

December 25, 2021

To Prime Minister Kishida Fumio

Request for "Temporary Special Benefits for Households Raising Children" with Consideration for Victims of Domestic Violence

All Japan Women's Shelter Network  
Co-chairs, Kitanaka Chisato and Yamazaki Kikuno

On November 30, we requested that children who are staying with a person who has been left due to domestic violence be able to receive this benefit, and you have indeed set up a procedure for them to apply. However, at present, due to the following two reasons, not a few people are not receiving the benefits.

Problem 1: The decision to provide the benefits was made too soon, so they cannot receive them in time.

In accordance with the guideline, "If the decision to pay the benefit has already been made for the spouse, the benefit cannot be received. Even if the application is accepted by the local government of the evacuation area, the child allowance cannot be received due to the fact that the payment procedure has already been completed by the original local government.

Problem 2. To receive the benefits for those left due to domestic violence, the requirement is that the spouse, left parents and children must be in separate health insurance households.

Many DV victims have not moved their residential address to avoid the risk of having their address known. In addition, DV victim and children who qualify for health insurance separately from their spouses can only be separated as dependents long after the leaving, and not all people can immediately choose to separate them. Because of this requirement, one after another, the parties concerned are being told at the counter that they cannot apply. At the time of last year's special benefit, the requirement of "having separate health insurance households" was not set for this reason. However, this time, this requirement has been established because the past administrative notice regarding the child allowance has been appropriated.

This means that children who stay with parents who have been left due to domestic violence will not be able to receive this benefit. We believe that this is detrimental to the welfare of children. We would like to request that you take measures to ensure that all children in any situation can receive this benefit.