



KOREA LEGAL AID CENTER FOR FAMILY RELATIONS

Transportation to Center

Subway

- Line number 5 and get off at Yeouinaru station
(10 minutes on foot) Exit #2
 ☞ take bus #753, 5713 or 5534 at Exit #2
 and get off at Yoido Full Gospel Church.
- Line number 9 and get off at National Assembly station
(10 minutes on foot) Exit #1
 ☞ take bus #461, 463 or 1002 at Exit #1
 and get off at Yoido Full Gospel Church.

Branch Centers

Andong	054)856-4200	Jecheon	043)644-5690
Bucheon	032)667-2314	Jeju	064)753-9421
Changwon · Masan	055)261-0280	Jeonju	063)244-2930
Cheongju	043)257-0088	Jinju	055)746-7975
Chuncheon	033)257-4688	Jungeup	063)535-3705
Daegu	053)745-4501	Junggu	02)2238-6554
Daejeon	042)520-5258	Mokpo	061)273-2514
Donghae	033)535-0188	Pohang	054)283-7555
Gangneung	033)652-9555	Pyeongtaek · Anseong	031)611-4251
Geoje	055)663-7636	Seongnam	031)707-6661
Gunsan	063)442-1560	Sunchon	061)753-9910
Guri · Namyangju	031)551-9976	Suwon	031)243-4600
Gwangju	062)672-6011	Taebaek	033)554-4004
Iksan	063)851-5113	Ulsan	052)246-9568
Incheon	032)438-1113		



KOREA LEGAL AID CENTER FOR FAMILY RELATIONS

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● Fax : 02-780-0485

● E-mail : webmaster@lawhome.or.kr

● Website : <http://www.lawhome.or.kr>

● Twitter : <http://twitter.com/LegalAidCenter>

Founding Philosophy

Dedicated to preserving the dignity and equality of all persons, the Center will stand beside the poor, the distraught and the vulnerable, especially in their family relations. The Center will offer free legal counseling to protect the human rights of all and to encourage harmonious family relations, with the conviction that peace in the family brings peace for human beings, for their society, and for the world.

Who We Are

The Center was established as the pioneer legal aid center in Korea in 1956 and since that time has continued to work to protect those in need through free legal counseling.

In order to solve domestic problems through legal solutions, counselors and lawyers at the Center provide legal counseling, mediation, preparation of documents and legal representation, when necessary at the courts - all free of charge. In addition, as one of several counseling centers designated by the Family Court and Public Prosecutor's Office, the Center offers specific counseling for offenders in cases of domestic violence.

To educate about and prevent family problems, the Center has an educational department, which endeavors to raise awareness on domestic conflict issues through a variety of programs.

Likewise, in an effort to extend the network of the Center domestically as well as internationally, the Center has established branches in various areas of Korea and in the United States.

The Center is also actively involved in movements to revise Korea's discriminatory family laws, often based in long-held customs that create gender and spouse discrimination and other family problems. These efforts are geared for creating an atmosphere where improved family relations for all can thrive.



Logo of the Center

The logo shows the scales of justice, which considers the issues without prejudice or favor, around a key, which symbolizes the unlocking of family problems.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER

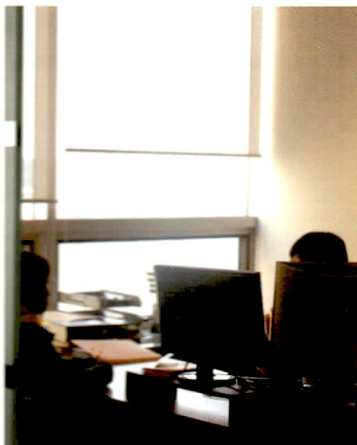
Legal Counseling

Free legal counseling is offered for issues dealing with civil, criminal, bankruptcy, and especially family law. Legal counseling is also available through mail, telephone, the Internet. Evening sessions are also provided every Monday evening for those with daytime jobs.



Mediation and Free Paperwork Preparation

Every effort is made to resolve family disputes through mediation and reconciliation. Also for those who are in financial need the Center provides free document preparation for necessary lawsuits.



Aid for Litigation in Court

We take cases to court free of charge on behalf of clients in need who we have found through counseling meetings need to go to court. Our litigation services are provided by in-house counsel, public attorneys stationed at the Center and member pro bono lawyers of the One Hundred Lawyers' Association to indigent people, victims of domestic violence, single-parent families, multicultural families in family law cases and if needed, civil and criminal cases.

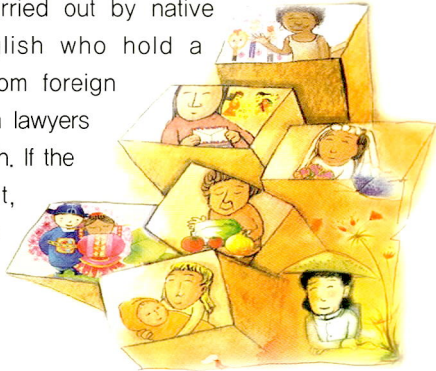


The One Hundred Lawyers' Association

Volunteer lawyers give free legal counseling and other legal services in the daytime and evening to assist the persons with family law problems during the weekday. Currently a total of 720 lawyers stand ready to donate their services to those who could otherwise not afford them.

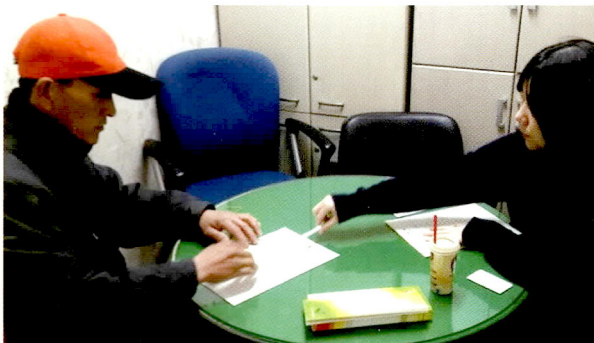
Legal Aid for Multicultural Families – Legal Counseling in English.

This service is carried out by native speakers of English who hold a lawyers license from foreign countries or Korean lawyers who fluent in English. If the requirements met, litigation support is available at no charge.



Legal Aid for Bankruptcy · Financial Immunity and Personal Rehabilitation

The Center visits the shelters for the homeless, situated in each district of the capital and offer them free legal support for bankruptcy, financial immunity, personal rehabilitation and so on.



Counseling at the General Civil Service Office in Seoul Family Court

The Center offers free legal counseling at the general civil service office in Seoul Family Court.



Extension of the Center's Services through Domestic and International Branches

In order to provide family legal aid to those in need in a wider geographical area, domestic and international branches have been established. As of 2014 there are now 29 branches in various urban locations throughout Korea and 6 in the United States. The next goal is to set up the branches of the Center where there is no branch thereof, at the place where the branch District Court or District Central Prosecutor's Office of the Korea is located.

STATISTICS ON LEGAL COUNSELING

Since the Center's founding in 1956, it has provided counseling and other legal services on domestic issues to 1,395,432 people. (1956-2014)

In addition, its branch offices have given aid in 2,034,150 cases, making a grand total of 3,429,582 over one-half century of legal aid to Korean families.

Anti-Domestic Violence Counseling

The Center provides Anti-Domestic Violence Counseling, specifically created for anyone who is suffering from domestic violence. Especially, designated by the Seoul Family Court, Goyang Branch of Uijeongbu District Court, and the Seoul Central / Western / Southern District Prosecutor's Office to give necessary counseling for domestic violence offenders, the Center works to rehabilitate those offenders through various programs containing six stages, such as individual/marital/family counseling, group counseling, alcohol abuse counseling, educational lectures, and camps for married couples. Also battered women's self-help group meeting is operated at the same time to prevent a future domestic violence. This Center is trying to help the clients solve their own problems by participating in each course of the stages.

All sessions are conducted by experts in the field, including counselors of the Center, psychiatrists, family therapists, professors of social welfare studies and other specialists as required.



Brief Overview of the Sessions

I. Individual/Marital/Family Counseling – to examine marital/family relationship and explore methods for treating and preventing violence in the home

II. Alcohol Abuse Counseling – for couples who have experienced domestic violence due to alcohol abuse, with the purpose of diagnosing alcohol abuse and discussing solutions to the problem.

III. Group Counseling – for anyone affected by domestic violence in the marital relation, parent-child relation, siblings relation, and the other family relations, with the purpose of providing an open debate on different views of such violence and solutions accordingly.

IV. Educational Lectures – for anyone affected by domestic violence, with the goal of learning how to restore healthy marital relationships.

V. Camps for Married Couples – for anyone affected by domestic violence, including children, this program is geared to building healthy marital relationships.



VI. Final Individual / Marital / Family Counseling – for individuals who have attended previously anti-domestic counseling programs, to assist them in commitment to and planning for a future without domestic violence.

※ Battered Women's Self-help Group Meeting – to provide an opportunity to battered women to discuss self-protection and methods of prevention of future domestic violence.

Movement to Revise Discriminatory Family Laws

Acknowledging that legal aid services are limited by traditional family laws, the Center has continuously participated in and led in the movement to revise laws that discriminate against equality in family matters, in order to create better treatment between spouses and men/women in the society.

Through such efforts the Korean Family Law was amended over ten times since 1958. Among the most significant changes coming as a result of extended efforts by the Center, the National Assembly of Korea passed a new family law amendment in march 2005 which abolished the traditional, discriminatory Family Head of Household and Census Register System ("hojuje") in its entirety.

The Center has been playing a leading role in the movement to revise the family law to reflect the enactment of pre-divorce waiting period, pre-divorce counseling requirements in divorce and the payment of child support expenses. And the Center is actively committed to the movements to revise the family law for the desirable gender equality, the married couples' equality such as marital property, parental right law, single mothers' rights to claim for child support and more.



Educational Programs for Changing Families : Preventing Family Problems

In May 1977 the Center launched educational programs in order to help prevent domestic problems before they arise. Recently, the Center has created the regular legal educational programs with various contents. The purpose is to help family members build their identities and reform their consciousness which can help prevent the possible problems and construct sound family relations.

Legal Educational Program

Lectures on essential laws related to everyday life : lectures on the family law, family registrations, property and tax laws.

Visiting community welfare centers, public facilities for women, and district offices to provide with legal education for citizens.

Providing legal education across the nation by visiting the professionals, and educating the customer service representatives through the nationwide "1366 call" for the urgent women, the branch workers of the Emergency Support Center for the Migrant Women, the counselors at the multicultural and welfare centers, public officials, and the teachers in the local schools.



Duty training for the teachers : lectures on the family law and the special law against the domestic violence, and the violence prevention through gender-consciousness, for the teachers concerned.

Legal education for the students to provide the legal education on family law, the special law against the domestic violence at the elementary, middle, and high schools.



Fostering the persons who work at the facilities related to domestic violence: specialized training for the professional counselors who work at the facilities related to domestic violence and lecturing on the laws for everyday life.

Regular Lectures

Workshop on Resolving Conflicts in Marriages : lectures and question/answer sessions given by professionals about strategies for coping with various family issues.

Educational Program for the pre-divorce and divorced people : to inform the persons who are considering



divorce about their legal rights, duties, and responsibilities to produce better welfare for them and their families.

Program to Enhance the Well-being of Single Parent Families : special lectures to assist single parent families in dealing with the legal, financial, emotional and social problems they encounter.

Educational Programs and Camp for Families : to assist such persons and their families who need legal, emotional and social help.

Development Program on Family Issues : to provide a detailed development counseling program for people suffering from family problems, through an individually-tailored and systematic program.



Legal Internship Program

The Center provides legal internship programs aimed to enhance undergraduate college students' understanding of legal aid services. This program began in 1964 with the purpose of educating and preparing law students of Ewha Womans University College of Law but later was opened to include the students of other majors such as social welfare and psychology from the other universities. The Center had an academic industrial cooperation with Law Schools of Ewha Womans University, Seoul University, Sogang University, Konkuk University and Chonnam University. Moreover, the Center provides public service opportunities for students studying at the government Judicial Training Institute.

Research Activities

1. Research Projects

We have been conducting comprehensive research on family life-related issues and family law. We research divorces and publish reports on divorce rates in Korea every ten years, and issue statistics on our cases, through which we accumulate information on changes in family issues. And we have contributed to building up people's opinions and acquire factual grounds for our legal revision efforts, by conducting research on current conditions and people's consciousness of hojuje, child support in single-parent families, married couple's property rights, a mandatory waiting period of divorce, pre-divorce counseling, married couple's sexual relationship, domestic violence, husband's sharing of house chores, foster care families, old-aged women, common-law marriage, child visitation rights, and more.

2. Symposiums

We hold on a regular basis diverse symposiums, seminars, and lectures so as to check over and publicize a reality of family life problems in a dramatically changing society. Our topics include a free litigation services system, a full-adoption system, N,K-escapees, adoptive families, unwed mothers, alcoholism and domestic violence, conservatorship, legal custody. Through these events, we present changes in public policy and legislation.



Library

Our efforts to collecting books started in 1962 with the Asia Foundation's help, which led to open up a library at the newly-constructed One Hundred Women's Building in 1977. Our library has 18,000 books mainly on family law and also on family relationships, women, law, social welfare, social sciences, and the like, including those donated by Dr. Tae-young Lee, family-law scholar Dr. Kwang-hyun Chung, and journalist Eun-hee Choi, and scholarly periodicals, collections of learned papers and news articles. In 2007, the library became a truly specialized library with its storage section expanded and its extensive collection of family-related materials.

Publications

The Publications Department produces periodical journals, collections of case studies and other books and writings by professionals in the field. These include single volume books, research reports, multimedia resources and a monthly periodical entitled "Family Counseling".

And the main contents of "Family Counseling" are provided to the members and the related organizations by monthly e-news.





List of Selected Single-Volume Books Published by the Center

- A Record of Counseling Sessions in Relation to Women's Legal Rights (1958)
- What Can I Do? (1976 Revised editions: 1983, 1990, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2013)
- Research on the Divorce Rate of Korea I, II, III, IV (1981, 1988, 2005, 2013)
- History of Korea Legal Aid Center for Family Relations during Its Thirty Years of Service (1987)
- History of the Thirty-seven Years of Reformist Movement to Revise the Korea Family Law (1992)
- You Told Me to Be a Lawyer for Justice (1999)
- Helping out Neighbors in Need – Thirty Years of Service to Provide Legal Aid Resources (1986)
- Special Domestic Violence Law (1998)
- Research on the Public's Awareness of the Hoju System (family registration with one head of family) (1999)
- Gender Equality and Abolishment of the Hoju System, Including Proposals for an Alternative Plan (2000)
- Collective Statistics about Modern Korean Family Problems – Data Collected by Korea Legal Aid Center for Family Relations during 43 Years of Counseling Sessions (2001)
- A Guidebook for Preventing Domestic Violence I : Don't Hit, Even with a Flower Petal (2003~2014)
- Shall We Live in Equality?! (2003, 2004)
- Life Before and After Divorce, Let's Take Another Second to Think about It (2004, 2006)
- Manual for Counselors of Domestic Violence Victims (2005, 2007)
- Manual for Counselors of Domestic Violence Offenders (2005, 2007)
- Marital Sex, a Privilege or a Duty? (2005)
- With Love, With Hope – Collection of Case Studies on Domestic Violence (2005)
- Research and Promotion of Father's Engagement in Household Affairs (2006)
- Social Responsibility of Rearing and Caring for Children (2006)
- Legally Protecting North Korean Refugees' Right to Pursue Happiness (2006)
- A Sourcebook : A Forum for Introduction of Guardianship System (2007)
- A Sourcebook : A Forum for Introduction of Separation System (2007)
- A Sourcebook : A Forum for Legally Protecting De Facto Marriage in the Changing Society (2007)
- A Sourcebook : A Forum for Marital Violence of Parents and Offspring's Life (2007)
- A Guidebook for Preventing Domestic Violence II : For the caring or our nest (2006~2015)
- A Guidebook for Preventing Domestic Violence III : Myth and Truth about Alcohol Consumption (2007~2012)
- A Booklet : Registration Law for Family Relations to be understood (2007~2015)
- Collective Statistics about Modern Korean Family Problems II – Data Collected by Korea Legal Aid Center for Family Relations during 50 Years of Counseling Sessions (2008)

- A Sourcebook : Directions for Development of Legal Aid forward Legal Welfare Society (2008)
- Rights to Visit Children after Divorce, Rights of Parents? or Well-being of Children? (2008)
- History of Korea Legal Aid for Family Relations During Its Fifty Years of Service (2009)
- History of the Sixty Years of Reformist Movement to Revise Korea Family Law (2009)
- A Sourcebook : Directions for Revision of Parental Authority Law forward the Welfare of Children (2009)
- Let's Get Together, Multicultural Families – The Program for Settlement and the Future of Multicultural Families (2009)
- Symposium on the Laws and Systems pertaining to Adoption (2009)
- Manual for the Violence Prevention through Gender-Consciousness Education at the Schools (2009)
- A Sourcebook : Symposium on the Baby Boomer (2010)
- A Sourcebook : Free Litigation Aid in Korea Legal Aid Center For Family Relations I (2010)
- A Casebook : Free Litigation Aid in Korea Legal Aid Center For Family Relations I (2010), II (2013)
- Divorce, Reconsidering Its Reality and Future I (2010)
- A Sourcebook : A Public Debate for Revised Bill of Special Domestic Violence (2011)
- A Sourcebook : A Forum for Legal Projects Responding to the Actual Divorce among Multicultural Families (2011)
- Cartoon for the Integrated Education with Gender Perspective – For Children and Adolescents (2011, 2013)
- A Sourcebook : Understanding the Law for Family Relations Revised in 2013 (2012)
- A Sourcebook : A Forum for Checking and Supplementing the Law for Special Domestic Violence (2012)
- A Sourcebook : Symposium on the Problems and Improvement in the Laws for Presumption of Paternity (2012)
- A Sourcebook : Symposium on Community Property to be Adopted By the Inheritance Laws (2013)
- A Sourcebook : Symposium on Whether the Marital Equality Exists in the Children's Choice on Their Own Family Name (2013)
- Majority Guardianship System to be Easily Understood (2013)
- A Sourcebook : Symposium on the Law to be Revised and the Policy Directions for Single Mother and Her Child: Now, the Society should Take the Lead (2014)
- Change the World with Love and Passion – The Pioneer, Lee Tae Young (2014), etc.

Multimedia Resources

- Informative Video on the Abolishment Hoju System– Shall We Live in Equality? (2002)
- Informative Video on Domestic Violence Prevention – Running Away from Home (2003)
- Educational Video for Individuals Considering Divorce (2005)
- We Can Try Again! – Creating a World Free of Domestic Violence (2005)
- Public Film on 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of Korea Legal Aid Center for Family Relations (2009)
- The Great World We Make (2014)



How to Get Help

The Center's legal aid service is accessible through the telephone, Internet, and mail. However, the most beneficial counseling is the direct face-to-face legal counseling offered at the Center's main building during hours listed below.

Monday to Friday : 10 a.m.~5 p.m.

Evening Counseling : Every Monday 6 p.m.~9 p.m.
(receive 7 p.m.)

Counseling in English for Foreigners

Every Week : Monday 6 p.m.~9 p.m.
(receive 7 p.m.)

Second, Forth Week : Friday 3 p.m.~5 p.m.
(*A prior appointment necessary)

Online Counseling

<http://www.lawhome.or.kr>

<http://www.miznet.daum.net>

Counseling in Seoul Family Court

Monday to Friday : 9 a.m.~6 p.m.

How to Become a Patron Member of the Center

- ... General Membership : 50,000 won paid yearly
- ... Lifetime Membership : 500,000 won
- ... Support for Family Counseling: 10,000 won paid yearly
- ... Volunteer Membership

Personnel

Chair, Board of Trustees : Ms. Myung-Hee Cha
Director of the Center : Ms. Bae-Hee Kwak



Organization

