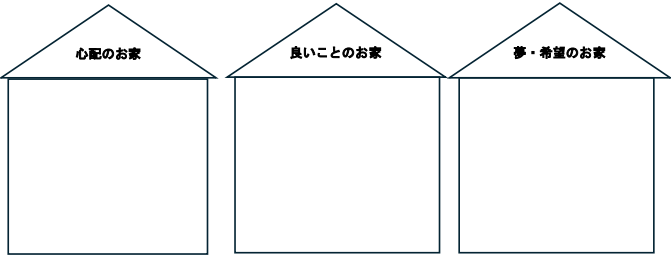


If you are reading this leaflet, you may feel reluctant about living apart from your child. You may also wish to know as soon as possible what steps you can take to regain custody of your child. This leaflet outlines what we wish to work on together with families. What we ask is that you help us create a system that responds to the child's wishes and ensures their safety. To that end...

① The “Three Houses” from your child

We have been entrusted with the Three Houses drawn by your child. Would you first take a look at these? The Three Houses are: the House of Worries, the House of Good Things, and the House of Dreams and Hopes.



② Drawing a Safety Map (Mapping)

Facing a whiteboard, the family and child guidance centre staff (along with relatives, friends, or the child themselves, if they can participate from the start) discuss. Draw two vertical lines on the whiteboard to create three spaces. The leftmost space is for worries, the middle for things already in

place, and the right for things that would be good to establish going forward. We will listen carefully to both the current circumstances and the everyday parenting situation. Based on this, all participants will share their concerns about what might happen to the child's future if the current problems or challenges persist. We will then share what signs of the child being protected we would need to see before our involvement concludes. The finalised map will be given to everyone.

③ Please introduce individuals who will join the safety network (Safety People)

These are not public officials, but relatives, friends, or acquaintances. They are people who understand your family well, can speak on your family's behalf to us, relay this incident, and participate in creating safety for the child. Many people say they would have consulted such a reliable person long ago. However, these individuals are indispensable for creating safety for the child. We would very much like you to introduce them.

④ Safety Creation Timeline

By this stage, we should be able to share a timeline for creating safety. This covers the process up to the child's return home and the subsequent involvement with the Child Guidance Centre until

that involvement concludes.

⑤ Meetings and interaction with the child



Once meetings with the child are realised based on the roadmap, we would like the parent to explain to the child about the past and the future life using the ‘words and pictures’ method. At this time, we would very much like all members of the safety network to participate and proceed together.

⑥ Creating a Safety Plan

The family and the safety network members will create a safety plan together. While many have created such plans before, they often initially resemble pledges stating ‘no more hitting, no more shouting, no more leaving alone’. What we request is a safety plan that serves as an avoidance strategy. This plan should outline measures to prevent a recurrence of such incidents, utilising

the support of the safety network members should a similar situation threaten to arise.

⑦ **Creating the Child’s Version of the Safety Plan**

Once the safety plan is complete, with the family and the Safety Protection Network members present, the child should be asked to explain the safety measures using the ‘words and pictures’ method from step ⑤.

⑧ **Testing the Safety Plan**

We conduct tests, such as practice sessions for returning home, to confirm the safety plan effectively protects the child. Necessary revisions and maintenance are then carried out.

⑨ **Finalisation of the Safety Plan and the Child’s Return Home**

Once the finalised safety plan is complete, it will be distributed to all members of the safety network. The child will be returned to their family when the safety plan is deemed satisfactory by all parties involved.

⑩ **Implementation of Monitoring and Regular Meetings**

Even after the child returns home, regular meetings are held with all members of the safety network to

check the operational status of the safety plan and perform necessary maintenance. Home visits are also conducted periodically. Additionally, the operational status of the safety plan may be recorded in a safety journal and shared among everyone

⑪ **When the Child Guidance Centre concludes its involvement**

Once the Child Guidance Centre has confirmed the safety plan is functioning effectively for a set period (which varies by family, but six months is the minimum benchmark), it will hand over the safety plan to the family and the safety network members, concluding its involvement. Naturally, voluntary consultations can continue beyond this point.

Every family’s circumstances are different. What is introduced here is a standard process, and things may not always proceed exactly as outlined. However, even if it takes time, the fundamental approach remains the same.

This has been quite lengthy, but thank you for reading to the end.



Contact Person

Contact Details

The Path to Building Child Safety

What We Wish to Work On with Families



〇〇 Prefecture 〇〇 Child Guidance Centre