

IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN'S PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CIREBON REGENCY

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Abstract: Sexual violence against women is a serious problem that continues to increase and requires special attention from various parties, especially local governments. This study aims to analyze the implementation of legal protection for women victims of sexual violence in Cirebon Regency and identify factors that affect the effectiveness of its implementation. The research method used is an empirical juridical approach with data collection methods through interviews, observations, and documentation research on relevant institutions, such as the police, women and child protection institutions, and victims. The research results show that the implementation of protection for victims has been carried out through various efforts, such as legal assistance, health services, psychological rehabilitation, and the provision of safe houses. However, its implementation still faces various obstacles, including limited resources, a lack of coordination between institutions, and low public awareness in reporting cases of sexual violence. In addition, cultural factors and social stigma also hinder victims from obtaining optimal protection. In conclusion, the implementation of the protection of women victims of sexual violence in Cirebon Regency has not been running optimally. Therefore, it is necessary to increase institutional synergy, strengthen human resources capacity, and educate the public to create a more effective and fairer protection system for victims.

Keywords: women's protection, sexual violence, law implementation, victims, Cirebon Regency

A. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is still a serious problem in Indonesia and requires comprehensive handling from the government and the community. Data from various women's monitoring agencies show that forms of violence, both physical, psychological, sexual, and economic, continue to occur and are often not reported because victims face structural, social, and cultural barriers. This condition emphasizes the need for regulations that provide stronger protection and integrated handling mechanisms.

In 2022, the government stipulated Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of

Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) as a new legal umbrella that strengthens protection, prevention, and recovery for victims of violence, especially women. This law regulates in more detail the form of violence, the rights of victims, the state's obligations in assistance, and cross-agency coordination in the handling process. With the presence of the TPKS Law, local governments are expected to be able to implement effective derivative policies so that the protection of women can run at the local level.

Cirebon Regency is one of the areas with socio-cultural diversity that experiences challenges in efforts to protect victims of violence, both in terms of regulations, institutions, apparatus capacity, and the availability of integrated services. Several institutions, such as the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office (DP3A), the police, health service institutions, and community organizations, have an important role in ensuring the implementation of the TPKS Law at the regional level. However, policy implementation often faces obstacles, such as a lack of coordination between agencies, insufficient resources, stigma against victims, and limited understanding among authorities of the protection mechanisms regulated by law.

In this context, it is important to research how to implement women's protection for victims of sexual violence crimes in Cirebon Regency. This research is relevant to assessing the extent to which policies are implemented, encouraging the creation of a more responsive, integrated, and equitable women's protection system.

- Regional Regulation Number 12 of 2022 Cirebon Regency provides a very important national legal basis for the protection of women and victims of sexual violence, including in areas such as Cirebon.
- In Cirebon Regency, there is a local framework (Regional Regulation 2018) and related agencies (PPPA), and there have been cases handled with central-regional coordination showing that the TPKS Law has begun to be implemented.
- However, implementation efforts still face challenges in structure, capacity, resources, and socio-culture; So it is still necessary to strengthen them so that the principles of protection, recovery, and non-victimization of victims can be carried out consistently.
- To maximize implementation, continuous commitment from local governments, law enforcement officials, service institutions, and the community is needed so that the TPKS Law is not just a law on paper, but real in daily life.

Problem Formulation

Based on this background, the formulation of the problem that will be discussed in this study is as follows:

1. Legal arrangements regarding the protection of women victims of the Crime of Sexual Violence based on Law Number 12 of 2022?
2. What are the legal concepts and principles that underlie the policy of protecting women victims of sexual violence from a positive legal perspective in Indonesia?

Research Objectives

This study aims to examine and analyze the implementation of protection for women who are victims of sexual violence in Cirebon Regency. The main focus of this research is to examine how applicable legal provisions are implemented in practice, especially in providing guarantees for protection, recovery, and fulfillment of victims' rights.

Research Benefits

This research is expected to make a significant contribution both theoretically and practically in legal studies, especially related to the protection of women victims of sexual violence. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich the treasures of criminal law and victimology, especially in understanding the implementation of victim protection norms in the local context. In addition, the results of this research can also be an academic reference for the development of further research related to legal protection for victims of sexual violence.

Frame of Mind

1. Theoretical Foundations

- Legal Protection Theory

According to Philipus M. Hadjon, legal protection is an effort to provide protection to the community through legal instruments to ensure the fulfillment of the basic rights of every citizen and prevent arbitrary actions from those in power in the context of protection for victims of sexual violence. Legal protection theory emphasizes that the state has an obligation to ensure security, recovery, and access to justice for victims.

- Public Policy Theory

Public policy is a series of decisions or actions taken by the government to overcome problems faced by the community in the context of protecting victims of sexual violence, the birth of the TPKS Law is a form of state policy in providing protection to vulnerable groups and strengthening the system for handling cases of sexual violence comprehensively.

- Principles of victim protection

Principle of Non-discrimination Every victim has the right to protection without discrimination based on gender, age, social status, religion, or other conditions.

- Basics of Comprehensive Recovery

Victims have the right to a comprehensive recovery that includes physical, psychological, social, economic, and legal aspects.

- Principles of Access to Justice

Victims have the right to access a fair legal mechanism and assistance during the judicial process.

2. Previous research

1. Rifla, C., & Saputra, H. *Juridical Review of the Implementation of Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection against the Prevention of Bullying to Children*. 9(35), 23764–23770. (2025)
2. Implementation of Law Enforcement of *Bullying* by Children in Watampone City. Muh. Hasby Fathurrahman Salewangeng, Muhadar, NurAzisa. Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia.

B. Research Methods

1. Types of Research

The type of research used in this study is empirical juridical legal research empirical juridical research is legal research that examines how the law is applied in practice in society by connecting legal norms with facts that occur in the field This approach not only examines the laws and regulations that regulate the protection of women as victims of sexual violence, but also looks at the implementation of these protections by law enforcement officials laws and related institutions in Cirebon Regency.

2. Research Approach

- Statute Approach

Through this legislative approach, the researcher examined various regulations related to legal protection for victims of sexual violence, including Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence, Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence, and Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection. In addition, this study also pays attention to other regulations related to the protection of women and the handling of victims of sexual violence.

- Conceptual Approach

The conceptual approach is used by referring to legal doctrines, legal theories, and relevant principles to explain the framework of scientific thought in the study

- Case Approach

The case approach is used by examining court decisions relevant to the crime of sexual violence and victim protection, The purpose of this approach is to see how legal norms are applied by judges in concrete cases.

3. Source of Legal Materials

The legal regulation for the protection of women victims of the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS) in Law No. 12 of 2022 shows the use of legal language that is imperative and protective, with an emphasis on the state's obligation to ensure the protection, handling, and recovery of victims. Underlying legal principles and concepts such as the principles of non-discrimination, comprehensive restoration, and access to justice are presented through an inclusive, holistic, and substantive justice-oriented legal language. This also reflects the application of legal protection theory and victim-centered justice approaches. However, in its implementation, juridical normative analysis reveals a gap between the ideal norms in laws and regulations and practice in the field. Although the legal language of the TPKS Law has been firm and comprehensive, its realization still faces structural obstacles, such as a lack of regulatory synchronization, limited resources, low understanding of the apparatus, and patriarchal legal culture. Thus, overall, the legal language of the TPKS Law has been progressive in providing a basis for victim protection, but the effectiveness of its implementation still depends on the harmonization of norms or institutional strengthening and internalization of victim protection principles in law enforcement practices.

C. RESEARCH RESULTS

In this chapter, the results of the research will be presented after describing the background, supporting theoretical foundations, and methods used. The results are presented based on data obtained through interviews. The discussion in this chapter is based on data

collected through interviews with relevant informants, and discussions focused on the problem being studied. Therefore, in this chapter on results and discussions, the findings from interviews will be explained. To Mr. AIPTU UMAR YUSUP, SH AS PS KASUBNIT 2 PPA AT THE Cirebon Police on January 23, 2026, concerning Legal Protection for the Implementation of Women's Protection for Victims of Sexual Violence in Cirebon Regency. This research uses a qualitative, descriptive approach. According to Lexy J. Moleong in her book *Qualitative Research Methodology*, qualitative research is conducted in natural settings to interpret phenomena using various available methods. In this research, the researcher continues to emphasize the use of natural settings to provide a deep understanding of the phenomenon through the application of various research methods. In qualitative research, commonly used methods include interviews. At the analysis stage, the researcher compiled a list of interview questions and conducted data analysis independently. Interviews are conducted in stages over a specific period, e.g., in January. The results of the study were obtained through in-depth interview techniques with the sources as an effort to dig up data, as well as through non-participant observations in the field, which were then analyzed by the researcher.

Chronology of the Case
The victim is a 15-year-old girl
The perpetrator is a 29-year-old man who was only known through online games, the perpetrator came to Cirebon, then persuaded the victim to meet
After meeting the victim was taken to Banyumas and held captive for 8 days
During the detention, the perpetrator committed sexual violence (intercourse) 2 times
The victim's parents reported to the police, and the victim was successfully found by the authorities.

1. Implementation of Women's Protection for Victims of Sexual Violence in Cirebon Regency.

The protection of women victims of sexual violence is a state responsibility that is manifested through various legal and institutional policies in Indonesia, this protection is strengthened through Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence which affirms that victims have the right to receive protection, treatment, and comprehensive recovery. The implementation of this protection is also carried out at the regional level, including in Cirebon Regency, through cooperation between local governments, women and children protection institutions, and law enforcement officials. Local governments have an important role in formulating policies and providing protection facilities for women victims of sexual violence. In Cirebon Regency, the local government seeks to provide protection through violence-prevention programs, legal socialization for the community, and complaint services for victims. In addition, the local government also plays a role in coordinating various

institutions involved in handling cases of sexual violence so that the victim protection process can run in an integrated and effective manner.

- **The Role of DP3A / UPTD PPA** One of the institutions that has a major role in victim protection is the Cirebon Regency Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office Through this institution, the local government provides various services for victims of violence, such as complaint services, mentoring, and psychological and social recovery In addition, protection services are also strengthened through the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA) which provides services directly to the victim. UPTD PPA plays a role in receiving case reports, conducting assessments of victims' conditions, and providing assistance throughout the case-handling process. This institution also collaborates with psychologists, social workers, and medical personnel to support the victim's recovery.
- **The Role of the Police (PPA Unit)** In the police law enforcement process has an important role through the Police Women and Children Service Unit (PPA Unit), this unit specifically handles cases related to women and children, including sexual violence crimes The PPA unit is tasked with receiving reports from victims or victims' families, conducting investigations and investigations of perpetrators, and ensuring that legal processes run in accordance with applicable provisions other than The PPA unit also seeks to provide protection to victims during the legal process so that the victim feels safe and does not experience pressure from the perpetrator, Law enforcement for perpetrators arrested and detained by the police is processed in accordance with the applicable law with a threat of imprisonment of up to 5-15 years in prison according to the Child Protection Law.
- **Legal and Psychological Assistance** In addition to law enforcement against perpetrators, victims of sexual violence also need legal and psychological assistance Legal assistance aims to ensure that victims understand their rights and receive protection during the judicial process This assistance is usually carried out by legal aid agencies or companions from women and child protection agencies Meanwhile, psychological assistance is very important to help victims overcome trauma experienced due to sexual violence. Through counseling and psychological rehabilitation services, victims are expected to recover their mental state and return to living a normal social life.

2. Factors Inhibiting the Implementation of Protection for Women Victims of Sexual Violence in Cirebon Regency.

One of the main inhibiting factors is the low public awareness of reporting cases of sexual violence. Many victims choose not to report the incident because they feel embarrassed, afraid of the perpetrator, or worried about getting negative stigma from society. This condition causes many cases of sexual violence to not be revealed, so that the legal protection process for victims cannot run optimally. In some cases, the victim is actually blamed by the surrounding environment for the incident that happened to him. This attitude can cause psychological pressure for victims so that they are reluctant to seek help or report cases to the authorities. Another inhibiting factor is the limited facilities and resources in handling victims. Psychological assistance services, legal assistance, and safe house facilities for victims are still limited so that not all victims can get maximum protection services. The limited number of human resources who have special expertise in handling cases of sexual violence can also affect the quality of services provided to victims, in addition, the lack of socialization regarding legal protection for victims of sexual violence is also an obstacle in the implementation of protection. Some people still do not understand the rights of victims as well as the mechanisms for reporting and handling cases of sexual violence. This causes the victim or the victim's family to not know the steps to take when an act of sexual violence occurs. Based on the description, it can be concluded that although various policies and institutions for the protection of women victims of sexual violence have been available, the effectiveness of their implementation in Cirebon Regency still faces several obstacles, both from social, institutional, and limited facilities. Therefore, efforts are needed to increase public awareness, strengthen women and child protection institutions, and improve facilities and resources to support more optimal protection for victims of sexual violence.

3. Prevention in the Implementation of Protection for Women Victims of Sexual Violence in Cirebon Regency.

Prevention efforts are a crucial element in realizing the effectiveness of the implementation of protection for women who are victims of sexual violence in Cirebon Regency. Prevention is carried out through various strategic steps involving local governments, women and child protection institutions, law enforcement officials, and community participation. The purpose of this prevention effort is to minimize the occurrence of sexual violence while increasing public awareness about the importance of protecting women, the local government of Cirebon Regency through related agencies has carried out various socialization and education programs to about the dangers and impacts of sexual violence. This activity is usually carried out through legal counseling, seminars, women's protection

campaigns, and education in schools and communities. This effort aims to provide understanding to the public about the forms of sexual violence, the rights of victims, and reporting mechanisms in the event of such criminal acts. In addition, the role of women and child protection institutions, such as the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), is also very important in prevention efforts. This institution not only focuses on supporting victims but also carries out preventive activities, such as community counseling, women's empowerment, and strengthening family capacity to create a safe environment for women and children. Law enforcement officials, especially the police through the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA Unit), also play a role in prevention efforts by approaching the community through coaching programs. legal socialization and cooperation with various agencies and community organizations. Through this activity, it is hoped that the public can better understand the legal consequences of the crime of sexual violence and the importance of the role of the community in preventing the occurrence of these crimes even though various prevention efforts have been made, the effectiveness of the implementation of protection for women victims of sexual violence in Cirebon Regency still faces several challenges, one of the obstacles that often arises is the low public awareness to report cases sexual violence, the stigma against victims, and the lack of public understanding of legal protection mechanisms for victims. In addition, the limitations of human resources and supporting facilities are factors that affect the optimization of prevention efforts, thereby increasing coordination between institutions, strengthening community education programs, and providing more comprehensive policy support from local governments so that prevention efforts against sexual violence crimes can run effectively through these measures. It is hoped that a safer environment and better protection will be created. more optimal for women in Cirebon Regency.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussions on women's protection of victims of sexual violence in Cirebon Regency, it can be concluded that legal arrangements related to victim protection have obtained a solid basis through Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes (TPKS Law), this law provides a more comprehensive legal framework in ensuring the protection, handling, and recovery of victims of sexual violence. The arrangement is also supported by various other legal instruments, such as the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, the Child Protection Act, as well as international principles regarding the protection of human rights. Conceptually, this protection policy is based on the

principles of non-discrimination, comprehensive restoration, and access to justice which aims to ensure that victims receive legal protection in a fair and humane manner in its implementation in Cirebon Regency, efforts to protect women victims of sexual violence have been carried out through cooperation between the local government, the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office (DP3A), the Regional Technical Implementation Unit of the Protection Region Women and Children (UPTD PPA), as well as law enforcement officials through the Police Women and Children Service Unit (PPA Unit). Various services have been provided to victims, including complaint services, legal assistance, psychological counseling, and social recovery efforts. In addition, local governments also strive to take preventive measures through legal socialization programs, public education, and strengthening the role of families and communities in preventing sexual violence, but nevertheless, the effectiveness of the implementation of legal protection still faces various obstacles. These obstacles include low public awareness of reporting cases of sexual violence, the existence of social stigma against victims, limited facilities and human resources in protection services, and the lack of optimal coordination between institutions involved in handling cases of these conditions. This shows that, although the legal framework is normatively quite progressive and comprehensive, its implementation at the regional level still requires strengthening from an institutional perspective. The capacity of the apparatus, as well as the social support of the community, therefore, requires a continuous commitment from local governments, law enforcement officials, service institutions, and the community to strengthen the implementation of policies to protect women victims of sexual violence. Strengthening coordination between institutions, increasing human resources capacity, providing adequate service facilities, and raising public legal awareness are important steps to realize the goals of the TPKS Law in practice. The protection of women victims of sexual violence is not only a legal norm, but can also be effectively realized in the practice of community life.

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