

Domestic violence FAQs

(Gifu Prefectural Children and Families Division)

Q1 Who can I talk to if my spouse or partner is being violent towards me?

A1

Talk to your nearest police station, women's advice center or the welfare division at your local prefectural office. You can also talk to your municipality's welfare division.

Women's Advice Center:

Phone consultation: 058-213-2131

Available everyday 9am to midnight

*On weekdays from 6pm to midnight, and all day on weekends, national holidays and during the New Year's period, only consultations related to domestic violence are available.

In person consultations: Monday to Friday 9am-5pm (except during the New Year's period).

Q2 What can I do to prevent the abuser from approaching me?

A2

When the victim fears that they may be seriously harmed or that their life is at risk due to the violence of their spouse or partner, the victim can petition the district court to issue a protection order against the abuser.

Guidance on how to file a petition for a protection order is available at women's advice centers, prefectural office welfare divisions and local municipal welfare divisions. The different types of protection orders are listed below.

- ① Restraining order for the victim (prevents the victim from being followed; lasts six months).
- ② Order prohibiting contact by telephone, email, etc. (prevents the victim receiving constant phone calls, emails, etc.; lasts six months).
- ③ Restraining order for children or relatives (prevents the victim's cohabiting children or relatives, etc. from being followed; lasts 6 months).
- ④ Departure order (forces the perpetrator to leave the main place of residence shared with the victim; lasts 2 months).

Q3 What should I do if I am unable to discuss divorce with my spouse?

A3

First, consult with a women's advice center, your local municipal welfare division or an employment and independence support center for single parent households. They can provide free legal advice and other information. If you are a foreign national and your status of residence is "spouse of a Japanese national", upon divorce you will no longer be eligible for this status, so a change in status of residence is required.

Q4 Are there privacy safeguards?

A4

Information divulged when getting support and having consultations, such as the victim's address, will not be disclosed to any third party. The victim's privacy will be protected.