

**LEGAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AS VICTIMS OF COMMERCIAL
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE
PERSPECTIVE OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS
IN INDONESIA**

Abstract

This study aims to describe the applicable rules in protecting child victims of Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation (ESKA) through social media and how future legal policies will protect child victims of these crimes. CSEC crimes are increasingly rife with the existence of social media as a means of transaction and promotion of child victims. The problem is that there is currently a blurring of norms and rules that specifically regulate legal protection of the rights of children victims of CSEC crimes. The research method used is normative juridical research. From the results of the study, it was found that there is more than one legal regulation that is currently used to protect child victims of commercial sexual exploitation crimes committed through social media, namely the Child Protection Law, the Pornography Law, the Electronic Information and Transactions Law and the Sexual Violence Criminal Law. Some of the obstacles in protecting child victims of CSEC include: 1) legal substance factors (blurring of norms and rules that specifically regulate CSEC crimes through social media), 2) legal structure factors (there is no legal umbrella for investigators and public prosecutors to be able to quickly break the chain of dissemination of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children on social media; 3) Legal cultural factors (public awareness, lack of parental monitoring, and lack of sexual education in children). The future legal policy recommendations include: 1) Revising the Child Protection Law and the ITE Law; 2) strengthen the authority of the Prosecutor's Office and the Police as investigators and public prosecutors to remove social media content containing commercial sexual exploitation of children from the investigation and prosecution stages; 3) Create a child-friendly complaint and reporting center that is easily accessible to child victims of sexual exploitation crimes.

Keywords: *commercial sexual exploitation of children; social media; legal protection.*