

Abstract

This study examines the implementation of Victim Impact Statements (VIS) in sentencing child sexual violence cases at the Karanganyar District Court in Indonesia. The objective is to analyze how VIS is applied in court proceedings and its influence on sentencing outcomes. Using a social-legal research method, the study combines legal analysis of regulations and court documents with social inquiry through interviews and observations involving judges, victims, and court officials. The findings reveal that although the Perma No. 1 of 2022 establishes important procedural guidelines for restitution claims, it falls short by not explicitly defining or integrating VIS within court proceedings. Judges acknowledge the importance of victim narratives in understanding the crime's impact, which informs more restorative and empathetic sentencing decisions. Challenges such as unclear procedures, inadequate training on trauma sensitivity, and social stigma impede optimal VIS use. The study recommends formalizing VIS procedures, enhancing judicial capacity, and encouraging inter-agency cooperation to strengthen victim participation. Effective integration of VIS supports victims' rights, facilitates healing, and advances just sentencing in child sexual violence cases.

Keywords: Child sexual violence; Restorative Justice; Victim Impact Statement.