

Multi-Agency Coordination based on Police Characteristics

Masahiro TAMURA

In promoting multi-agency coordination for the sound development of juveniles, mutual understanding among agencies on the characteristics of their partner agencies is vital. However, agencies do not fully understand that criminal investigation carried out by the police has unique aspects: self-purpose, independence, use of force, secrecy, indeterminacy, legal rigidity, and the pursuit of perfection. Investigation of criminal cases involving juveniles is different from that of general ones, due to its specific purpose of the sound development of juveniles, while secrecy, indeterminacy, legal rigidity and the pursuit of perfection are required in the same way.

Due to these factors and the police's strong sense of responsibility, other agencies sometimes feel it is hard to communicate with them. In order to achieve better collaboration with the juvenile department of the police, these communicative gaps must be overcome.

In facilitating talks between the police and other agencies, entities functioning as interfaces are crucial, such as the juvenile support centers of the police, school supporters, and officials exchanged between organizations. Particularly in Fukuoka and Kanagawa Prefecture, the juvenile support centers are organized around juvenile guidance officials with expertise, who can play a pivotal role in securing multi-agency partnership.

School supporters, who are mostly retired police officers without law enforcement authority, are highly thought of as liaison between schools and the police. On the other hand, personnel exchanges between the police and the boards of education in government-designated cities are hampered by the different personnel status of officials, which is a matter that must be addressed.

Also, there are other various coordinative measures, such as agreements on information exchange, support team frameworks and joint training programs.