

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (Aug. 2026)

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300,000 Citizens and Public Officials Will Evaluate the Level of Integrity of Public Institutions They Have Directly Experienced

- *ACRC to conduct a comprehensive integrity assessment survey for 2026 from August to November, via phone calls, text messages, KakaoTalk, and email*
- *The overall integrity ratings for 579 public institutions to be announced in December this year*

(Aug. 3, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il Yeon) plans to conduct the “2026 Comprehensive Integrity Assessment of Public Institutions” survey starting in August to objectively diagnose the level of integrity in public institutions and improve areas vulnerable to corruption.

This survey targets approximately 300,000 citizens and internal public officials who have directly experienced the work of public institutions, including central administrative agencies, local governments, offices of education, and public organizations. It investigates their perceived level of integrity and experiences with corruption during the handling of public institution affairs.

The comprehensive integrity score is calculated by combining the results from three areas: (1) Integrity Perception, which surveys the level of integrity as experienced by citizens and public officials; (2) Integrity Effort, which evaluates the institution’s anti-corruption policy efforts; and (3) Deductions, which reflect the occurrence of corruption cases and actions undermining trust. Among these, the Integrity Perception area, which is directly related to this survey, is a core evaluation area that reflects the actual experiences and perceptions of citizens and public officials.

〈 2026 Comprehensive Integrity Assessment System 〉

Comprehensive Integrity Level (100 perfect score)			
	Integrity Perception (60%)	Integrity Effort (40%)	Deduction (up to 15%)
Content	Assess integrity perception and corruption experience that the general citizens and internal staffs have in relation to external duties and internal operation of public institutions	Evaluate the performance of anti-corruption policy initiatives and effectiveness thereof by public institutions based on pre-established indicators	Statistics of corruption cases detected, failure to perform anti-corruption duties, and actions undermining trust are reflected in the deduction category
Method	Survey	Qualitative & Quantitative Assessment	Qualitative & Quantitative Assessment

The survey for evaluating perceived integrity level will be conducted for about four months, from August to early November, through phone calls, text messages, KakaoTalk, and email. Respondents' personal information and survey responses will be thoroughly protected through encryption, so they can participate without a fear of identity exposure.

The ACRC plans to announce the comprehensive integrity ratings for 579 public institutions in December this year, based on the combined results of the survey, integrity effort evaluation, and integrity deduction assessment. Each institution must analyze the corruption-prone areas identified through the evaluation results and implement customized improvement measures tailored to their characteristics.

Chairperson Jung Il Yeon of the ACRC stated, "Accurately diagnosing the level of integrity as perceived by the public is the starting point for change in the public sector. I sincerely ask for your active participation in this survey so that your valuable opinions can serve as the foundation for change in the public sector."

File an Administrative Appeal with the Professional Attorneys, as the ACRC Supports Rights Relief of the Vulnerable Groups

- *The CAAC introduces a legal counseling service for administrative appeals to support the socially or economically vulnerable groups*
- *The counseling service will be available through the official website of the CAAC (www.simpan.go.kr)*

(Aug. 18, 2026, ACRC)

The Central Administrative Appeals Commission (CAAC, Chairperson Cho So Young) under the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il Yeon) launches a legal counseling service for administrative appeals, to promote rights relief of socially or economically vulnerable people* by providing counseling services from professional legal attorneys even before they file an administrative appeal.

* Socially or economically vulnerable people include national basic livelihood recipients, single-parent households eligible for support, basic pension recipients, and disability pension recipients

Administrative appeal is one of the most representative administrative rights relief systems which enables quick and easy rights relief than a lawsuit, for the people whose rights are infringed due to the unlawful or unreasonable administrative disposition.

In particular, socially or economically marginalized groups can receive support from a public representative for the procedure without the financial burden, by asking for the service after filing the administrative appeal in accordance with the Administrative Appeals Act.

According to the existing system, however, there was a limitation in the system, as only people who had already filed an administrative appeal could apply for a public representative. Although the preparation stage is when people struggle the most, those preparing an administrative appeal were not able to receive legal support.

To reduce the blind spot, the CAAC has newly established a legal counseling service for administrative appeals, which people can use before they file an administrative appeal.

Unlike the existing public representative system which is only available for the claimants of administrative appeals, the service will provide legal counseling for a broader range of applicants. The initial target will be socially and economically marginalized people who definitely need the support.

Anyone who wants to use the service can apply through the official website of the CAAC (www.simpan.go.kr). After the review, the CAAC decides whether they are eligible for the service and provides a personal consultation with a professional attorney.

If, after the consultation, the person files an administrative appeal, they can ask the same attorney to serve as their public representative. This will enable consistent support from the consultation to the appeal procedure.

Chairperson of the CAAC as well as the Vice Chairperson of the ACRC, Cho So Young, stated that “We hope that this service can offer practical support for the people who want to file an administrative appeal but are unable to seek professional advice.” She added, “The CAAC will continuously identify services which people really need and improve the existing services to provide a more thorough rights-relief system from the people’s perspective.”

Regarding the Extremely Dangerous Route to Schools, “Agreed” to Install Traffic Safety Infrastructure and Conduct Student Education

- *The ACRC drew an agreement among Jincheon local government, Jincheon Police Station, and schools to install more traffic safety infrastructure*
- *The Commission will continuously work on expanding the school zone, installation of traffic lights and safety fences*

(Aug. 19, 2026, ACRC)

School faculty and parents of Mansung Elementary School and Gwangheawon Middle School located in Gwangheawon, Jincheon County, North Chungcheong Province collectively filed a petition. This was because of the insufficient traffic infrastructure which created a dangerous route to schools for their children. The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il Yeon) mediated the case to address the situation.

The ACRC held discussions with Jincheon County, Jincheon Police Station, Mansung Elementary School and Gwangheawon Middle School to finalize an agreement on safe commuting route around the schools on August 19.

The two schools have large student populations compared to other schools in the entire Jincheon County. Many of their students are from the apartment block across the street, walking along the road in front of the Gwangheawon Middle School. While car traffic is congested in both directions, traffic lights have not been installed.

Parents of the school continuously raised concerns about this situation, saying the speed camera is installed in only one direction and cannot prevent every speeding vehicle, the school zone is only partially designated, and safety measures such as fencing are insufficient, causing risks due to jaywalking.

Against this backdrop, a grievance petition was filed with the ACRC on June 18, with the list totaling 1,058 petitioners, including school faculty and parents.

The ACRC followed up on this case with a field investigation as well as discussions with relevant institutions to prepare a mediation proposal.

Under the agreement, Jincheon County will install additional safety fencing and closely work with Jincheon Police Station to relocate the crosswalk in front of Gwangheawon Middle School, which currently causes traffic confusion. The county will also install additional road safety measures, including traffic lights, speed cameras for both directions, and an extra crosswalk.

At the same time, Jincheon Police Station will convene a review committee for the traffic safety infrastructure upon request of Jincheon County, actively supporting the relevant administrative procedures for the installation of road safety infrastructure.

Also, the two schools will continuously hold road safety education and conduct campaigns to prevent jaywalking by students, and will pay more attention to the road safety infrastructure installed within the school zone.

Chairperson Jung Il Yeon of the ACRC said, “As a governmental institution, both central and local governments should surely guarantee the safety of children, who are the future of our society.” He added, “The ACRC will do our best to secure the safety of students by actively resolving related petitions.”

The ACRC Relieves Foreign Worker Who Lost Job Opportunity Due to Employer's Mistake, Also Requests Institutional Improvement

- *The ACRC expressed its opinion that foreign workers who lost their employment extension period due to their employer's mistake should be allowed to be re-employed*
- *Also expressed the opinions to conduct institutional improvement for foreign workers who lost working opportunities through no fault of their own*

(Aug. 20, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il Yeon) has determined that it is desirable to extend the employment of foreign workers if they do not have attributable reasons but lose the opportunity to extend their working period because their employer mistakenly let the application period lapse.

The Commission also expressed its opinion for the Ministry of Employment and Labor to work on institutional improvement in a fast manner to establish a solution for foreign workers who lose their jobs due to reasons not attributable to themselves, so that the government can prevent similar issues.

There was a case involving a foreign worker who began working in Korea on an E-9 visa* and lost the opportunity to extend their working period due to the mistake of their employer. This person filed a grievance petition with the ACRC and asked for relief.

* A visa which non-Korean workers can acquire to work in Korea for companies that have obtained an employment permit. The system allows small and medium-sized companies that were not able to hire Korean workers to legitimately get permission from the government and hire non-Korean workers

After the investigation, the ACRC found that this person had been working at a company located in Gimpo, Gyeonggi Province, since March 2024 and agreed to extend their working period with the employer. As the application period approached, the Ministry of Employment and Labor sent text messages five

times to inform them of the procedure on working period extension. The employer, however, applied to the Ministry of Justice to extend this person's stay, without having first applied to the Ministry of Employment and Labor for a work-period extension - just three days before the work period ended.

The Ministry of Justice refused to extend the stay of this person, as the necessary documents including the confirmation of the working-period extension, issued by the Ministry of Employment and Labor were not prepared. The employer asked to extend the working period of this person 10 days after the period ended, and this was rejected because the application period had already passed. This person thus lost an opportunity to work and became an undocumented worker, due to the mistake of their employer.

The ACRC stated that it is desirable to allow such workers to remain employed in Korea. Extend the hiring of foreign workers whose permits expired through no fault of their own can help make the most of skilled labor and address the labor shortage, without undermining foreign employment permit system or the immigration control system.

Although imposing a penalty or fine on the employer who missed the application period could be discussed on a separate track, the ACRC expressed its opinion to the Ministry of Employment and Labor to work on institutional improvement for the people who lose the opportunity to extend their working period through no fault of their own.

Director General Min Sung Shim of the Ombudsman Bureau stated, "This is not only an issue for workers, but also Korean companies which suffer from a labor force shortage when foreign workers lose job opportunities and are forced to leave Korea due to issues not attributable to themselves." She added, "With the decision on institutional improvement, we expect to expand job opportunities for skilled foreign workers and address the labor shortage of small and medium-sized companies."

Reports on Double-Parking at EV Charging Stations have been Rejected, but Regulation is Now Being Improved through Citizens' Application for Proactive Administration

- *The ACRC stated, "If the relevant guideline causes difficulties, it should be revised or amended to prevent relevant petitions from being repeated."*
- *A petition about noise from a gateball court in a Community Park located in Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Metropolitan City is resolved by enacting legislation which includes restrictions on the hours of use of public facilities*

(Aug. 26, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il Yeon) leveraged the Citizens' Application for Proactive Administration system to address inconveniences caused by the loopholes in administrative routine. It also brought about the enactment of regulations or requested improvement through cooperation with the relevant institutions to prevent similar petitions.

* Citizens' Application for Proactive Administration: An institution that enables people to ask the relevant government agency to proactively resolve their petition. When filed, the ACRC reviews the request and expresses its opinion to relevant institutions for improvement. Application is available on both the e-People and the official ACRC website.

The first resolved case was about a crackdown on vehicles obstructing EV charging stations, which could not be effectively enforced due to excessive requirements on evidence.

For instance, there was a report on a double-parked vehicle which blocks an EV charging station at the Safety e-Report. The report, however, was rejected since the evidence was insufficient. According to the regulation, the report should include a video clip as evidence to show whether the parking brake was engaged. However, due to the dark window tinting, it was impossible to see whether the brake was engaged.

To prevent the original purpose of the crackdown on illegal parking from being undermined, the ACRC expressed its opinion to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources to discuss with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety — the

ministry in charge of Safety e-Report — to ease the requirements on evidence when filing a report, which is currently difficult for general citizens to meet. The Commission also requested that local governments not simply reject due to insufficient evidence, but explore additional enforcement methods, such as on-site inspections to resolve inconveniences of the people.

The second resolved case was a petition filed by the residents of an apartment near a community park in Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Metropolitan City, regarding a request to limit the hours of use since the noise from the gateball courts in the park disturbs residents' sleep.

The ACRC found that four apartment complexes were near the courts, suffering from noise starting in the early morning.

The relevant local government faced limitations in resolving the petition, since there were no specific regulations on entry and use of the gateball court. The ACRC therefore expressed its opinion that legislation should be enacted with regard to the operation time and guidelines for installing soundproofing facilities around the court, to minimize the damage to residents. Based on this experience, the local government also agreed to prepare a comprehensive plan to minimize harm to residents while respecting people's rights to use the facilities.

Director General Oh Jeong Taek of the Institutional Improvement Bureau said, "The ACRC suggests various solutions through the Citizens' Application for Proactive Administration to protect the rights and interests of the people, such as requesting to enact or amend relevant regulations." He added, "We would like to ask public institutions to put more effort into their work for proactive administration, such as checking any outdated regulations which might cause petitions."