

Points of the Equity Process System

Q. Characteristics of the Equity Process

Review method

Applicants for review select hearing or inquiry as the review method. They can change the method anytime until the review is completed.

Hearing

The Board of Equity sets up a meeting with the presence of both the applicant for review and the person who took the action and lets both sides make voluntary arguments and demonstrations to carry on the review. Applicants select either a public hearing where anybody can sit in or a closed hearing.

Inquiry

Unlike the hearing described above, the concerned persons do not meet each other in this method. The Board of Equity separately interviews the applicant and the person who took the action and carries out the review. Inquiry is not open to the public.

Written documents are utilized accordingly in both review methods to carry out the review efficiently.

Venue of review

The Board of Equity decides on an appropriate city as the venue of hearing or inquiry in consideration of the applicant's wish, convenience for examination of evidence, and addresses of concerned persons. (Basically, the Equity Process Room of the NPA Secretariat is used for cases which took place in the Tokyo metropolitan area and the Equity Process Room of the NPA Kinki Bureau is used for cases which took place in the Osaka metropolitan area. For other cases which took place near an NPA regional bureau/office, the review is conducted in the city where the bureau/office is located.)

Intensive review

The review is conducted intensively to complete investigations in a short period of time and conduct the review efficiently.

Indirect review

The NPA, which makes a determination, does not conduct investigations itself. The Board of Equity (whose members are usually comprised of NPA Secretariat employees) designated by the NPA conducts investigations.