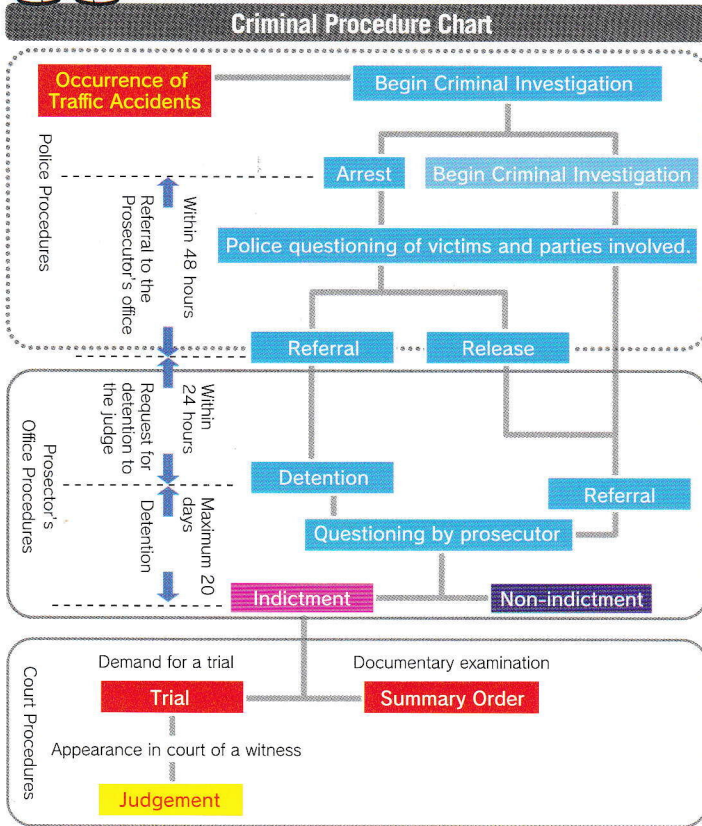


How are the traffic accident perpetrators punished?

The following is the punishment procedures when a traffic accident occurs.



Investigation (Police Questioning)

Investigation is an activity whereby the perpetrator is identified through collecting evidence, the case is solved by investigating the facts and imposing punishment on the perpetrator.

The police investigator in charge will ask you in detail about the situation where the accident occurred and the situation where the report of the traffic accident was filed.

We may take a deposition.

It may be difficult for the victims to revisit the accident, when all a person wants to do is to forget or not mention about things. However police questioning is an indispensable step in determining the cause of the accident and identifying the perpetrator. The more details are discovered, the faster and smoother the investigation will proceed. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sending suspects to the public prosecutor's office, Indictment

A perpetrator suspected to be the criminal by the police (the perpetrator is called the "Suspect") must be sent to the public prosecutor with evidence using the following procedures. This is called sending suspects to the public prosecutor's office.

The prosecutor will decide whether or not to bring the suspect to trial on the basis of the evidence sent.

- Bringing the suspect to trial is called "Indictment".
- Choosing not to bring the suspect to trial is called "Non-indictment".

The prosecutor may question the victim in order to decide whether to proceed with an indictment or not. We appreciate your cooperation.

Trial

At the trial, the judge will conduct a trial based on evidence and give a decision. Victims may sometimes be asked to testify during the criminal trial as a witness.

Various measures have been introduced by the court to protect the victims.

For more details please consult the prosecutor in charge or the Public Prosecutor's Office or court handling the case.

* If the suspect is a juvenile (less than 20 years of age), a juvenile trial proceeding etc., may be followed. A juvenile trial follows a different set of procedures than listed here.

What type of motor insurance is available?



Automobile insurance is operated under two systems, automobile liability insurance, also called **compulsory insurance**, and **voluntary insurance**.

automobile liability		Voluntary Automobile Insurance
Compulsory (obligation)	Membership	Voluntary
Physical injury only	Coverage	Physical Injury and Property Damage
Death.....30 million yen Injury.....1.2 million yen Physical impediment.....750,000 - 40 million yen (Based on the Grade of Disabilities 1 - 14)	Max. amount of benefit Paid	Maximum amount of compensation based on the insurance policy

Compulsory Insurance (mutual aid)

Victim's Claim

Victims are able to claim directly against the motor insurance company insuring the car that caused the accident for the amount of damages.

Perpetrator's Claim

The driver or the owner of the vehicle, who has paid the compensation to the victim, can claim against the casualty insurance company for the amount of damages.

Voluntary Insurance (mutual aid)

For specific procedures on filing an insurance claim, please contact your insurance company.

Automobile Liability Insurance Security Project

The victim is unable to make a claim for Automobile Liability Insurance for the following types of accidents causing physical injury:

- The hit-and-run driver of the automobile is unidentified
- The driver that caused the accident is not insured under Automobile Liability Insurance

To protect the victims in these circumstances, the government has put into place a system called Automobile Liability Security project that covers any deficiency for the amount of damages. Please ask your casualty insurance company on how to make a claim, and what documents are required.



What support system is provided by the Police?

Police support system

Oita Prefectural Police Headquarters Traffic Enforcement Division, Investigation Section ☎097-536-2131
Police Citizen Service Division, General Consultation Desk ☎097-534-9110
Each Police Station's Traffic Division

Local Government Support System

For more details please consult Prefectural and local government office.