Changes in the laws concerning persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities in and after 2012

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Abstract

In Japan, the welfare service for handicapped children and persons was reviewed recently to supply a better service. Based on this review, new laws concerning such children and persons have been promulgated and the existing laws related to them have been reformed; as a result, the circumferences surrounding them have rapidly altered. Circumferences surrounding persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities are no exception. Laws regarding support for their residential care also changed on April 1, 2012; that is, their admission to homes will be regulated according to the Services and Support for Persons with Disabilities Act, although this is supposed to be regulated by the Child Welfare Act until that date. To quickly adapt to such changes in the law, we have made a table that shows the parts of the existing laws concerning persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities in the Child Welfare Act correspond to those in the laws concerning them in the Services and Support for Persons with Disabilities Act enforced or reformed on April 1, 2012. Using this table, we have identified the important points and which points we should pay attention to. As one of the important changes in the law, we have listed the change in the main public institutions that take care of persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities; that is, a change from child guidance centers to municipalities. With this change, most procedures will be carried out by clerks of municipalities. Also, information on the welfare service, consultations and advice regarding persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities; that is, a change from child guidance centers to municipalities. With this change, most procedures will be carried out by clerks of municipalities.