

Case No. 4

Parents Abused by a Stay at Home Son

The Hashimotos live in the suburbs of Tokyo. Mr. and Mrs. Hashimoto have been troubled by their 32-year-old son's violent behaviors and rough language.

Feeling of Failure in Life

It took two years for their son to pass an entrance exam of a university. He failed to socialize with other students, and soon, he rarely attended the class. After graduation, he started working, but the job he got was not what he really wanted. Eventually, he spent more time at home than at work. He had been socially withdrawn for about five years then. He treated his mother like a housekeeper whose job was to prepare meals and give him some allowance. He even set a fire in the front yard, and his parents ended up calling the police. Soon, his behavior escalated to the level of physical abuse against his mother. Mr. and Mrs. Hashimoto had been totally worn out when they came for help.

Family Money Policy

One day, the family had a quarrel over whether to buy a ¥200,000 worth computer or not. The son said he needed it for job hunting. The parents didn't know how to deal with it. Once they accept his request, he would be demanding more.

Kakekomidera advised Mr. and Mrs. Hashimoto that they shouldn't give but lend ¥200,000 to their son, so he had to repay. It was the good time for the son to face the real world where borrowing money requires collateral, co-signer, and steady income. Just saying "I'm going to find a job and pay it back" wouldn't do.

They made a contract as advised by Kakekomidera. The parents wouldn't serve him any meals, nor lend him money unless the son kept his word.

Setting Rules within a Family

The Hashimotos, just like any other families, often had an argument as to whether something was said or not. To avoid this, you can adopt what's normally done in business – make a contract, which should not be verbal but written. As long as there is a valid contract, those who breach it will have to take responsibility.

When having a family meeting of this kind, try to do with whole family and it's better to include at least one relative as an observer.

On the day Mr. and Mrs. Hashimoto came to Kakekomidera to report that they had their son sign the contract, we reminded them that they have reached the point of no return, and they needed to change first if they genuinely wanted their son to get back to social life.

Tips from Gen

Parents tend to spoil their child and want to avoid violence in the family. Thus, parents often give in to unreasonable demands of their child. In a situation like this, a written contract will make a good difference, because keeping a contract alive requires discipline on both sides.

It is very important for parents to change their attitude and give their child a good example to follow.