To: Guardians / Parents

Right now, you must be overwhelmed with various feelings of bewilderment, shock or anger by receiving the information concerning your child from the Child Guidance Center.

We will explain the current situation in order to think together about your child from now on.

At present, your child is under temporary custody as the Child Guidance Center has determined that he/she needs temporary protection for his/her safety as confirmed by the actual condition of injury and also due to the possibility of sexual violence within the family considering your child’s words, his/her actions, and various other symptoms.

(It is ordained under the Child Welfare Act “, the law related to prevention of child abuse (Child Abuse Prevention Law)” to protect the child whenever the child’s safety is in doubt.)

Sexual violence within the family

This concerns direct sexual act to the child, touching the child’s body, showing sexual intercourse or talking about sex deliberately within the family.

Under the law, when the person who is currently responsible of taking care and custody of the child takes obscene action on the child or makes the child do so, will be considered as child abuse under the Child Abuse Prevention Law, Article 2. This includes not only direct sexual action but also touching of the body, showing sexual intercourse or talking about sex deliberately. In addition, the child will be subject to protection for securing safety and examination related to sexual injury when similar actions are taken against the child by relatives or other people living in the same house.

Process during temporary custody

Concerning the child

Examination of injuries and consequences the child may have suffered will be conducted by interview, psychological diagnosis, medical checks (psychiatry, gynecology, etc.) and observation of behavior.

In order to conduct this examination, the child will be removed from the home and surrounding environment for a while to create a condition of stabilizing the child’s feelings, avoidance of stress developed from anxiety about the neighborhood and confusion of information for the examination.

(Meetings and communication from the guardians/parents will be stopped for the time being.)

Concerning the guardians/parents

Along with the child’s examination, fact assessment will be conducted at the same time by interviews and home visits of the guardians/parents and related persons.

Consultation and notification to the police

The Child Guidance Center may decide on consultation or notification of violation of Child Welfare Act to the police depending on the development of the examination process.

Psychology of the child suffering from sexual violence

The child suffering from injuries of sexual violation may not be able to accept the facts, or think that “I am in the wrong because I could not say NO” (self reproach), or “I don’t care what happens to myself” (lowering of self esteem).

In most cases, the child finds it difficult to confide to family or friends.

Effects of the child suffering from sexual violence

It is known that injuries suffered from sexual violence cause serious damages to the child’s body and spirit (trauma, etc.). When such conditions continue, the child may suffer from after-effects of trauma (PTSD syndrome), physical conditions, delinquency such as running away from home or problematic actions related to sex, or emotional problems. Some may even find it difficult to live daily lives in a healthy condition both physically and mentally. Since these facts may greatly influence your child’s future life, it is essential to take necessary steps at an early stage.

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| From now on, we will think about the measures to prepare for the child’s “safe/secure life”. |

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| Child Guidance Center (Child Welfare Act 11, Article 12):  based on Child Welfare Act, Child Guidance Centers are set up in the administrative divisions of Japan (To, Do, Fu and Prefectures) and is responsible for conducting required guidance based on the information acquired in the course of required examination, decisions and guidance of the child and family.  Provisional protection (Child Welfare Act, Article 33):  The Child Guidance Center will take charge of the child when “confirmed as required” even in cases when the guardians/parents or child are unwilling. Legally, this is an administrative measure. Based on the Child Welfare Act, the term will be 2 months in general (but may be extended).  Examination on claim against administrative disposition (Examination of Dissatisfaction Against Administrative Disposition Act)  As a gesture of claim against this provisional custody, you can make an appeal of dissatisfaction against administrative disposition (Article 5). The reception for claim is ……………………….  However, the administrative measure will not be suspended even when the examination of dissatisfaction against administrative disposition has commenced. |

The person who explained this to you today is:

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From now on, I ……………………………………….

the person in charge of your child and you, the guardian/parent, will carry on the consultations.

Tokyo 　　　　　　　　　Child Guidance Office

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Address:

Phone:

Open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays)