfully removed from that state to Japan. Cases seeking such return of the child are under the jurisdiction of Tokyo Family Court and Osaka Family Court.

2. Procedures for cases seeking the return of the child

a. Petition

A case seeking the return of the child commences upon a petition by a party, which is to be filed with Tokyo Family Court or Osaka Family Court (depending on the child's domicile).

In order to file a petition, the petitioner shall prepare a written petition containing statements of specific matters including the object of the petition, the facts constituting the statutory elements for the return of the child, and evidence that proves such facts, and submit it to the family court. Upon filing, the petitioner needs to pay 1,200 yen as a fee per case and purchase postal stamps to be used for sending notices to and communications with the parties and relevant persons.

In order to ensure the return of the child, a party may file a petition for an order for the other party not to have the child depart from Japan (ne exeat order).

The family court decides on the period within which the respondent shall submit a written answer. In the written answer, the respondent shall clarify whether he/she admits or denies the contents of the written petition and state the facts constituting the statutory grounds for refusing the return, as well as evidence for these matters.

b. Proceedings

In the case seeking the return of the child, the judge in charge of the case expeditiously determines whether or not the child should be returned to the state of his/her habitual residence, based on the documents submitted by the parties, the results of the examination conducted by the family court investigating officer, and the results of the hearing conducted by the judge him/herself, etc.

Except where the petition is unlawful or it is obvious that the petition is groundless, the family court shall decide the day on which proceedings are to be concluded, giving a reasonable grace period, and also set the date to make a decision.

c. Final order, settlement, conciliation

A party who disagrees with the final order by the family court may request the case to be examined by the high court by filing an appeal within two weeks.

The final order becomes final and binding in cases such as when a period of two weeks has passed with no appeal being filed or the appeal is dismissed by the high court. The court which made the final order to order the return of the child may modify that order upon petition when it finds that it is no longer appropriate to maintain the order due to a change in the circumstances after the order became final and binding.

A case seeking the return of the child can be resolved by settlement or conciliation when the parties reach an agreement.

If the final order to order the return of the child became final and binding or the parties reached an agreement on settlement or conciliation but the child is not returned to the state of his/her habitual residence, the party seeking the return of the child may resort to the procedure through which the family court examines the status of the performance of the obligations and recommends the obligor to perform such obligations, or the procedure of compulsory execution.

3. Trend of cases (statistics)

The number of filed cases seeking the return of the child was nine cases in 2014 (after the implementation of the Act of the Hague Convention in April), 26 cases in 2015, 25 cases in 2016, 12 cases in 2017, 27 cases in 2018 and 16 cases in 2019. The number of settled cases was two in 2014, 28 in 2015, 25 in 2016, 15 in 2017, 25 in 2018 and 19 in 2019. The number of pending cases was seven in 2014, five in 2015, five in 2016, two in 2017, four in 2018 and one in 2019.

D. Juvenile cases

Juvenile cases are cases concerning juvenile delinquents, who have committed or are likely to commit a crime. They are handled differently from cases of crimes committed by adults, and are referred to as "juvenile protection cases."

In juvenile case proceedings of Japan, “Juvenile” means a person aged under 20.

1. Proceedings of juvenile case

a. Acceptance of cases

The family court handles cases concerning the following juveniles as juvenile cases:

(i) Juveniles who have committed a crime (juvenile offenders)

(ii) Juveniles who have violated laws and regulations of criminal nature, but are deemed not to have committed a crime under law since they were aged under 14 when they committed the act (juvenile offenders under 14)

(iii) Juveniles aged under 18, without a justifiable cause, do not follow the instructions of their custodian(s), stay away from home, frequent places of ill repute, and who, in light of their personality or environment, are likely to commit a crime or violate laws and regulations of criminal nature in the future (pre-delinquents)

Methods for a family court to accept a juvenile case include referral from a judicial police officer, public prosecutor, prefectural governor or child consultation center's director, notification by the general public or a chief probation officer, and report by a family court investigating officer.

b. Investigation procedure

When the family court accepts a juvenile case, generally, the judge orders a family court investigating officer to carry out an investigation.

The family court investigating officer investigates the juvenile's personality traits, daily behavior, growth history and environment, while using his/her expert knowledge in behavioral science, such as psychology, sociology and pedagogy.

The family court investigating officer carries out the investigation by summoning the juvenile, his/her custodian(s), and other involved parties to the family court and interviewing them, conducting psychological tests, and sometimes visiting the juvenile's home or school and confirming the circumstances. There are also cases where the juvenile is encouraged to reflect on his/her conduct by having the juvenile participate in community service activities, such as nursing care at nursing homes for the elderly or community cleanup, or take a class where he/she can directly hear the

thoughts of victims of other cases. Sometimes, the family court investigating officer interviews the victims in order to understand the actual conditions of the damage in detail.

When carrying out the investigation, consideration is given to the juvenile's emotional stability and sufficient attention is paid to maintaining the confidentiality of the interested persons.

When the family court considers it to be desirable to investigate the physical and mental conditions of the juvenile in more detail so as to appropriately decide on the measure for the juvenile, it may commit the juvenile to a juvenile classification home that has scientific inspection and assessment facilities.

The period for which the juvenile can be committed to a juvenile classification home is usually four weeks at maximum, but this can be extended to eight weeks at maximum for cases that require examination of evidence (excluding minor cases).

The family court investigating officer summarizes the results of the investigation and prepares a report, and submits it to the judge together with other related documents such as results of inquiries made to related organizations.

c. Hearing proceedings

The judge determines whether or not it is appropriate to open a hearing for a juvenile based on the results of the investigation, and gives a ruling for commencement of hearing and summons the juvenile and the parents thereof where the judge finds a hearing to be necessary. If the court determines that the educational approach made at the time of the investigation by the family court investigating officer is sufficient and there is no need to give guidance by opening a hearing because there is no dispute over the facts, the case is minor, and the juvenile is very unlikely to repeat delinquency, the court may make a ruling of non-commencement of hearing and terminate the procedure.

People who attend a hearing are the summoned juvenile and his/her custodian(s), and sometimes the juvenile's attendant (a lawyer in many cases), school teacher, employer, and volunteer probation officer in charge. In certain serious cases where the existence or non-existence of the facts of the delinquency is disputed, the family court may, at its discretion, have a public prosecutor attend the hearing. However, as it is not an open procedure like criminal proceedings, the general public is not permitted to observe the hearing.

A hearing is conducted cordially and amicably, but at the same time with some sternness so as to encourage introspection on the part of the juvenile delinquent about his/her own delinquency.

In the investigation and hearing, guidance is given to the juvenile for encouraging reflection and preventing repeated delinquency, and sometimes advice or guidance necessary for the rehabilitation of the juvenile is also given to his/her custodian(s), such as encouraging the custodian(s) to be



Juvenile case hearing
1 Judge
2 Court clerk
3 Family court investigating officer
4 Court secretary
5 Juvenile
6 Custodians
7 Attendant (mostly a private attorney)

conscious of his/her responsibility for the upbringing of the juvenile.

d. Ruling of a measure

The judge renders a ruling to impose a measure for the juvenile based on the results of the investigation and hearing. The protective measures include probation where a probation officer or a volunteer probation officer provides guidance and supervision or provides correctional guidance and assistance to the juvenile, and referral to a juvenile training school or a children's self-reliance support facility where the juvenile is committed to a specific facility for some time and is given guidance so as to be able to acquire sound thinking and an orderly lifestyle.

When there is no need for a protective measure, the judge may dismiss the case after the hearing, after he/she gives guidance such as admonition so that the juvenile will reflect on and never repeat the delinquency.

Also, if the judge finds it appropriate to punish a juvenile, who is aged 14 or over and who has committed a specific crime, through criminal proceedings in light of the history of delinquency, physical and mental maturity, personality traits and contents of the case, the judge may refer the case to a public prosecutor. Furthermore, when a juvenile aged 16 or over commits an intentional criminal act that caused death to the victim, and a juvenile aged 18 or over commits a crime which is punishable by the death penalty, life imprisonment, life imprisonment without work, or a sentence of imprisonment or imprisonment without work whose minimum term is one year or more, the judge must refer the case to a public prosecutor, in principle. In these cases, the public prosecutor must prosecute the juvenile with a district court or summary court, except in certain exceptional cases.



Other than such final measures, a measure called tentative probation may be taken as an intermediate measure. In this case, a final measure as explained above will be taken after observing the results of the tentative probation.

Among the final measures, the juvenile or the legal representative or attendant of the juvenile may lodge an appeal against a ruling imposing a protective measure within two weeks for a reason of substantial inappropriateness of the measure, etc., and seek proceedings at the high court.

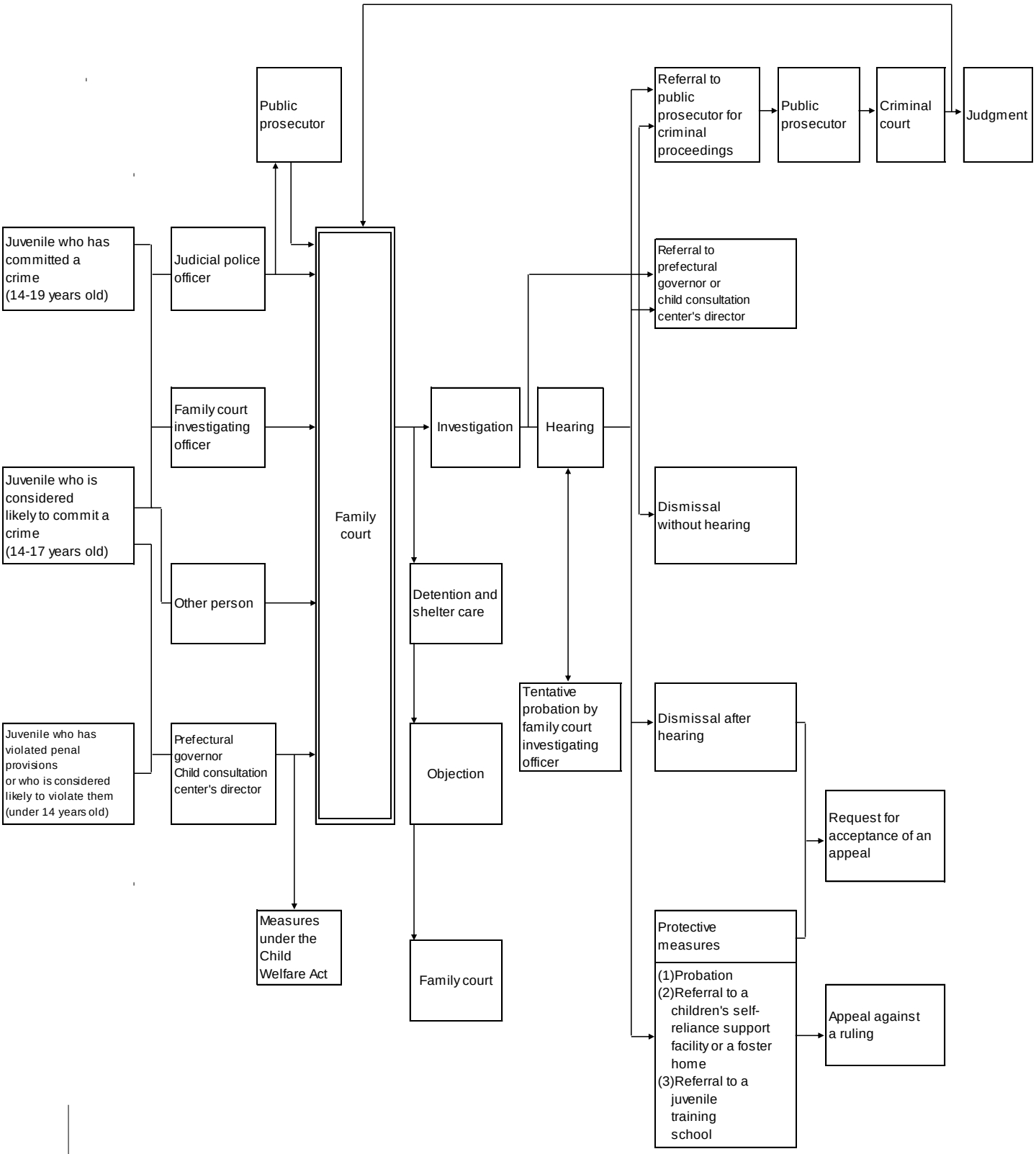
e. Systems for victims

In juvenile cases handled by the family court, it is essential to give consideration to the victims. In order to enhance the consideration for the victims, systems such as inspection and copying of the case record, hearing of opinions, notification of the hearing results and explanation of the situation of the hearing have been introduced in the hearings of juveniles. Also, victims of certain serious cases are sometimes allowed to observe the hearing.

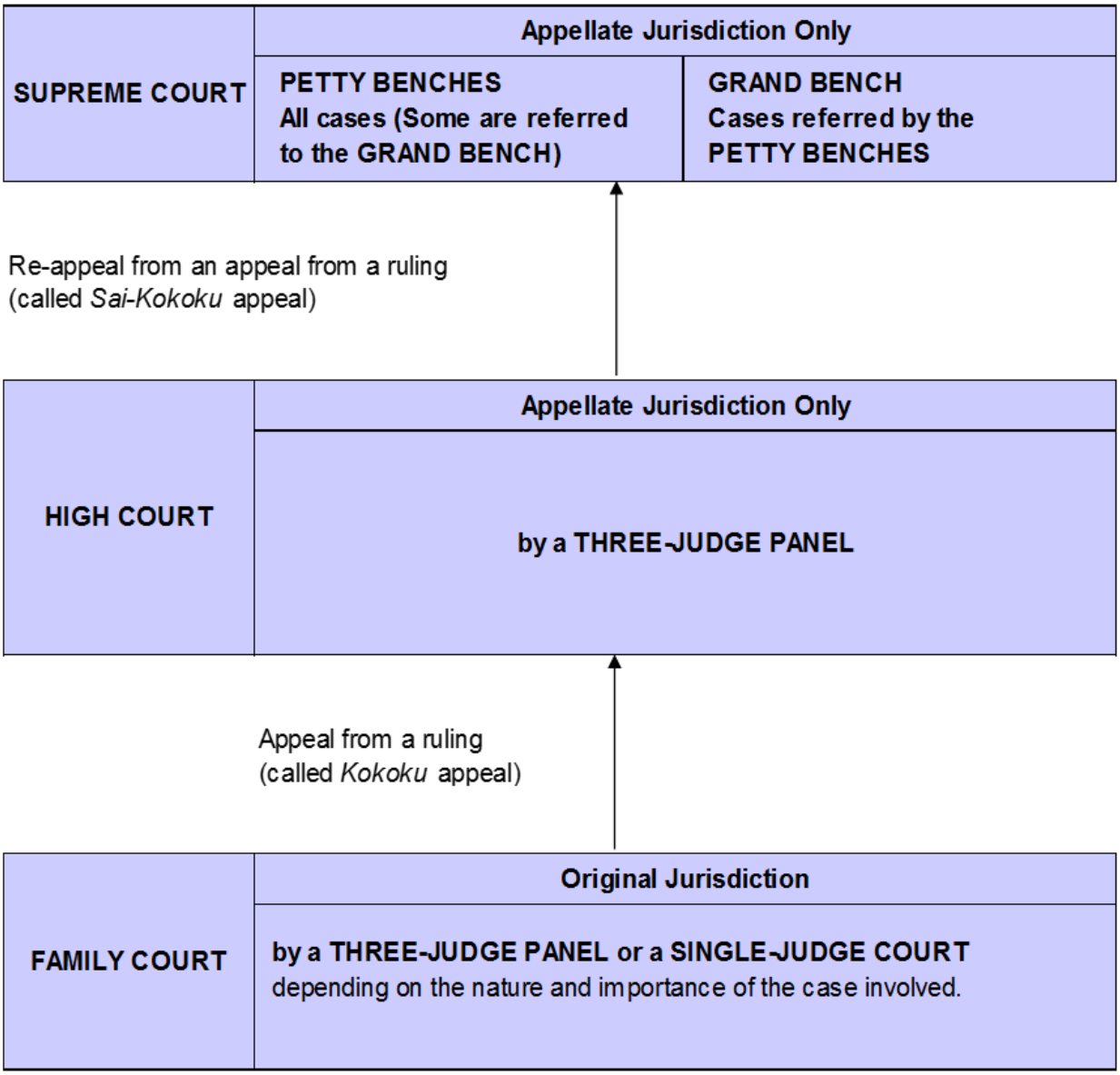
In order to use any of these systems, the victim needs to make a request to use it. The request form is available at the counter of the family court.

Meanwhile, in order to reflect the voices of victims in the investigation and hearing, there are cases where victims are asked to explain the actual circumstances and their feelings in writing or in an interview with a family court investigating officer.

Juvenile Case Proceedings



FLOW OF JUVENILE CASES



Note: A re-appeal may be filed to the Supreme Court within two weeks from an appeal from the ruling of the high court, but only on the ground that the ruling is in violation of the provisions of the Constitution, that the ruling is erroneous in its interpretation of the Constitution, or that the ruling contains a judgment that is inconsistent with the judicial precedents rendered by the Supreme Court or by high courts in the appellate instance.

2. Trend of cases (statistics)

The number of juveniles filed in juvenile cases has been decreasing since 2002, marking 56,000 in 2019 (about a 13% decrease from the previous year).

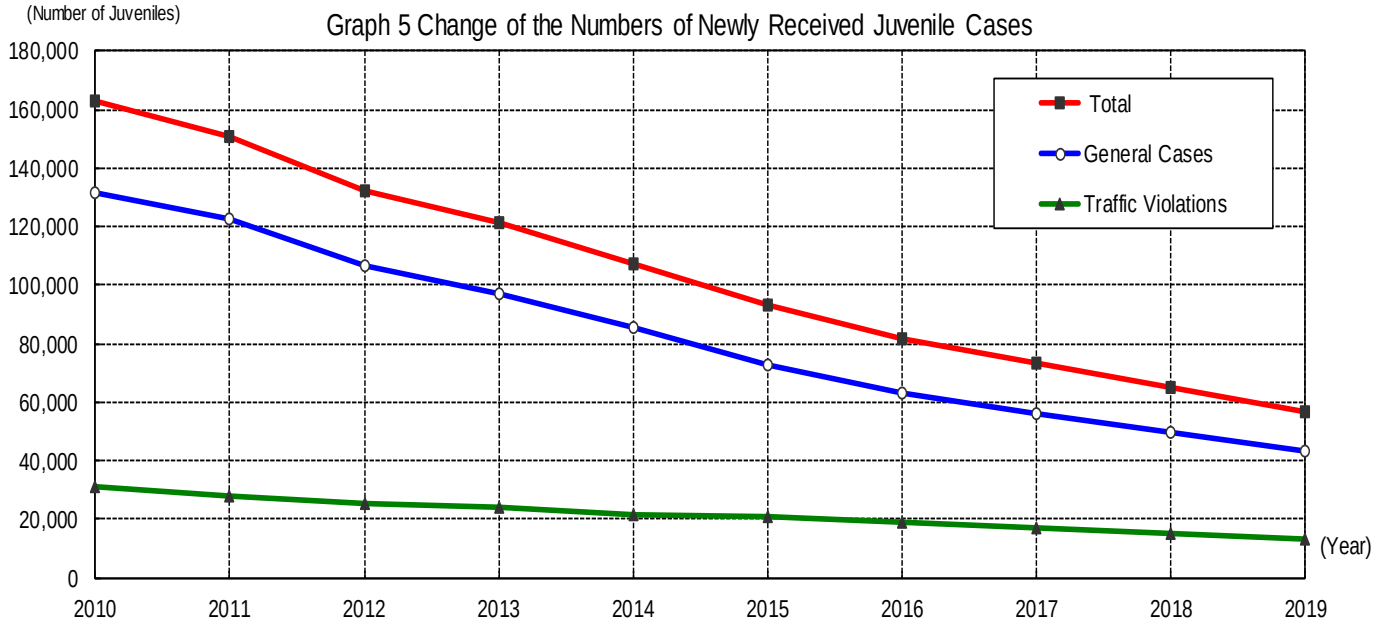
Over the last decade, the number of juveniles committing vicious crimes (homicide, arson, robbery and forcible sexual intercourse) has also been on a declining trend, marking 406 in 2019 (down by about 11.9% over the previous year).

The decline in the number of filed juveniles cases is considered to be partly attributable to the decrease in the juvenile population. In the meantime, there are many serious cases that arouse social concerns and cases of juveniles who have deep-rooted problems in their nature and in their home or other environment. Accordingly, it is necessary to properly deal with complex and diverse cases.

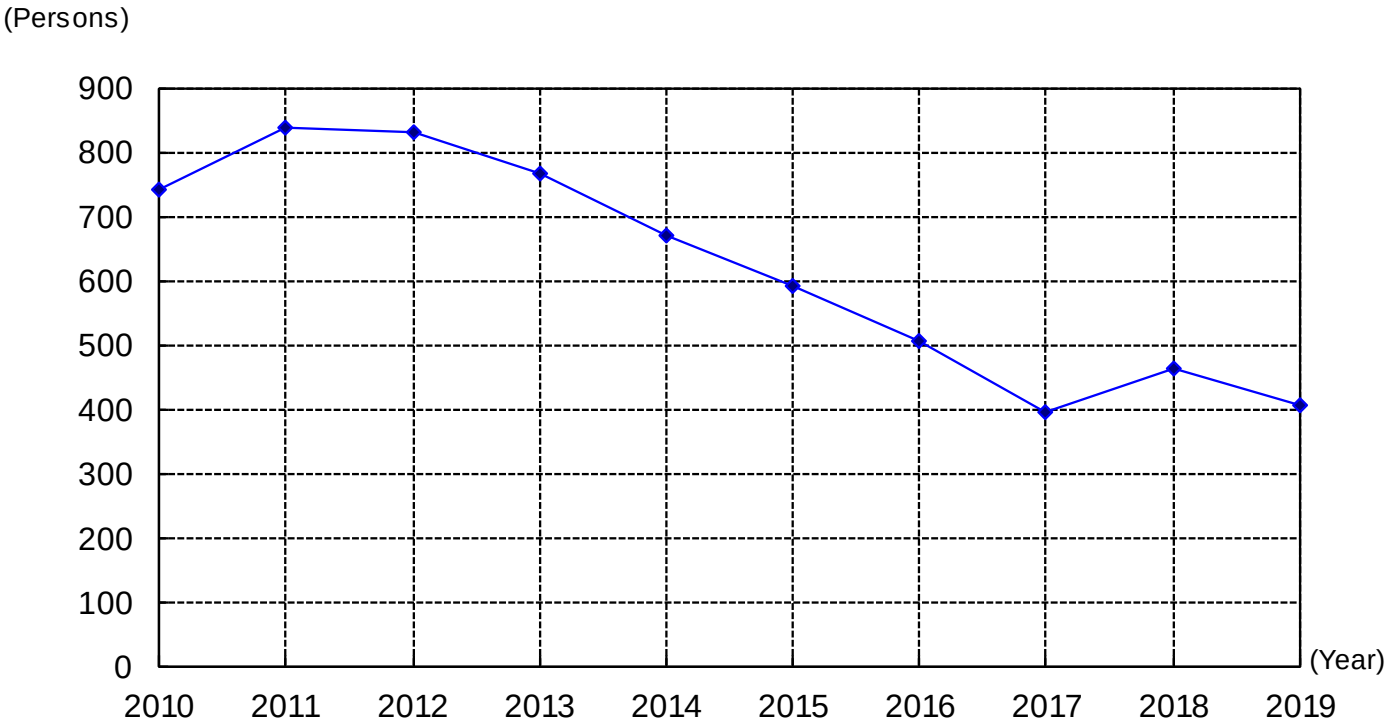
Table 5 Annual Comparison of Numbers of Newly Received Juvenile Cases

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	163,023	150,844	132,142	121,284	107,479	93,395	81,998	73,353	64,869	56,408
General Cases	131,900	122,879	106,598	97,355	85,840	72,701	62,888	56,386	49,599	43,066
Traffic Violations	31,123	27,965	25,544	23,929	21,639	20,694	19,110	16,967	15,270	13,342

Graph 5 Change of the Numbers of Newly Received Juvenile Cases

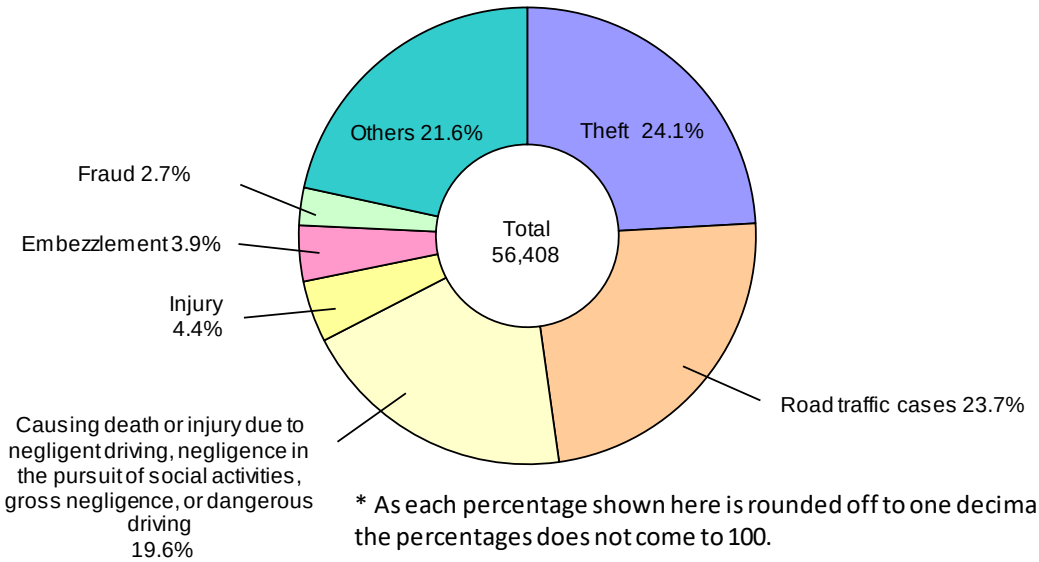


Graph 6 Change of the Numbers of Juveniles Filed for Vicious Crimes



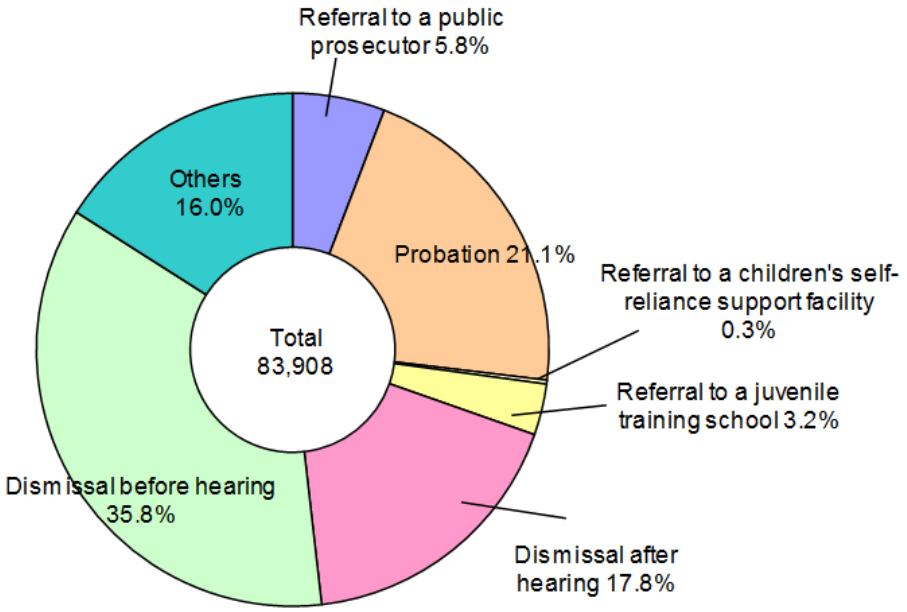
(Note) "Vicious crimes" collectively refers to robbery, homicide, arson and forcible sexual intercourse.

Graph 7 Percentage Distribution of Filed Juvenile Cases by Type of Delinquency (2019)



* As each percentage shown here is rounded off to one decimal place, adding up the percentages does not come to 100.

Graph 8 Percentage Distribution of Juvenile Cases by Classification of Final Disposition (2019)



Supreme Court of Japan