

## The Meiji Civil Code Addresses the Role of Women

### Book I. General Provisions.

#### Chapter I. Persons.

##### Section II. Capacity.

12. A quasi-incompetent person must have the consent of his curator for doing the following acts:

1. Receiving or employing capital;
2. Contracting a loan or giving security;
3. Doing any act whose object is the acquiring or parting with a right in an immovable or a valuable movable;
4. Doing any act in the course of a lawsuit;
5. Making a gift, a compromise, or an agreement to submit to arbitration;
6. Accepting or refusing a succession . . .

14. A wife must obtain the permission of her husband for doing the following acts:

1. Those specified in Art. 12, No 1-6;
2. Accepting or refusing a gift or a legacy;
3. Making any contract affecting the disposition of her person. Any act contrary to those provisions may be rescinded . . .

### Book IV. Family.

#### Chapter II. The Head and Members of a House.

##### Section II. Rights and Duties of the Head and off the Members of a House.

749. A member of a house may not choose his residence against the will of the head of the house.

##### Section IV. Divorce. Subsection II. Judicial Divorce.

813. A husband or a wife, as the case may be, can bring an action for divorce only in the following cases:

1. If the other party contracts a second marriage
2. If the wife commits adultery . . .
6. If one party is deserted by the other

Source: *The Civil Code of Japan*. Translated by Ludwig Lönholm. Tokyo: Kokubunsha, 1898.  
<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924069576704#page/n9/mode/2up>.