

## **Appendix**

### **Kawasaki City Ordinance on the Rights of the Child**

#### **Enactment**

The “Kawasaki City Ordinance on the Rights of the Child” was passed by the Kawasaki City Council on Dec. 21, 2000, and came into force on Apr. 1, 2001.

The “Ordinance on the Rights of the Child” was established based on many views and opinions of the City’s citizens and children.

Under the motto of “Together with Our Citizens, the City as a Whole, Rooted in Kawasaki”, the Ordinance was compiled through over 200 meetings and opinion exchanges with citizens and children which took place in a period of about two years.

#### **Understanding**

The “Ordinance on the Rights of the Child” was established based on our desire to further common understanding of the rights of the child for both children and adults, to respect the child as an individual human being (an actor of the rights), to protect the child from infringement of his/her rights, and to support the child in pursuing his/her own unique life. As such, the Ordinance consists of two parts; the first part prescribes the rights of the child and the philosophy of the Ordinance, and the latter part prescribes the measures to be taken in order to protect the rights of the child in different areas of the child’s life, as well as concrete systems to protect the rights of the child.

It is our sincere wish that the 21st century will be an age in which the rights of the child are guaranteed, and in which children can live a vigorous life and care about both themselves and others.

#### **Preamble**

Each and every child is an individual human being, who has unique worth and dignity. The child wishes that his/her individuality and difference from others be accepted and that respect be given to what he/she naturally is.

The child is a full subject of rights. Under the international principles including the best interest of the child, non-discrimination and respect for the views of the child, his/her rights shall be guaranteed comprehensively and in reality. These rights are indispensable for the child to realize him/herself and lead a life of his/her own with human dignity.

Children can go through affluent childhood when their rights are guaranteed. Through learning about their rights and exercising them in practice, they can have a better understanding of rights and acquire skills to realize their own rights as well as skills and

responsibilities to respect the rights of others. In order that one's rights are respected and guaranteed, the rights of others must be respected and guaranteed in the same manner; it is indispensable that the rights of one's own and others are mutually respected.

Children are partners, who form society with adults. As members of the present society and as responsible actors of the future society, children have specific roles to play through the involvement in the design and formation of society as well as the right to participate in society. For this and other purposes, society shall be open to children.

Children have essential roles to play in promoting mutual understanding and exchanges with their counterparts in and outside Japan as global citizens who live in the same generation, in wishing coexistence and peace, in preserving nature and in creating better urban environment.

Efforts to guarantee the rights of the child in the City will have the effects to promote coexistence among all the residents in the City, leading to the protection of the rights of the residents themselves.

Bearing in mind the first call for children and other international principles, we will seek to ensure that the necessary rights to live as an individual human being are guaranteed for each and every child.

On the basis of the above considerations as well as the philosophies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on November 20, 1989, we proclaim that we will promote the better implementation of the rights of the child and enact the present Ordinance.

### **Children have Child's Rights — A Child is any Person Under 18**

The rights of our children to grow, learn and live life in a way that matches who they naturally are are enshrined in the following 7 pillars.

The following rights were assembled by taking into account the opinions of Kawasaki's children, and we are required to respect them.

#### **1. The Right to Live in Security**

The child shall be nurtured in love and understanding and be protected against all forms of discrimination/violence so that they might be able to live life in a peaceful and safe environment.

#### **2. The Right to be One's Natural and Comfortable Self**

The child shall have his/her individuality and difference from others recognized and shall be protected against interference with his/her important personal secrets. In addition, he/she shall be able to rest/have leisure in a place of security and shall not be

treated unfairly on the basis of his/her childhood.

### 3. The Right to Protect Him/Herself and to be Protected

In order to protect him/herself, the child shall be able to seek shelter, escape all violations of his/her rights, and to be provided with appropriate opportunities for complaints and counseling.

### 4. The Right to Enrich Him/Herself and be Empowered

The child shall be able to enrich him/herself and grow by playing, learning, and participating in any number of different ways, and the child shall be able to receive support in pursuing these activities.

### 5. The Right to Make Decisions by Him/Herself

The child shall be able to make decisions on matters concerning him/herself in accordance with his/her age and maturity, and shall receive appropriate information/advice in making such decisions.

### 6. The Right to Participate

The child shall be able to express him/herself as well as his/her opinions and views, and shall be able to participate in the society.

### 7. The Right to Receive Support in Accordance with Individual Needs

The child shall not be discriminated against or disadvantaged due to or on the grounds of nationality, ethnicity, religion, sex, disability, or other circumstances. In addition, in order to ensure that children with disabilities/foreign children are able to live in a way that matches who they naturally are and to proactively participate in society, these children shall be able to receive support in accordance with their situation.

Source: Kawasaki City, [www.city.kawasaki.jp/en/page/0000037109.html](http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/en/page/0000037109.html)