

JAPAN

CHILD ABUSE / ONLINE ABUSE / DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes 'all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. (World Health Organization, 2005)

- Under Japan's Child Welfare Law and Child Abuse Prevention Law, all children can receive protection and welfare regardless of their nationality or origin, as long as they are within Japan's jurisdiction. This includes: children who have no nationality in any country. children whose nationality is not clear.

Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164 of 1947) Last Version : Act No. 73 of 2007

<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/11/en>

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Act No. 82 of 2000)

<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/4033/en>

DEFINITION OF A CHILD

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human/child/report2/definition.html>

- A Guide for When and Where to Call in a Child Abuse Case in Japan

<https://lightson-children.com/en/social-care/report-child-abuse/>

LIGHTS CHILDREN

JUVENILE ACT

<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/3844/en>

THE SOCIAL COSTS OF CHILD ABUSE IN JAPAN

AUTHOR: CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW,2014

Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children

<https://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/en/laws/view/100/en>

JAPANESE LAW TRANSLATION

NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS FOR CHILDREN

Policies supporting children and child-rearing

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/policies_kishida/childsupport.html

ACT ON PUNISHMENT OF ACTIVITIES RELATING TO CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

AUTHOR: GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

CHILD-RELATED POLICIES IN JAPAN

AUTHOR: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF POPULATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY RESEARCH,2003

Policies supporting children and child-rearing

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/policies_kishida/childsupport.html

JAPANS LABOUR LAWS AND EMPLOYMENT

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.biposervice.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BIPO-TIMES-July-EN.pdf>

BIPO TIMES

Japan's Family-Care Leave Act: 2025 Amendments & Employer Checklist

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AUTHOR **Japanese Attorney at Law - Bengoshi L.L.**

TL;DR: *Japan's 2024 amendments to the Childcare and Family Care Leave Act (effective April 2025-26) force employers to offer flexible work options up to preschool age, broaden care leave, expand overtime exemptions, and impose new disclosure and consultation duties. Early policy updates and training are essential.*

- As of April 1, 2022, the minimum legal age for marriage in Japan is **18** for both men and women.

CHILD LABOUR / CHILD TRAFFICKING - FOR LABOUR / FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The International Labor Organization states that not all work done by children should be classified as child labor that is to be targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as something positive. This includes activities such as *helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and*

during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experiences, and help prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

The term "*child labor*" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
- interferes with their schooling by:
 - depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 - obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 - Requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Legal Age Limit for Employment in Japan

- In Japan, the minimum age for employment is generally 15 years old, specifically after the completion of compulsory education. Exceptions exist for light work (13+) or in the entertainment industry with special permits. Individuals under 18 have restricted hours, no night work, and limited hazardous employment.

Children under the age of 18 are prohibited from performing hazardous work in Japan. Education is free and compulsory until the age of 15. The law is well enforced, and child labour does not generally occur.

[INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED CORE LABOUR STANDARDS IN JAPAN](#)

AUTHOR: INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC),2007

ADOPTION

Child Adoption is a process through which an adopted child is permanently separated from his biological parents – Becomes the legitimate child of his / her adoptive parents – With all the rights and privileges and responsibilities that are attached to such a relationship.

CHILD ADOPTION

AUTHOR: OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE,2014

ADOPTION IN JAPAN

AUTHOR: LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE,2014

CHILDREN AND MEDIA

ACT ON PUNISHMENT OF ACTIVITIES RELATING TO CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHILD PROTECTION

AUTHOR: GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

In Japan, juveniles are defined as individuals under 20 years old who have not yet reached the age of majority, as per the Civil Code of Japan. Juveniles are treated differently from adults under the law and are subject to different rules and regulations when it comes to criminal proceedings. Juvenile cases are heard by a special court called the Family Court, which focuses on issues related to children and families.

- In Japan, individuals under 14 are exempt from criminal liability (Penal Code, Article 41). For juveniles aged 14–19, the **Juvenile Law of Japan** emphasises rehabilitation,

CURRENT JUVENILE POLICE POLICY IN JAPAN EDITED BY POLICE POLICY RESEARCH CENTER NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY OF JAPAN MAR. 2006 RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AUTHOR: RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR SAFE SOCIETY,2006

Juvenile Justice in Japan: How Does the System Address Cases Involving Minors, and What is the Role of Legal Counsel?

<https://japancompliance.com/juvenile-justice-in-japan-how-does-the-system-address-cases-involving-minors-and-what-is-the-role-of-legal-counsel/>

Author: Japanese Attorney at Law - Bengoshi L.L.

JUVENILE LAWS IN JAPAN

<https://www.lawgratis.com/blog-detail/juvenile-laws-at-japan>

LAW GRATIS

Statement on the Amendment to the Juvenile Act Applied to 18- and 19-Year-Olds

<https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/en/document/statements/210521.html>

JAPAN FEDERATION OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS

EDUCATION

Ministry of Education Sports and Culture

The Japanese Constitution sets forth the basic national educational policy, as follows: "All people shall have the right to receive an equal education corresponding to their ability, as provided by law. The people shall be obligated to have all boys and girls under their protection receive ordinary education as provided for by law. Such compulsory education shall be free."(Article 26)

Textbooks will be provided by the State free of cost, even to those students studying in private schools

Compulsory education in Japan lasts from the 1st grade of Elementary School to the 3rd year of Junior High School (9 years in total). compulsory education.

EDUCATION IN JAPAN

AUTHOR: UNESCO, 2011

EDUCATION

AUTHOR: FACT SHEET OF JAPAN

COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN JAPAN

<https://www.naro.go.jp/english/global-initiatives/guidelines/knowledge/school.html>

NARO – NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH ORGANISATION

BASIC ACT ON EDUCATION

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/lawandplan/title01/detail01/1373798.htm>

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – JAPAN

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/elsec/title02/detail02/1373858.htm>

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - JAPAN