

The Act for Adjustment of Domestic Relations following the current amendments provided for possible preliminary injunctions and basic matters relating to other procedures, while leaving concrete details to the Supreme Court Rules. Hence, the Rules of Domestic Relations Adjustment were also amended.

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## 4. Criminal Law and Procedure

**Act Providing for Payment of Benefits to Victims of Criminals.**  
(Promulgated on May 1, 1980. Ch. 36.)

Increasingly many countries including Japan have adopted a legal relief system for the injured party in a crime.

Article 1 of the new act prescribes the purpose of the law as follows:

“This act provides for the payment of benefits by the state to the bereaved family of those who have met with untimely death or to those who have suffered heavy injuries due to a criminal act injuring a man’s life or body.”

Since there have been several “phantom killer” cases in recent years, the application of this act is expected to increase. During the six-month period ending June 30 since the act was put into force on Jan. 1, 1981, there were only about 30 cases calling for such application. Many problems have been raised with regard to the amount of benefits, application of the act, etc.

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