

Translation of a public document

Law on Promotion of Surveys and Research to Facilitate Comprehensive and Effective Implementation of Suicide Countermeasures and Utilization, etc. of Outcomes thereof, etc.

Promulgated by The Government of Japan on 12 June 2019

Translated by Japan Support Center for Suicide Countermeasures in June 2019

(Purpose)

Article 1.

Pursuant to the intent of the Basic Law on Suicide Countermeasures (Law No. 85 of 2006), this Law is aimed at promoting further enhancement of suicide countermeasures by setting forth fundamental policy concerning promotion of surveys and research and utilization of the outcomes thereof, etc. to facilitate comprehensive and effective implementation of such countermeasures and stipulating matters concerning designation of a corporation (juristic person) designated to conduct surveys and research, and other matters as may be necessary in relation to establishment of a framework therefor.

(Fundamental Policy concerning Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc.)

Article 2.

Surveys, research and verification, as well as utilization of the outcomes thereof, etc. with respect to the actual circumstances surrounding suicide cases, ways to prevent suicide, desirable forms of support for relatives, etc. of suicide victims, appropriate ways and means of implementing suicide countermeasures in response to the situation in respective regions, the status of suicide countermeasures implementation, etc. or maintenance and improvement of mental health, as well as collection, organization and provision of information concerning suicide countermeasures, including without limitation information on advanced approaches thereto, that are conducted pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 15 of the Basic Law on Suicide Countermeasures in order to facilitate comprehensive and effective implementation of suicide countermeasures (hereinafter referred to as “Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof,

etc.”) shall be conducted based on the fundamental policy, as follows:

(1) In light of the nature of suicide countermeasures, in that they need to be implemented as a means of providing comprehensive support for living, such countermeasures are promoted in a comprehensive and reliable manner under appropriate allocation of responsibilities and mutual cooperation among national government and local public entities, with the aim of ensuring that appropriate support is extended equally to all those who are in need thereof, regardless of the regions in which they reside;

(2) Surveys and research in respect of appropriate ways and means of implementing suicide countermeasures in response to the situation in respective regions are conducted systematically and on a continuous basis so as to ensure that the outcomes thereof, etc. are properly utilized by the respective local public entities and lead to formulation of practical and effective suicide countermeasures that reflect the actual situation in the respective regions;

(3) It is ensured that sufficient consideration is given to organic coordination of suicide countermeasures and policies relating to health, medicine, welfare, education, labor, and other relevant issues;

(4) Suicide countermeasures are implemented efficiently and effectively under close mutual coordination among relevant administrative organs of the national government, local public entities, the Designated Survey and Research Corporation (referring to the Designated Survey and Research Corporation provided for in

Paragraph 1 of Article 4 hereof; the same in the next Article), private sector entities that conduct activities related to suicide countermeasures, and other relevant parties;

(5) The status of implementation of suicide countermeasures and the effects thereof are verified on a comprehensive and periodic basis and the outcomes thereof are utilized appropriately for formulation and implementation of suicide countermeasures;

(6) Appropriate attention is paid to protection of personal information; and

(7) In order to ensure that surveys and research are conducted in a professional manner based on the latest scientific knowledge, efforts are made to upgrade the levels thereof and to secure international coordination and promote international cooperation in fields relevant to the surveys and research hereunder.

(Development of Framework for Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc.)
Article 3.

1. In order to implement Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc., based on the fundamental policy prescribed in the preceding Article (hereinafter referred to in the next Paragraph and in Paragraph 2 of Article 8 as “Fundamental Policy”), the national government shall, with regard to establishment of the framework therefor, designate the Designated Survey and Research Corporation pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 1 of the next Article and shall otherwise take necessary measures, including those set forth below:

(1) Preparation of an environment for efficient and effective implementation of the operations of the Designated Survey and Research Corporation;

(2) Establishment of a framework for coordination and cooperation with local public entities, the Designated Survey and Research Corporation, private sector entities that conduct activities related to suicide countermeasures, and other relevant parties;

(3) Implementation of measures to ensure proper handling of personal information in the course of conducting Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc.;

(4) Implementation of measures to secure international coordination and promote international cooperation in fields relevant to the surveys and research hereunder; and

(5) Extension of support to local public entities in their implementation of measures as set forth in the next Paragraph.

2. In order to implement Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc. pursuant to the Fundamental Policy, local public entities shall, with regard to establishment of the framework therefor, establish local bases for implementing Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc. in the respective regions, establish a framework for coordination and cooperation with the Designated Survey and Research Corporation, other local public entities, and other relevant parties and shall otherwise take necessary measures, depending upon the actual situation of the respective regions.

(Designation, etc. of Designated Survey and Research Corporation)
Article 4.

1. The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare may, upon application, designate, for the entire nation, not more than one (1) general incorporated association or general incorporated foundation that is considered to be capable of performing the operations set forth in the next Article (hereinafter referred to as “Survey and Research Services”) in an appropriate and reliable manner as the Designated Survey and Research Corporation.

2. Upon designating the Designated Survey and Research Corporation pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Paragraph, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare shall publicly announce the name and location of the principal office of the Corporation so designated.

3. If the Designated Survey and Research Corporation intends to change the name or the location of the principal office thereof, it shall notify in advance the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare to such effect.

4. When any matter is notified pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Paragraph, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare shall publicly announce the matter so notified.

(Services of Designated Survey and Research Corporation)

Article 5.

The Designated Survey and Research Corporation shall carry out the following services:

(1) Implement surveys, research and verification with respect to the actual circumstances surrounding suicide cases, appropriate ways to prevent suicide, desirable forms of support for relatives, etc. of suicide victims, appropriate ways and means of implementing suicide countermeasures in response to the situation in respective regions, the status of implementation of suicide countermeasures, etc. or maintenance and improvement of mental health, and shall provide the outcomes thereof and promote utilization of such outcomes;

(2) Subsidize the persons that conduct the surveys, research and verification under the preceding Item;

(3) Collect, organize and provide information concerning suicide countermeasures, including without limitation information on advanced approaches thereto;

(4) Offer advice and other assistance as necessary to local public entities with respect to appropriate ways and means of implementing suicide countermeasures in response to the situation of the respective regions;

(5) Educate the employees of local public entities and employees of private sector entities that conduct activities related to suicide

countermeasures, and other related parties, regarding suicide countermeasures; and

(6) Perform services incidental to any of the foregoing.

(Coordination with Local Public Entities)

Article 6.

When the Designated Survey and Research Corporation implements the Survey and Research Services concerning suicide countermeasures of local public entities, it shall endeavor to secure coordination with said local public entities to ensure efficient and effective implementation thereof.

(Confidentiality Obligations)

Article 7.

No person who is or was an officer or employee of the Designated Survey and Research Corporation shall divulge without good reason any confidential information that may have come to his or her knowledge with respect to the Survey and Research Services.

(Business Plan, etc.)

Article 8.

1. The Designated Survey and Research Corporation shall be required to prepare a business plan and budget statement for each business year pursuant to the provisions of the ministerial ordinances of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and shall submit the same to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. The same shall apply when any change is to be made thereto.

2. The business plan mentioned in the preceding Paragraph shall be formulated based on the Fundamental Policy and taking into account the contents of the Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures Policy Principles (referring to the Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures Policy Principles set forth in Article 12 of the Basic Law on Suicide Countermeasures).

3. The Designated Survey and Research Corporation shall be required to prepare a business report and settlement of accounts at the end of each business

year pursuant to the provisions of the ministerial ordinances of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and shall submit the same to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

(Reporting and On-site Inspection)

Article 9.

1. To the extent necessary for the purpose of ensuring appropriate operation of the Survey and Research Services, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare may request the Designated Survey and Research Corporation to submit thereto a report or material concerning the Survey and Research Services, or may direct certain officers of the Ministry to enter the offices of the Designated Survey and Research Corporation to inspect the business status or the books, papers or other items, or to make inquiries of relevant parties.

2. Officers conducting on-site inspections pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Paragraph shall personally carry certificates to verify their identification and shall produce the same to a relevant party whenever so requested thereby.

3. The authority to conduct an on-site inspection under Paragraph 1 hereof shall not be construed as a power authorized for the purpose of conducting criminal investigations.

(Order to Improve)

Article 10.

If it is considered necessary to improve the operations of the Survey and Research Services of the Designated Survey and Research Corporation, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare may order said Corporation to take such measures as may be necessary for improvement thereof.

(Revocation of Designation)

Article 11.

1. If the Designated Survey and Research Corporation acts in violation of the order given pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Article, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare shall be entitled to revoke the designation thereof.

2. If the designation is revoked pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Paragraph, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare shall make a public announcement to that effect.

(Provision of Information and Other Arrangements)

Article 12.

The national government and local public entities shall provide the Designated Survey and Research Corporation with the necessary information and make other arrangements for proper performance of the Survey and Research Services.

(Grants)

Article 13.

The national government may grant, within the budget, a certain amount of money to the Designated Survey and Research Corporation to cover all or part of expenses required for the Survey and Research Services.

(Delegation to Ministerial Ordinances of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

Article 14.

In addition to the matters set forth in Article 4 through Article 13 hereof, any matters that need to be stipulated with respect to the Designated Survey and Research Corporation shall be stipulated in ministerial ordinances of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

(Penalty)

Article 15.

Any person who divulges confidential information in violation of the provisions of Article 7 shall be punished by being imprisoned for a term of not more than one (1) year or by imposition of a fine of not more than five hundred thousand yen (¥500,000).

Article 16.

1. Any officer or employee of the Designated Survey and Research Corporation who fails to submit a report or material pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 9, or who submits a false report or false information for such report or material, or who declines to accept, disrupts or evades an inspection thereunder, or who fails to respond or makes a false

response to inquiries made thereunder shall be punished with a fine of not more than two hundred thousand yen (¥200,000).

2.If an officer or employee of the Designated Survey and Research Corporation commits any act of violation provided for in the preceding Paragraph with respect to the operations of the Designated Survey and Research Corporation, in addition to the person who personally committed the violation being punished, the Designated Survey and Research Corporation shall also be subject to the same penalty as set forth in said Paragraph.

Supplementary Provision

This Law shall come into force three (3) months from the date of promulgation hereof.

Reason for Submitting the Bill

In order to promote further enhancement of suicide countermeasures, it is believed necessary to set forth the Fundamental Policy for promotion of Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc. in order to facilitate comprehensive and effective implementation of suicide countermeasures and to stipulate matters for designation of a Designated Survey and Research Corporation and other matters for establishment of a framework for Surveys and Research and Utilization of Outcomes thereof, etc. The foregoing serves as the reason for submission of this legislative bill.