



2 Life

2-1

Japanese Family Registry System (*Koseki Seido*)

In Japan, there is a family registry system in which births, deaths, marriages and other related information are registered as official records.

Foreign nationals living in Japan should register births, deaths and marriages that occur in Japan in accordance with the Family Registry Law. Certificates of registration and any copies should be kept in a safe place as they provide proof of personal identification.

Contact: City Hall Citizen's Affairs' Section, City Branch Offices, Civic Centers

2-1-1

Notification of a Birth

Foreign nationals living in Japan should register a birth that occurred in Japan in accordance with the Family Registry Law.

Besides making the notification of the birth, the baby will also have to be registered as an alien and receive a status of residence (*zairyu shikaku*). These should be done at the same time as the registration of the birth.

Period of notification: Within 14 days of the birth

Notification applicant: Father or mother

Necessary documents:

- * Notification of Birth Form (*shusei todoke sho*)
- * Proof of Birth Certificate (*shusei shomei sho*)
This is the Notification of Birth Form (*shusei todoke sho*) that was received at the time of birth with a doctor or midwife's confirmation.
- * Guardian and Child Health Handbook (*boshi kenko techo*)
This is the handbook received from the city of the mother's residence when she reported her pregnancy.
- * National Health Insurance Card (*kokumin kenko hoken sho*)
This is applicable to those who have joined the National Health Insurance System.



As for the Alien Registration procedures, please refer to the Alien Registration 1-1-1.

As for the inquiry about the status of residence, please contact the Immigration Office Kumamoto Branch at 096-362-1721.

If you need a certificate of birth registration (*shusei todoke juri shomei sho*), you can apply for it after the registration. This document confirms the receipt of a notification of a birth and will be issued on the same day. The application fee is 350 yen.

2-1-2

Notification of a Death

Foreign nationals living in Japan should make a notification of a death that occurred in Japan in accordance with the Family Registry Law.

In addition to notification of death, the deceased person's Certificate of Alien Registration (*gaikokujin toroku shomei sho*) should be returned to the city office at the same time as the death is notified.

Period of notification: Within 7 days of being notified of the death.

Notification applicant: A family member of the deceased individual

Necessary documents:

- Notification of Death Form (*shibo todoke sho*)
This is available at city offices and at some hospitals.
- Doctor's Certificate of Death (*shibo shindan sho*)
This is the Notification of a Death Form (*shibo todoke sho*) that was received at the time of death with a doctor's certification.
- Inkan/Seal of the notification applicant
(Those who do not have a seal may use their signature.)

The death should also be reported to the government of the deceased's nationality. For more information, please inquire at the relevant embassy or consulate.

2-1-3

Notification of a Marriage

Foreign nationals living in Japan should notify the city of a marriage in accordance with the Family Registry Law.

A foreign national does not obtain Japanese nationality by making a notification of their marriage to a Japanese national, nor does a Japanese national obtain foreign nationality.

The conditions to fulfill for a marriage vary according to the country. Japanese nationals must fulfill the conditions required in Japan, and foreign nationals must fulfill the conditions required in their country. Necessary documents for the marriage registration at the city offices may vary according to their countries as well. Please contact the city offices in advance.

- * A marriage should be reported to the government of the individual's nationality. For more information, please contact the relevant embassy or consulate. As for the change of residence/visa status, please contact the Immigration Bureau Kumamoto Branch at 096-362-1721.

2-1-4

Notification of a Divorce

Foreign nationals living in Japan should notify the city of a divorce in accordance with the Family Registry Law.

The conditions to fulfill a divorce vary according to the country. Japanese nationals must fulfill the conditions required in Japan, and foreign nationals must fulfill the conditions required in their country. Necessary documents for the divorce notification at the city offices may vary according to their countries as well. Please contact the city offices in advance.

- * A divorce should be reported to the government of the individual's nationality. For more information, please contact the relevant embassy or consulate.

2-2

***Inkan* Seal/Seal Registration**

Contact: City Hall Citizen's Affairs' Section, City Branch Offices, Civic Centers

In Japan, a seal/*Inkan* is used in the same way as a signature is used in other countries.

The seal/*Inkan* registered at the city offices is referred to as '*Jitsuin*' or 'officially-registered seal/*Inkan*.' The *Jitsuin*/Official Seal can be used when purchasing properties and cars or some other important contracts are involved. To verify that the seal/*Inkan* is officially registered, you can apply for a certificate of official seal/*Inkan* at the city offices. After registering your seal/*Inkan*, the card for the official seal/*Inkan* will be issued. When applying for the certificate, please bring the Seal/*Inkan* card. Please bear in mind that there are some seals/*Inkan* that cannot be officially registered due to its size, Kanji characters and materials. (For example, a seal/*Inkan* made of rubber cannot be accepted.)

* You may not be able to apply for seal/*Inkan* registration at your nearest city office, so please inquire as to which office you can register your seal/*Inkan* at in advance.

2-3

City-provided Housing/Municipal Housing

Contact: Housing Section or Kumamoto City Municipal Housing Management Center

Municipal houses are provided to those who have difficulties finding, living in or paying the rent for private-owned apartments or houses and whose monthly income of the household is less than 158,000 yen. There are municipal houses designed for senior citizens, the handicapped, the severely-handicapped and large families. Starting from 2008, application will be accepted twice a year: June and December. The selection will be made via a public lottery drawing. Aside from the annual applications in June and December, you may have an opportunity to apply for the public housing. For more information, please contact the Housing Section or Kumamoto City Municipal Housing Management Center of the city hall.

2-4

Garbage Disposals and Recycling

Contact: Waste Control Section

Kumamoto City collects household garbage according to the following 6 categories: Burnable Garbage, Paper Materials, Resource Wastes, Plastic Bottles, Landfill Garbage and Oversized Waste. The different types of garbage are collected based on their categories. Thank you for your cooperation in advance for abiding by the city's policy of garbage collection as follows:

■ Garbage Categories

1. Burnable Garbage Collection---Twice a week

Contents: Raw garbage/food scraps, paper materials, plastic scraps, textiles, leather, rubber and wood scraps.

How to dispose:

- Use city designated burnable trash plastic bags and tie them up firmly
- Dry food scraps/raw garbage before disposal
- Remove waste from diapers
- Large amounts of leaves and branches may not be collected at once. Please refrain from disposing large amounts of leaves and branches at one time. When you dispose them, please do it on the second collection day of the week.



2. Paper materials---Wednesdays

Contents: Newspapers, flyers, cardboard boxes, magazines and the other paper materials

How to Dispose:

- Separate the following three types:

Type 1: Newspapers and flyers

Type 2: Cardboard Boxes

Type 3: Other paper materials

Strap each crosswise with a rope or cord. Please do not include special paper materials such as vinyl coating papers, wax coating papers such as paper cups, oiled papers, photos, synthetic papers, waterproofing papers, thermal papers, carbon and non-carbon papers.

- Open cardboard boxes

- When it rains, refrain from disposing paper materials or use plastic bag to cover them.

As for milk boxes and white trays, bring them back to supermarkets. You can also bring them to recycling boxes set up at city offices.



3. Recyclable Materials---Twice a month

Contents: Glass bottles, cans, old clothes, pans, bicycles and dry batteries

How to dispose:

- Use transparent/translucent plastic bags (up to 45 L) and tie them up firmly
- Rinse inside bottles, glass containers and cans and remove the caps
- After using up spray bottles, make a hole outside which is far away from fire or gas
- Place bicycles a paper indicating 'Garbage'
- As for button-shaped batteries and rechargeable batteries, bring them back to electric appliances shops where they were purchased.

4. Plastic Bottles---Twice a month

How to dispose:

- Use transparent/translucent bags (up to 45 L) and tie them up firmly
- Remove caps, rinse inside and crush them.
- Take them out for a garbage collection site only when the plastic bottles have the following mark on them.



Caps and lids made of iron are categorized as 'Landfill Garbage.'

Plastic caps and labels are to be disposed of with the 'Plastic wrapping and packaging waste' on the designated day.

5. Landfill Garbage---Twice a month

Contents: Glass, glass cups, mirrors, dishes, ceramics and small size electric appliances and so on

How to dispose:

- Use transparent/translucent bags and tie them up firmly
- Wrap broken glass and sharp knives with thick papers and place a note indicating 'Danger'
- Use original boxes when you dispose fluorescent bulbs and electric bulbs

6. Plastic Waste – Once a week

Plastic wrapping/packaging will be collected once per week. Plastic with this mark on it (daily products/foods, etc) such as cups, bags, bottles, toiletries, packs, packaging, caps, labels, etc should be disposed on the designated day after being cleaned out (rinsed) and placed in a transparent trash bag (up to 45 L) and firmly tied up.

7. Oversized Waste---Pick-up Reservation and fees required

Contents: Bulky items that cannot fit in a plastic bag (45 L, 80cm×65cm) and cannot be tied up.

If the item is a stick that is less than 1 meter long, it is not categorized as 'oversized waste.'

How to dispose:

Please make a reservation beforehand at the following number. When you call, they will give you the details about the disposal.

Gomi Zero Call (Trash Collection Center)

TEL: 096-353-7171

From Monday-Saturday (Closed on Year-End and New Year holidays)

Time: 8:30am-5:00pm

* You can buy stickers for Oversized Waste collection at designated convenience stores.

• When disposing air-conditioners, TVs, refrigerators, washing machines and cloth drier

Kumamoto City does not collect air-conditioners, TVs, refrigerators, washing machines, and cloth drier. When you dispose those items, please contact electric appliance shops where you bought them or ask the other electric shops where you are going to buy new ones. You are required to pay recycling fees. If both electric shops cannot take them, please contact the Waste Control Section of the City Hall.

■ Designated Garbage Collection Date

* Garbage collection dates differ depending on where you live. Garbage collection may be cancelled on national holidays. For more information about your garbage collection, please refer to a 'Garbage and Resource Waste Collection Calendar' in your area.

* The 'Garbage and Resource Waste Collection Calendar' was not delivered by mail. If you need a copy, please visit the 1st floor of the City Hall, Waste Control Section, city government branch offices or civic centers in your area.

■ Designated Garbage Collection Site

- Each citizen is supposed to take out their garbage to the nearest designated collection sites. Unless you place your garbage at the designated site, your garbage is not collected. The collection sites are designated by each community association.
- The collection site for resource waste and landfill garbage is not necessarily the same as the site for burnable garbage and paper materials. Please make sure that your collection site is the same or not.

* A Large Amount of Garbage from a Move

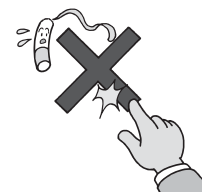
A large amount of garbage from a house move/removal cannot be collected by the usual collection procedures. It is your responsibility to take them out to the city's waste collection centers or ask some garbage collectors/sanitation workers designated by the city.

2-5

Street Smoking and Littering Prohibition Ordinance

Contact: Waste Control Section

In order to maintain safe and beautiful streets, Kumamoto City enacted the ordinance to ban street smoking and littering starting from July 1, 2007.



■ **Details**

	Area	Regulation	Fine
Street Smoking	Whole Area of the City (Except No Street Smoking Area)	Each citizen tries to refrain from smoking while walking on the streets and at places where no smoking corner are set up.	N/A
	No Street Smoking Area (Kamidori, Shimotori and Shinshigai Streets)	No Street Smoking	1,000 yen
Littering, including product wrapping, food scraps, cigarette butts, etc	Whole Area of the City (Except Downtown Beautification Area)	No Littering	N/A
	Downtown Beautification Area (Kamitori, Shimotori and Shishigai Streets)	No Littering	1,000 yen

2-6

Animals/Pets

Contact: Animal Shelter

Address: 2-11-1 Oyama, Kumamoto City

TEL: 096-380-2153

■ **Keeping a dog**

Dogs must be registered to the city from the day its owner started keeping it. The registration must be made at animal hospitals/veterinary hospitals or the animal shelter in the city. After registration, the city issues the owner a small license tag called Kansatsu which must be attached to the dog's collar. If matters related to registration change, such as the owner's change of address, a change of ownership or a loss of a dog, the owner must immediately notify the animal hospitals/veterinary hospitals or the animal shelter.

Dogs over 91 days old must receive a rabies vaccination once a year. Rabies vaccinations are administered at your local animal/veterinary hospitals or the animal shelter. After the dog has been vaccinated, the owner is given a "rabies vaccination completed" (*kyokenbyo yobochusha sumi hyo*) tag which should be attached to the dog's collar, along with the registration license tag.

Every year, open rabies vaccination sessions take place on fixed days and times at local elementary schools, community centers and parks, etc. For more information, please refer to the April issue of the city's newsletter called 'Shisei Dayori.'

