

Outline of the Act on the Special Measures of Child Allowance Payments in Fiscal Year 2011

Purpose

To set out necessary points regarding child allowance payments in Fiscal Year 2011, in consideration of the current situation surrounding children and child rearing families, in order to make a smooth transition to the permanent monetary payment system for children starting in Fiscal Year 2012.

Outline

(1) Amount and period of child allowance payments

- Under 3-year-old : 15,000 yen/month
- Over 3-year-old and prior to elementary school graduation (for first and second children) : 10,000 yen/month
- Over 3-year-old and prior to elementary school graduation (for third child and subsequent children) : 15,000 yen/month
- Junior high school students : 10,000 yen/month
- Municipalities will do the payment procedure. (For civil servants, their belonging organizations will do the payment procedure.)
- This child allowance will be paid between October 2011 to March 2012
- This child allowance will be disbursed on February and June in 2012

(2) Cost burden

The national government, local governments, and employers bear the expenses for child care benefits stipulated in Child Care Benefits Act. Any other costs are borne by the national government. (For civil servants, their belonging organizations will bear the costs.)

(3) Other

- ① A requirement to reside in Japan is also set for children (excluding the cases when children are studying abroad).
- ② For children placed in foster homes, allowances are paid to those whom established the homes.
- ③ For guardians of minors and designated parents (only in cases when parents are living outside Japan), allowances are disbursed when they fulfill the same requirements as parents; custody over children and being same household members. (Payment of child allowances is possible even in cases when parents reside outside Japan.)
- ④ In cases when multiple people meet the requirements of custody over children and being same household members, child allowances are paid to those who actually live together with the children. (Child allowances are payable in the case of separation during a divorce settlement. They are not paid, however, for people posted away from their families.)
- ⑤ Nursery school fees are collectable from the child allowances. School meal charges are also collectable from the child allowances with receivers agreement.
- ⑥ Establish subsidies in order to expand child support services according to regional circumstances.

(4) Legal measures under consideration

- ① The government shall take legal measures by making necessary revisions to Child Care Benefits Act based on the amount of child allowance stipulated in this Act on the Special Measures of Child Allowance Payments, in order to make the permanent monetary payment system for children starting in Fiscal Year 2012. In this case, consultation shall be fully held with representatives of the Nationwide Unions of Public Bodies stipulated in the Local Autonomy Act and other related people, and make an effort shall be made to gain their understanding.
- ② In taking legal measures, criteria for income caps shall be considered and applied to child allowances starting from June payments in 2012. In addition, tax or financial measures for people on whom income caps are imposed shall be considered, and necessary measures shall be taken.

Date of enforcement

October 1, 2011