

【To parents or guardians】

◎ "Having an argument with a spouse in front of children"

"Exposing children to domestic violence"

→Both of them can be classed as "psychological abuse" according to the Japanese law.

◎ It may have a bad effect on children to witness their parents'/guardians' arguments.

→Examples

- Children may develop violent behavior as their parents/guardians do.
- Children become to use violence as a means of communication. As a result, children are regarded as aggressive.
- Children become to live in fear because they don't know when their parents/guardians will start an argument.
- Children blame themselves for not stopping parents'/guardians' arguments, though they want to. Therefore, they lose their confidence and regard themselves as worthless.
- Children feel enervated, dazed and can't concentrate on study. Therefore, children may demonstrate poor academic performance.
- Children become reluctant to go to schools, kindergartens and nurseries. They complain about their health problems such as lack of sleep, stomachache.
- Children become irritated because of continuous anxiety.

◎ When police recognize "arguments with spouses in front of children", "exposing children to domestic violence" or similar situations, it will be reported to a Children's Counseling Office.

◎ A Children's Counseling Office is founded on the basis of the Child Welfare Law. When the office recognizes arguments of parents/guardians, the office conduct necessary investigation including interviews to parents/guardians to check whether children are in a safe environment.

◎ For their healthy growth, refrain from fighting in front of children.

It is important to have an opportunity to discuss a marital problem. However, if it is not successful, you should put some distance between yourselves, reflect, and talk together at another opportunity.

When you need to discuss any disagreements, you should do it in children's absence.



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