

Legal Counseling of Criminal Acts in Child Protection Law in SMP 11 Surakarta

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Abstract

Target of the community service that the team hopes is for partners to gain knowledge about criminal acts as stipulated in the law on child protection, so as to be able to prevent the occurrence of violent crimes against children and report to law enforcement officials if they know of suspected criminal acts against children

The method used in this community service activity is a lecture followed by a question and answer session, and discussion. Thus, the atmosphere of counseling during the event feels lively because participants actively convey their ideas and opinions.

The result achieved in this legal counseling is so that partners get knowledge about criminal acts as stipulated in the Child Protection law, so that after this program is completed partners are able to prevent the occurrence of violent crimes against children and report to law enforcement apparatus if they know of suspected acts of violence against children.

Keywords:

Handling Domestic Violence in Kel. Purwosari

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I. INTRODUCTION

Children are essential to both human existence and the long-term viability of a country or state. Every child needs to have the most chances to grow and develop optimally, both physically, mentally, and socially, so that they can be responsible for the sustainability of the nation and state in the future. As the result, protection efforts must be taken to realize the welfare of children by providing guarantees for the fulfillment of their rights without any discriminatory treatment.

Nowadays, there are many criminal cases where the victims are children. This is assumed because children are weak and need help. Particularly when the perpetrator is an adult who is obviously stronger than children. Additionally, criminal acts involve not only physical violence but also psychological violence. Victims of criminal acts of violence against children not only leave injuries and trauma but also a significant number of fatalities.

Law No. 35 of 2014 on the Amendment to Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection (Child Protection Act), and there are articles in the Criminal Code that regulate violent crimes, namely crimes against decency, murder, persecution, and theft with violence.

Several factors contribute to the occurrence of criminal acts of violence against children, including financial difficulties in parents or families. Economic factors are one of the main factors because, within the scope of the family, a person cannot meet the economic needs of his family so it becomes an excuse for committing violence against his child. Then there is the factor of early marriage, in which immaturity in the household causes a mother to commit violence against her child. The next factor is due to personality and unstable psychological conditions, followed by environmental factors that make violence against children common in that environment. Then the role of the environment is then considered, with the assumption that child abuse in the home is a family problem rather than a shared social problem.

The dilemma with cases of violence against children today is that victims do not want to report the incident, and children cannot report the violence they experience because of their young age or the threat of further violence from the perpetrator. Then there is the circumstance where the environment does not want to declare that there has been a criminal act of violence against children. Then the situation of the surrounding environment that does not want to report that there has been a criminal act of violence against children. Most children are not able to talk or express the violence committed by those who are closest to them. Naturally, this hurts the victims because the acts of violence will keep happening. It is very important that the role of surrounding people such as parents if violence is committed by people outside the home, then neighbors, as well as the environment and schools are more sensitive to what victims experience so that victims or people who violence against children can report it to law enforcement officials.

Considering the number of victims of violence against children, due to the lack of public knowledge about criminal acts of violence against children, it is essential to conduct legal counselling on criminal acts as regulated in the Law on Child Protection.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The method employed was a lecture, followed by a question-and-answer session and discussion. Obtaining results and solutions as a form of problem-solving and overcoming obstacles by providing examples of actual cases. When providing counseling/lectures, the equipment used in delivering the material is in the form of slides, which allows participants to easily understand the topics presented.

III. DISCUSSION

This community service activity was carried out on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 13.00 - 15.30 WIB which took place in the teacher's room of SMP Negeri 11 Surakarta. It was performed using the lecture method, which was then followed by a question-and-answer session and discussion.

During the lecture, a phenomenon emerged in which participants aware of criminal acts of violence against children in the form of physical and psychological violence. Violence is committed by their closest environment; they are family and a schoolteacher. However, these participants were unaware of the actions that must be taken when there is violence against children. Most participants did not understand the criminal provisions as stipulated in the Child Protection Law. In addition, many participants did not understand the limits for scolding children to avoid criminal acts of child abuse. Participants were also educated on what actions can be qualified as criminal acts of violence against children. Participants were also shown examples of cases of criminal acts of violence against children committed by parents, schools, and people in the surrounding environment.

After the service team delivered a lecture, it was seen that this activity was a success because the participants gained a better understanding of criminal acts of violence against children as a result of the legal counseling. Furthermore, during the question-and-answer session, the participants were very enthusiastic in asking questions to find out what they did not understand or critical questions based on their experiences. They inquired as to how to determine whether a teacher's actions toward students are an act of discipline against children or a criminal act of child abuse. Furthermore, how to respond if there are criminal acts of violence against children in the surrounding environment. The service team responded well to the various questions raised by the participants by explaining the elements of a criminal offense as outlined in the Child Protection Law, as well as the actions that must be taken if there are suspected acts of violence against children.

IV. CONCLUSION

This counseling activity succeeded in increasing participants' understanding of the crime of violence against children. Some of the problems conveyed by the participants were well answered during the question-and-answer session conducted in the legal counseling so that the participants truly understood that the existing problems could be resolved properly.

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