

Criminal Defense: Ideal Methods for Lawyers in the Courtroom

– When a person with developmental disabilities has committed a crime –

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When a person with developmental disabilities has committed a crime, appropriate defense methods by lawyers are required. As lawyers do not specialize in understanding the characteristics of developmental disabilities, conflicts in relationships with such accused persons is expected.

In this study, for cases when a person with a developmental disability has been accused of a crime and is undergoing trial, ideal methods for criminal defense are presented. In such defense activities, it is assumed that collaboration with other experts is important. Further, the study aims to understand both conflict activity and lawyer actions during the course of cooperation.

As a result of interviews with five lawyers, three stages of defense activities became evident. First, when a lawyer met with the accused, the developmental disability can make them feel uncomfortable, as would occur in others. Then, there is a feeling of need regarding cooperation with other experts. Second, other experts and lawyers will carry out their respective professional activities. Through these combined activities, the collective expertise will be improved. Moreover, as a third stage and in addition to these experts, the family and friends of the accused will also work in cooperation for the accused during the trial.