

Case study: Assistance to foreign DV victims in Japan

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1 Referral to the center

- Ms. A has been physically abused by her husband. She has taken a refuge at her Philipina friend's house. Ms. A consulted with the Police and the Police referred her to the center for gender equality.
- Ms. A's Philipina friend accompanied her to the center as an interpreter and a supporter.

2 Family background

- Ms. A is in her 30s and comes from the Philippines. She came to Japan seven years ago. At that time, her travel arrangements has been made by a broker.
- Ms. A lives in a family of 5 which includes her husband who works in a major manufacturing factory, a boy, a girl and her husband's younger brother who works as a part-time worker. Since the boy has a heart disease and mental disability, Ms. A stayed at home to take care of her children and concentrate on the house work.

3 Situation of domestic violence

- Ms. A and her husband have been quarreling about the behaviour of her husband's younger brother. The younger brother often brought his friends back home late at night and made a loud noise which disturbed the children. On the following day after another disturbing night, Ms. A begged her husband to talk to the younger brother to change his behaviour. But the husband ignored her plea and never said anything to him. Instead he started beating her.
- Ms. A's husband got annoyed and hit Ms. A repeatedly. When Ms. A tried to resist, the husband kicked her thighs very hard with his knees repeatedly.

4 Assistance procedure

- Ms. A did not want to leave the city where she was living, since the special school for children with disability where her son went to was located there. Therefore, the Center's assistance would be based on this request.
- The first step was to secure the safe environment to study for her children, since it was likely that the husband will come looking for them in the school to find out where they escaped to. The Center provided information on the following available assistance. Upon request, the staff accompanied the client.

5 How to rebuild life after separating with her husband

1. Safety measures
2. Rebuilding life
3. Proceed with divorce

(1) Safety measures

- ① Reporting to the police → already reported before coming to the center
- ② Filing for six months restraint order
- ③ Emergency relocation to a safe place

Safety measures (Part 2)

Filing for protection order

- Petition to the provincial court for protection order for the perpetrator to stay away from the client for 6 months (restraining order).

Coordinator will provide assistance as follows:

- Fill in an application form for a protection order
 - Accompany the client to the court to file petition & interviews
(On the day of filing the protection order, the judge will interview the applicant. Upon request, the coordinator will accompany the client to provide moral support)
- Once the petition is accepted, the Court will issue a restraining order to the perpetrator. The Police will give a harsh warning to the perpetrator and an advice on how to protect one's self to the applicant.

Safety measures (Part 2)

Emergency relocation

- Assistance for emergency relocation

After filing the petition, its copy is delivered to the husband. The protection order will be issued usually within 7 days after filing the petition, and this 7 days is the most dangerous period for the client as the husband will be angry to receive such notice. Therefore the client should be relocated to a safe place during this period.

For the emergency relocation, the client will be referred to a public shelter for DV victims. The coordinator will make arrangements for the emergency relocation.

Division for family and children matters → Women's Consultation Office in Fukuoka Prefecture → Transferred to a facility for mothers & children

(2) Rebuilding life

- After the emergency relocation, the first step would be to start rebuilding their lives in safety. The coordinator will provide information for the client to receive necessary information and accompany the client upon request. The coordinator will utilise the standard format 'Standardised form for DV victims (to provide one-stop service)
- ① Looking for accommodation → arrange for furniture/ household items → transfer → settle in
 - Accommodation – rent a private accommodation
 - Household items – go back to the old house to retrieve items
 - Transfer of furniture – seek assistance from removal companies familiar with DV issue
- ② Secure living expenses – apply for a public welfare fund (Public assistance division under the local government)
- ③ Change of bank account for receiving child allowance (Family and children division)
- ④ Back to school: commuting & payment for necessary expenses (Academic affairs division, School health division)

Stand

times (to e)

番号		ワンストップ化のためのDV被害者相談共通シート <small>※必要事項のみ記入</small>		
		受付 年 月 日 / 初回受付部署		受付者
相談者	氏 名		生 年 月 日	連絡先・TEL
			年 月 日 (歳)	
	住民票所在地	(連絡先)		
	居 所	(連絡先)		
	勤務先/学校	(連絡先)		職種/学年
家族構成	続柄	氏 名	生年月日	勤務先・学校
	相手		年 月 日 (歳)	(職種)
			年 月 日 (歳)	
			年 月 日 (歳)	
			年 月 日 (歳)	
これまでの相談機関	警察署・家庭子ども相談課・市民相談課 男女平等推進センター・県保健福祉環境事務所 その他 ()			
相談概要			家族関係図	
			◎ — □	
<p>以上の事情により (私は久留米市民として住民登録はできませんが) 久留米市内で住居を定めて生活していますので、支援をお願いします。</p> <p style="text-align: center;">氏名 _____ 印 _____</p>				
証明欄	<p>上記のとおり、相談を受けたことを証明します。</p> <p style="text-align: center;">年 月 日</p> <p style="text-align: center;">所属長・印 _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">久留米市男女平等推進センター 所長 (担当) _____</p>			
相談ニーズ			対 応 (詳細は別紙)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 母子生活支援施設入所 <input type="checkbox"/> 緊急一時保護 <input type="checkbox"/> 市営住宅申込 <input type="checkbox"/> 国保加入 <input type="checkbox"/> 転・就園 <input type="checkbox"/> 保育料 <input type="checkbox"/> 就園奨励金申請 <input type="checkbox"/> 所得証明 <input type="checkbox"/> 戸籍謄本発行 <input type="checkbox"/> 住民票発行 <input type="checkbox"/> 外国人登録 <input type="checkbox"/> 転校・就学 <input type="checkbox"/> 校費免除 <input type="checkbox"/> 母子健康手帳発行 <input type="checkbox"/> 乳幼児医療証発行 <input type="checkbox"/> 母子医療証発行 <input type="checkbox"/> 予防接種 <input type="checkbox"/> 老人福祉施設入所 <input type="checkbox"/> 障害者福祉制度利用 <input type="checkbox"/> 生活保護申請 <input type="checkbox"/> 出生証明 <input type="checkbox"/> 婚姻・離婚届の不受理届 <input type="checkbox"/> 印鑑登録 <input type="checkbox"/> 住民基本台帳の閲覧・住民票等交付制限申請 <input type="checkbox"/> その他 () _____ <input type="checkbox"/> その他 () _____			家庭子ども相談課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ 市民課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ 児童保育課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ 医療・年金課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ 健康保険課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ 学務課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ 住宅課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ 保護課 月 日受付 (担当) _____ _____ 月 日受付 (担当) _____ _____ 月 日受付 (担当) _____ _____ 月 日受付 (担当) _____	
<p>※ このシートは、最後は家庭子ども相談課または男女平等推進センターで保管します。</p>				

(3) Divorce procedure

- In most cases, the coordinator advises the client to hire a lawyer for filing divorce as it is difficult to proceed with the legal procedure alone.
 - Assist the client to seek a lawyer
 - Accompany the client to the kick off meeting with the lawyer
 - ⇒ Sign a contract with the lawyer. After the kick off meeting, the lawyer will handle all matters.
 - ⇒ Application for divorce arbitration
 - ⇒ Husband refuses arbitration. The client and husband continues to live in separation.
- ✘ Even after the matter is handed over to the lawyer, the coordinator still keeps in touch with the client and lawyer and provide necessary consultation.

Thank you for your attention!

ありがとうございました

Muneko ISHIMOTO