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The Japanese Civil Code

Article 779.

A child who is not legitimate may be acknowledged by its father or mother

Article 780

Father or mother, even when he r she is a minor or a major ward, need not obtain the consent of his or her legal representative in order to acknowledge a child.

Article 781

The acknowledgement of a child is effected by giving notification thereof in accordance with the provisions of Family Registration Law.

2. Acknowledgement may also be effected by means of will.

Article 782

A child of full age cannot be acknowledged without his or her assent.

Article 783

A father may acknowledge even a child en ventre sa mere. In this case the assent of mother shall be obtained.

2. Father or mother may acknowledge even a deceased child, but only when a lineal descendant of the child is living. In this case if such lineal descendant is of full age his or her assent shall be obtain.

Article 784

Acknowledgement shall be effective retroactively as from the time of birth; however, the rights acquired by third persons prior thereto shall not be prejudiced thereby.

Article 785

Father or mother who has effected acknowledgement cannot revoke such acknowledgement.

Article 786

A Child or any other person interested may allege any fact adverse to acknowledgement.

Article 787

A child, any of its lineal descendants or the legal representative of any of them can bring an action for acknowledgement; however, this shall not apply after the lapse of three years from the time when the father or mother died.

Article 789

A child acknowledged by its father acquires the status of a legitimate child by reason of the marriage of its father and mother.

2. A child acknowledged by its father and mother during the subsistence of their marriage acquires the status of a legitimate child as from the time of such acknowledgement.

3. The provisions of the preceding two paragraphs shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in cases where the child is already dead.

Article 790

A legitimate child assumes the surname of its father and mother. If, however, before the birth of the child its father and mother have divorced, the child assumes the surname of its father and mother at the time of divorce.

2. An illegitimate child assumes the surname of its mother.

Article 877

The lineal relatives by blood and brothers and sisters shall be under duty to furnish support each other.

2. If there are special circumstances, the Family Court may impose a duty to furnish support as between the relatives within the third degree other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

3. If, after the decision pursuant to the provisions of the preceding paragraph had been rendered, any change has taken place in the circumstances, the Family Court may revoke the decision.