

## Resolving disputes



### Resolving disputes

The ideal way for private individuals to settle a dispute is through discussion. However, when discussions fail, the use of a civil arbitration court (minji chotei) or an arbitration center (chusai center) is an option. Such institutions are also referred to as dispute settlement centers (funso kaiketsu center) or out-of-court mediation centers (jidan assen center).

### Trial fees

There are 2 kinds of trial fees: lawsuit costs and lawyer's fees. The lawsuit costs are costs incurred for holding a trial. The lawyer's fees are initial fees and remuneration.

Initial costs consist of an advance payment for the lawyer's services until the case is resolved. The remuneration is based on the settlement sum set by the court.

- If the prospect of winning the case is good, but there is a lack of finance, an application for assistance can be made to the Japan Legal Support Center (Nippon Shiho Shien Center) [commonly known as: Houterasu]. If the application is successful, the Center [Houterasu] will pay the costs of the trial in advance. In principle this advance payment is repaid in monthly installments. The Center [Houterasu] will also pay the lawyer's remuneration after the trial. This can also be repaid in installments.

### Enquiries

Houterasu Hyogo (Japan Legal Support Center – Hyogo) 0570-078334 (050-3383-5440)  
Houterasu Hanshin (Japan Legal Support Center – Hanshin) 0570-078335 (050-3383-5445)

### Nishinomiya City Citizens' Consultation Service

Various kinds of consultation services are available at Nishinomiya City Office, Citizens' Counseling Division (Nishinomiya Shiyakusho, Shimin Sodan Ka).

Consultation on legal matters is available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays between 1:00pm and 4:00pm. Applications are accepted by telephone from 9:00am on the day.

\*For Mondays and Fridays, there are some slots which start accepting reservations in advance from one week before.

**Enquiries** Nishinomiya City Hall, Citizens' Counseling Division 0798-35-3100  
(Nishinomiya Shiyakusho, Shimin Sodan Ka)

**Note** For details, ask a person who understands Japanese to enquire for you.