

タイトル	Protection of Crime Victims & Revision of the Juvenile Act (1)
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引用	北海学園大学法学研究, 58(2): 117-118
発行日	2022-09-30

Protection of Crime Victims & Revision of the Juvenile Act (1)

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The purpose of this study is to examine the relation between development of Protection of Crime Victims and Revision of the Juvenile Act in Japan.

This article part (1) describes that recent historical development of Protection of Crime Victims and Revision of the Juvenile Act in Japan.

1. Development of the system for Protection of Crime Victims in Japan

In Japan, a significant development of the system for Protection of Crime Victims begins for legislation of the Act on Measures Incidental to Criminal Proceedings for Protecting the Rights and Interests of Crime Victims, in 2000.

And Revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure (2000, 2007), and the Law for the Inquest of Prosecution (2000). Subsequently, the Basic Act on Crime Victims was to establish in 2004. And Japanese government continue to establish a Basic Plan concerning the Measures for Crime Victims since 2005.

As major effect of this, Crime Victims are able to inspect or copy the case records, to state an opinion on the sentiments or other opinions relating to the case, to participate in the proceedings of the case.

2. Revision of the Juvenile Act in Japan

Revision of the Juvenile Act in Japan is carried out five times (2000, 2007, 2008, 2014, 2021). This article part (1) describes that revision of the relationship with the protection of crime victims. As described above, the protection of crime victim system impacted on the Juvenile Justice as well as the adult case.

This revision is criticized by the principle of welfare, education. But this criticism is not interested in the protection of crime victim in a sense.

In this way, there is the tension between the protection of crime victim and the juvenile justice system.

However, the Juvenile Justice system is no longer to ignore the Protection of Crime Victims. Therefore, it is necessary to consider exploring the harmony between both systems.