

★★ In order to protect yourself, please keep the following system in mind. ★★

A Request Not To Accept The Divorce Notification

“Do you know what it is?”

★ When you are forced into getting a divorce against your will ★

The number of marriage between a Japanese national and a foreign resident, so-called “international marriage”, has been increasing. However, after the honeymoon period was over, there is a possibility that you will be forced into getting a divorce against your will. There is a system to prevent such tragedy. Please keep it in mind.

Divorce in Japan is easy if you and your spouse agree all the terms of the divorce. All you have to do is fill out a divorce notification. Both spouses sign and seal a divorce notification, and file it with the municipal office. That is all. However, if both spouses do not agree to divorce, you cannot use this method to divorce.

Divorce by mediation in a family court, Divorce by decision of the family court, Divorce by judgment of a district court. The procedure becomes progressively more complex. Also, it takes a lot of time.

There is no problem, if both spouses agree all the terms of the divorce. However, if both spouses do not agree to divorce, you might be forced into getting a divorce against your will. You might be forced to sign a divorce notification, or your spouse might fake your signature and file the divorce notification with the municipal office without your permission. Even if both spouses do not agree to divorce, submission of a signed notification to municipal office can result in divorce.

Divorce is a big deal. Especially for those who have Japanese spouse visa, it's going to be life-or-death matter. Divorce means that the status will be revoked. As a result, you may not be able to stay in Japan legally. It is very serious issue.

It depends on each person's situation.

If you have only been married a short time and you do not have a child, it is difficult to change to another type of visa to continue staying in Japan.

Therefore if you do not agree to divorce, never sign and seal a divorce notification. You should tell your spouse that you do not agree to divorce without hesitating.

On the other hand, you should take the procedure for **a request not to accept the divorce notification** to the municipal office to prevent your spouse from filing a divorce notification without your permission.

For applying this request, you should go to municipal office in person. Please bring your foreign resident registration card and seal, and ask for the form of **a request not to accept the divorce notification**. After you fill out the form, you should make a copy before submission and keep it for your records.

Even if your spouse tries to file a divorce notification without your permission, it will be rejected by the request. The validity period of this request is six months. You can extend the period. Also, you can withdraw the request anytime if you agree to divorce.

This system is available to a foreign national who is married to a Japanese citizen. However, if both husband and wife are non-Japanese, he/she cannot use this system.
(commented by Miho MAEDA)



www.ficec.jp/foreign/

●●The back numbers of “Information Fujimino” are available at online.

Was a bicycle stolen? No, it was the removal.

Last December, a serious collision accident between a pedestrian and a bicycle occurred at Fujimi-city.

Someone thought his/her bicycle was stolen. Actually though, it was the removal of illegally parked bicycle.

Bicycle rules have become stricter for the sake of safety recently. You must obey the rules for your safety.

[People breaking the law can be fined up to 50,000 yen!] "A bicycle is a vehicle."

- Don't listen to music through a headset while you ride.
- Don't use your cell-phone.
- Don't use an umbrella.
- Don't run into the street. Stop and confirm safety at an intersection. Obey the traffic lights.
- Don't ride two abreast. And riding double on a common bicycle is prohibited by law.
- Drinking driving is prohibited.
- Turn on the light at night.

According to the Road Traffic Act, bicycles are regarded as light vehicles in Japan. In the future, the license might be needed!?

Name change information

The name of Kamifukuoka station's exit will be changed. Most of the exit name of Tojo line is "East exit" and "West exit". So, the name of Kamifukuoka station's exit will be changed from "North exit" to "East exit" and from "South exit" to "West exit". This name change is scheduled for April 1st. Please be careful when you meet someone at the station.

To Victims of Spousal Violence

Why is domestic violence so rampant?

To get the necessary support, many victims have come to Fujimino International Cultural Exchange Center, which provide counseling services for foreign residents who live in Fujimi-city, Fujimino-city and Miyoshi-town. Domestic violence is repeated. Don't endure violence. You can consult FICEC about your problem. And "DV Consulting Navigation Dial" is also available. The hotline was established by Japanese government. Please call before you suffer from serious problems.

"DV Consulting Navigation Dial"

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Strange Japanese custom for foreigners

Ayumi Kanda

Because we have a mild winter this year, the cherry trees start to blossom earlier. One of Japanese people's pleasures is "Hanami" which is a cherry blossom viewing party. We enjoy drinking and eating with families, friends and colleagues under the cherry trees.

By the way, the topic of this month is something makes Japanese proud in the world.

1 Japan 2 Hong Kong 3 Iceland Do you know what kind of ranking this is? This is the ranking of "the average life expectancy" of 176 countries. According to the data in 2008, the average life expectancy of Japanese women is 86.05 years old, and they have had the world's longest expectancy for 24 years. Man is 79.29 years old. Man and woman recorded the highest age in the past. The main reason is thought that infant death rate is very low by progress in medical technology and older people are lively. If you ask older people the secrets of health in Hanami, you might find new things!!

Translated by Eri Sawada

Be aware of DTV scams !

"Digital Terrestrial TV (DTV) is coming soon. Are you ready for it? You will need an appropriate antenna because you will no longer be able to watch digital TV programs on analog TV sets."

Using word like this, scammers pretend like they are officials of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications or city officials, and they attempt to make money by selling products. Recently, this type of scam has been occurring in our neighborhood. Please be careful of well-turned phrase.

If it is one-sided or unasked-for offer, you should refuse it. Never make them get into your house.

If you notice something strange going on, please call Higashi Iruma Police Station or Consultant for Consumers of municipalities.

Higashi Iruma Police Station

www.ficec.jp/living/

●Living Guidance translated in 6 languages is available.