

# An Introduction to the Child Support System

## Purpose

Child support is provided to those raising children. In addition to contributing to a family's financial security, this allowance aims to support the healthy growth of children who are to become the leaders of the next generation.

## Eligibility

Child support is offered to people who are raising children in Japan, and is provided until a child graduates from Junior High School or the 31st of March following a child's 15th birthday.

## Amount

Age of child		Allowance (per child per month)
Under 3 years of age		15,000 yen (flat rate)
From 3 years of age until completion of Elementary School	1st and 2nd child	10,000 yen
	3rd child and over*	15,000 yen
Junior High School age		10,000 yen (flat rate)
Households above the income limit threshold and below the cap income limit threshold (special benefits)		5,000 yen (flat rate) regardless of age

\*The term '3rd child and over' refers to the 3rd or subsequent child of the total number of children being raised that are yet to graduate from High School or have not reached the 31st of March following their 18th birthday.

## Income Threshold

No. of Dependents	① Income Limit		② Cap Income Limit	
	Net Income	Estimated Gross Income	Net Income	Estimated Gross Income
0	6,220,000	8,333,000	8,580,000	10,710,000
1	6,600,000	8,756,000	8,960,000	11,240,000
2	6,980,000	9,178,000	9,340,000	11,620,000
3	7,360,000	9,600,000	9,720,000	12,000,000
4	7,744,000	10,020,000	10,100,000	12,380,000
5	8,120,000	10,400,000	10,480,000	12,760,000

※Estimated gross income is calculated based solely on employment income.

※Ensure you file your income tax return before applying for child support allowance.

※Starting October 2022, the child support allowance will **not** be given to households which exceed the cap income limits listed in column ②.

## Payment

As a general rule the allowance is paid every 4 months in February, June, and October.

## Application Procedure

### ◇ First time applicants and required materials

You can apply at the Child Affairs Division consultation window (located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall) after giving birth or moving to Okaya. Please bring all necessary materials with you. Government employees apply at their place of work.

As a general rule the allowance is paid the month following your application, so please make sure to apply as soon as possible.

※ The application should be made by the main breadwinner of the family.

### Required Documents/Items:

- Something which shows the bank account number of the applicant (bank book or cash card).
- Something which shows the applicant's personal identification number (My Number card or Notification Card).
- Other required items the applicant has been asked to bring.

### ◇ Special Exceptions

As a general rule the allowance will be provided starting the next monthly payment (June, October, February) once an application has been submitted. In certain circumstances, however, it may be difficult to apply for child support for that same month (i.e., for families that move to Okaya or for children who are born at the end of the month). In these situations, provided the application is made within 15 days of moving or the birth of a baby, the allowance can be provided from the month of application.

### ◇ Reminders for Applying

Other documents may be required to fully submit an application in certain situations. If any of the following situations apply to you, please contact the Child Affairs Division to find out what additional items are required.

- If, as a result of work, you reside in Japan but live apart from the child you are receiving child support for.
- If your child is studying abroad (certain conditions apply).
- If the child in concern is being looked after by someone other than the mother or father.
- If you are in the process of filing for divorce and are living apart from your spouse, or if there are any other extraordinary circumstances.

### Reporting Changes

The following must be reported:

- Moving to another town or city
- Becoming a government employee (*kōmu-in*)
- Situations resulting in loss of custody and care of one's child / children
- A change in the number of children
- Change of name or address

### Annual Update

An annual update form (*genkyo todoke*) is not required in principle if the child's/children's' upbringing situation remains unchanged from the previous year.

※ It is necessary for those in certain situations (such as divorce) to submit an update form each year in June.

### Other Remarks

- Nursery school fees and school lunch fees can be deducted from child support allowance upon request.
- If a child is in foster care, the child support is paid in principle to the foster parents or facility.
- If you would like to donate the child support you are entitled to rather than accept it, please inform the Child Affairs Division.

### Child Affairs Division

2F Okaya City Hall  
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