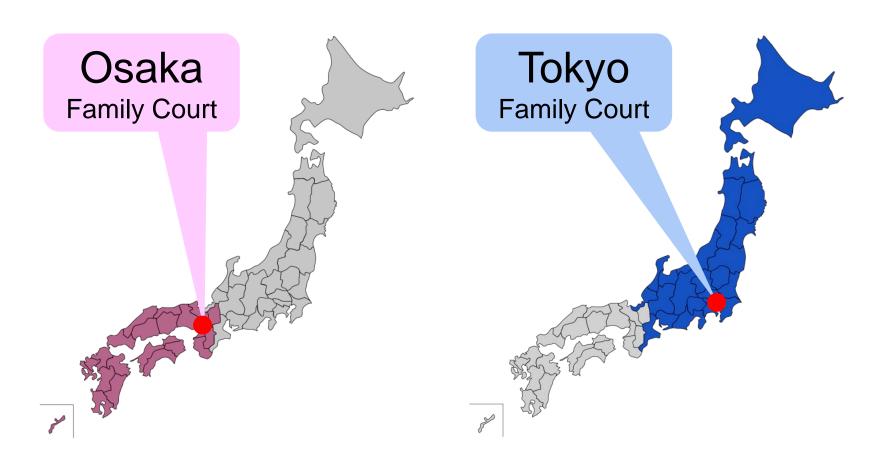
COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR HAGUE CASES IN JAPAN

June 10, 2019 Tomoko SAWAMURA, Director, 1st Division, Family Bureau, General Secretariat, Supreme Court of Japan

CONCENTRATION OF JURISDICTION



THE OUTLINE OF THE MODEL OF PROCEEDINGS

Receipt of a written petition



Designation of 1st & 2nd dates for proceedings



Two weeks later

1st date for proceedings



Five weeks later

2nd date for proceedings

1st date for proceedings

- Clarifying the points of the arguments and materials to be submitted
- Request for necessary information and materials
- Establishing the plan of proceedings

Exploring the possibility of conciliation

Between 1st and 2nd dates for proceedings

- Examination of the facts by the family court investigating officer
 - The child's view on being returned to the State of habitual residence; and
 - Whether the child has settled in the new environment.
- ✓ Domestic relations conciliation

Family court investigating officers are

experts of behavioral science. (psychology, sociology, pedagogy, social work, etc.)

2nd date for proceedings

- Examination of the facts by the judges
 - Written allegations and materials submitted by both parties;
 - The result of the examination of the facts conducted by the family court investigating officer; and
 - Hearing statements from the parties.



- ✓ Conclusion of the proceedings
- Designation of the date of judicial decision

THE OUTLINE OF THE MODEL OF PROCEEDINGS

Receipt of a written petition



Two weeks later

1st date for proceedings



Five weeks later

2nd date for proceedings





Six weeks later

Date of judicial decision

STATISTICS OF THE FIRST INSTANCE

From April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2019

Petitions filed:

94 cases

Closed cases:

92 cases

Average period of time for proceedings:

60.4 days

The number of cases is counted on the basis of the number of children concerned.

RESULTS OF CLOSED CASES

Cases closed with judicial decision:

46 cases

of which

Those with order to return the child:

33 cases

Those dismissed:

13 cases

Cases closed through conciliation:

39 cases

of which

Those with agreement to return the child:

19 cases

Those with agreement not to return the child:

20 cases



CASES OF PETITION FOR VISITATION OR CONTACT WITH CHILD

Petitions filed:

26 cases

Closed cases:

24 cases

of which

Settlement by conciliation 6_{cases} Ruling in lieu of conciliation 1_{cases} Petitions granted 6_{cases}

Petitions withdrawn

 7_{cases}

Refusal of conciliation

2cases

Petitions dismissed

2cases