

Child Allowance “*Kodomo Teate*”

What is “*Kodomo Teate*”?

- *Kodomo Teate*, or Child Allowance, is a monthly allowance of ¥13,000 for each child of junior high school age or younger. The allowance is payable to the parents or guardians of such children.
- The *Kodomo Teate* allowance will be paid after the parent/guardian's local municipal government office certifies the eligibility for payment. There are three periods of certification each year: in February, June, and October. The amount payable is, in principle, for all eligible previous months. The payment will be made directly to the claiming person's bank account.

Who is eligible for the *Kodomo Teate* allowance?

- Mothers or fathers who are taking care of a child, living with them and **supporting them financially**, are eligible for the allowance.
- In cases where the parents do not take care of the children themselves, those who are actually taking care of the children and **maintaining residence** with them are eligible to claim the *Kodomo Teate* allowance.

How does one obtain the allowance?

- Application for the allowance must be made at your local municipal government office.
- To apply, fill in a “*Kodomo Teate Nintei Seikyūshō*” (Child Allowance Approval Form) and submit the necessary supporting documentation to the government office.
- Necessary supporting documents include the following: 1) a copy of one's health insurance card (e.g. National Health Insurance certificate), 2) a document showing the account number of the financial institution that you prefer to use for transfer of the money (e.g. a copy of your bank passbook).
- If you have any questions about the necessary documents, the application procedure, or any other matter relating to the *Kodomo Teate* allowance, please inquire at the department in charge of this allowance at your local municipal government office.
- If the number of eligible children in your family allowance changes, for example due to a newborn baby, you must submit a “*Kodomo Teate-gaku Kaitei Nintei Seikyūshō*” (Child Allowance Amount Revision Approval Form) to the local municipal government office.

Application deadline:

- Application for the *Kodomo Teate* allowance should be made by September 30, 2010.
- For applications after September 30, full payment cannot be received.

Other notes:

- Parents or guardians who have been receiving the “*Jidô Teate*” (Children's Allowance) as of March 31, 2010 and have a child younger than elementary school age do not have to make a separate application for the *Kodomo Teate* allowance. However, if a recipient of *Jidô Teate* has a child of junior high school age, a “*Kodomo Teate-gaku Kaitei Nintei Seikyusyou*” (Child Allowance Amount Revision Approval Form) will need to be submitted.
- Parents or guardians who have not received the “*Jidô Teate*” (Children's Allowance) as of March 31, 2010 need to submit a “*Kodomo Teate Nintei Seikyûshô*” (Child Allowance Amount Approval Form).

Requirements for the *Jidô Teate* and the *Kodomo Teate* allowances for foreign parents whose children are living outside of Japan:

- *Jidô Teate* (Children's Allowance) has been granted to foreign parents who are actually taking care of a child whom they support. The conditions are that the parents have a birth certificate and certification of support, and that they actually meet their children during the year.
- In order for parents with foreign resident children to receive the *Kodomo Teate* allowance, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) procedures are:
 - ▽ The Ministry will check your passport to see if you have traveled to meet your children more than twice a year.
 - ▽ The Ministry will check to see that monetary transfers have been made from your bank for child support at least twice in four months.
 - ▽ The Ministry will confirm that you maintained a residence with the children before coming to Japan by examining a certificate of residence.
- In addition, the Ministry is considering the possibility of requiring the children to be living together with their parents/guardians in Japan in order to be eligible.

For details, please make inquiries at the relevant department at your local municipal government office.