

# Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

Issue 32  
January 2022

We are having colder days than usual. We hope everyone is well and safe.

Here is the 32th newsletter from the Harassment Counseling Office.



## A word from our counselors

### **It's necessary so it's inevitable?**

The end of the academic year is approaching. This is a time for preparing for both the end of the year and the new academic year. It is also a time when your private information must be submitted somewhere and when someone may check in on your current situation. "Has your insurance card changed?", "Are there any changes to your dependent family?", "Do you have plans to get married". These questions may be necessary for paperwork but there is a time and place for asking them appropriately.

### **Harassment when doing applications and procedures**

It is not uncommon for people to feel uncomfortable when handling applications and procedures. In the questionnaire conducted by the Single Mother Survey Project, when applying for child-care allowance there is a question regarding relationships with the opposite sex, which causes many to feel discomfort with both the question and the manner in which it is asked. Many responded in the survey that they felt there was no consideration to the delicacy of the question. In addition, a memo was issued by the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare in July 2021 instructing municipalities to act with consideration when conducting procedures.

It is likely that most people respond to the question and checks there and then because the information is required. As someone who is the recipient of the support or allowance it is very difficult to refuse to answer even if it causes distress. This experience is then likely to lead to distrust not only with the procedures and the person asking the questions but in the organization as a whole.

Continued overleaf 

## As for yourself

At the university also, there are many times students and staff are required to complete various applications and procedures. When doing so, an uncaring, inconsiderate attitude towards the other person because the information is required could unintentionally cause distress to the other person.

Also, this is not limited to applications and procedures, it could occur at any time when dealing with people. Osaka University is committed to creating a research and work environment in which all people are respected, and in order to achieve this, it is important for each member to imagine how his or her attitude and words will be perceived by others, and to respond with consideration for others. When we have to deal with matters that touch on privacy, a little care - for example, changing the place and the way of asking and answering questions - will lead to an environment that is comfortable for everyone.

### Reference

Single Mother Survey Project [Report by Subject] Distress caused while notifying current circumstances when applying for child-care allowance and a request for improvement. (Japanese only)

[https://note.com/single\\_mama\\_pj/n/n63bc95d2d48c](https://note.com/single_mama_pj/n/n63bc95d2d48c) (December 24, 2021)

## Harassment Counseling Offices

Campus	Room	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
Toyonaka	<b>Harassment Counseling Office 1</b> Room #704, 7F, Interdisciplinary Research Building 06-6850-5029	11:00-14:00	10:00-13:00	12:00-15:00		10:00-13:00
	<b>Harassment Counseling Office 2</b> 2F, Data Station, Cybermedia Center 06-6850-6006		15:30-18:30	14:00-17:00	10:30-13:30 14:30-17:30	
Suita	<b>Harassment Counseling Office 1</b> Room #1311, 3F, Division of Nursing Building 1 06-6879-6981	10:00-13:00		9:30-12:30		11:00-14:00
				15:30-18:30	15:30-18:30	15:00-18:00
	<b>Harassment Counseling Office 2</b> Room #1312, 3F, Division of Nursing Building 1 06-6879-6982 Male counselor (power harassment, academic harassment)	13:30-16:30	9:30-13:00		9:30-12:30	
Minoh	<b>General Harassment Counseling Office</b> 1F, Research and Education Hub 072-730-5112			14:15-17:15		

- Consultations with a professional counselor may be in person or by telephone (appointment required)
- [Confidentiality is guaranteed](#). Anonymous consultations by telephone are welcome.
- Consultations for all types of harassment are available at Toyonaka and Minoh campus counseling offices as well as Suita Campus Harassment Counseling Office 1 (female counselor)
- See the Osaka University website for details on the locations, opening hours, and availability of consultations in English.

