

**LEGAL REVIEW OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF FORENSIC MEDICINE
ON LEGAL EVIDENCE****Reny Okprianti^{1*}, Nur Husni Emilson², Nabila Tsabitah³, Nyayu Siti Fadiah⁴, M. Bio Fadli⁵, M. Renaldy Saputra⁶**

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Abstract

The contribution of forensic medicine to the results of forensic examinations, such as autopsies, plays a crucial role in identifying key evidence and determining the cause of death. By adhering to professional ethics and standards, forensic doctors help uphold justice and the integrity of the legal system. The method used in this study is normative. This law enforcement is carried out in the form of valid evidence in the form of letters and statements according to experts. Therefore, the relationship between the two cannot be separated. Investigators, expert doctors, and other law enforcement officers work together to coordinate with each other so that each stage in proving a case produces results in the form of concrete evidence, so that it can be used as a consideration for decisions to be taken by judges in court. The role of forensic medical assistance is very necessary to find the material truth in murder cases in order to clarify the criminal case and obtain valid evidence, but the role of forensic medicine is not always successful, there are also obstacles that occur.

Keywords: Legal Evidence, Forensic Medicine, Law Enforcement

INTRODUCTION

Forensic medicine, also known as forensic medicine or legal medicine, is a branch of medicine concerned with the application of medical knowledge in law enforcement (Putri, 2012). This science serves to assist the judiciary in resolving cases involving the human body, health, and life, particularly in criminal cases such as violence, murder, and other crimes requiring medical evidence. Through forensic examinations and medical analysis, forensic medicine helps provide a clear scientific picture for judges and law enforcement officials in making appropriate and fair decisions (Kumean, 2022).

Forensic medicine bridges the gap between law and medicine, utilizing scientific methods to gather and analyze relevant facts in legal cases. This encompasses processes such as preparing post-mortem reports, autopsies, victim identification, and determining the cause of death or the causal relationship between the criminal act and its impact on the victim. This discipline's role not only helps law enforcement identify perpetrators but also supports the evidentiary process in court, ensuring objective and scientific justice.

In the judicial context, forensic medicine plays a crucial role in ensuring the material truth underlying a judge's decision in adjudicating a case. Knowledge of forensic medicine enables judges to understand the elements of the charges and verify the medical facts behind a criminal act. Thus, this science significantly contributes to law enforcement based not only on legal facts but also on credible scientific evidence, strengthening the judicial process and protecting human rights.

In complex criminal cases such as murder and mutilation, forensic medicine plays a crucial role in identifying victims and identifying perpetrators through physical evidence and careful forensic examination (Astuti, 2024). The combination of medical applications and legal procedures makes forensic medicine an integral part of the modern justice system. Therefore, mastery of this science by doctors, investigators, and law enforcement officers is crucial in achieving true justice (Asmadi, 2019).

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a normative research method by emphasizing a deeper understanding of the role of forensic medicine in criminal law in understanding the contribution of forensic medicine to the legal evidence available in that context. (Patton, 2015).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. The Role of Forensic Medicine in Criminal Cases

Forensic medicine, or judicial medicine, plays a crucial role in the criminal justice process by providing scientific evidence based on medical examinations to cases involving human injury, health, and life, thus helping judges reach material truth. Forensic doctors act as expert witnesses, producing a post-mortem examination (*visum et repertum*) as valid evidence, and provide trial testimony to prove elements of a crime. This science helps identify the type of injury, the degree of severity (such as minor or serious assault), and the causal relationship between the perpetrator's actions and the damage to the victim, including the influence of the victim's profession on the qualification of the injury. In cases of assault or rape, a post-mortem examination documents physical findings to support the prosecutor's charges (Monita & Wahyudhi, 2013).

Forensic doctors determine the time, signs, type, cause, and manner of death through autopsy, which is essential for cases of murder, infanticide, or mutilation. For example, in infanticide, the examination distinguishes between live and dead babies based on medical

signs, according to Article 80 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code. In complex cases such as murder by poisoning or mutilation (Napa & Yusuf, 2025), this science analyzes physical evidence, body remains, or dangerous substances to identify victims and perpetrators, and supports police investigations until the judge's verdict. Cooperation between forensic doctors, investigators, and judges ensures the effectiveness of the judicial process (Anastasya, 2017).

B. Contribution of Forensic Medicine to Legal Evidence

Forensic medicine, or medical forensics, contributes crucially to the evidentiary and legal process in court by providing objective scientific evidence through medical examinations of victims, perpetrators, or crime scenes, which helps judges form a conviction regarding a crime under Article 183 of the Criminal Procedure Code. This contribution includes identifying the cause of death, the type of injury, the causal relationship between the perpetrator's actions and their consequences, and analyzing physical evidence such as mutilation or poisoning.

Forensic medicine is regulated in Article 179 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, which requires experts to provide testimony for the sake of justice, and Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code which makes it a valid form of evidence such as expert testimony or witness letters. The main form is the *visum et repertum* (written medical examination report) which replaces the *corpus delicti* (the victim's body) in court, as well as oral expert testimony. The force is binding for the judge, although the final decision is accompanied by legal considerations.

In cases of assault resulting in death, murder, rape, or mutilation, this science proves criminal elements such as intent and consequences through forensic DNA analysis, toxicology, or wound reconstruction. For example, in East Jakarta District Court Decision No. 463/Pid/B/2015/PN.Jkt.Tim, the post-mortem examination of the victim's body served as the basis for the judge's considerations. It also helps identify victims from body remains and identify perpetrators through physical evidence at the scene (Adila, 2024).

This contribution ensures an effective scientific process, makes it easier for judges to ask the right questions to experts, and prevents wrongful decisions by proving causal relationships. In Indonesia, its effectiveness has been demonstrated in complex investigations, despite challenges such as limited forensic facilities. Overall, it strengthens criminal justice with credible medical evidence.

Forensic medicine, or forensic medicine, uses a variety of methods and techniques to support medical examinations and legal proceedings, particularly in criminal cases involving the human body, health, or life. Primary techniques include physical examinations, autopsies, and laboratory analysis to establish facts such as the cause of death, the type of injury, or the causal relationship between the perpetrator and the victim (Arsyadi, 2014).

The initial method is performed directly at the crime scene to document the condition of the victim, corpse, or evidence, including observing signs of violence, body position, and environmental factors. This technique involves forensic photography, measurements, and initial sample collection to prevent evidence contamination. The results support event reconstruction and time of death estimation (Pramesti, 2016).

Visum et Repertum (VeR) A forensic autopsy is a written report by a forensic physician on the examination of a live victim or corpse, including descriptions of injuries, their severity, and the suspected causal mechanism. Techniques include external examination (wounds, bruises), internal examination (if necessary), and interviews with the victim to determine criminal elements such as assault. This document serves as the primary evidence in court, often presented by the physician as an expert witness. A verbal (external examination) or instrumental (surgical) autopsy is used on corpses to determine the cause of death, the type of

death (natural, violent, or suicide), and the estimated time of death based on rigor mortis, livor mortis, or body temperature. Additional techniques include tissue sampling for toxicology or histopathology. This method is crucial for cases such as infanticide or homicide.

Forensic medicine serves as an auxiliary science that connects medical knowledge with criminal law and criminal procedure, particularly in proving crimes involving the body, health, or life (Salim, 2020). This relationship is integral because it provides scientific evidence, such as a post-mortem examination (*visum et repertum*), to determine causality (a cause-and-effect relationship) between the perpetrator's actions and the consequences for the victim (Putri, 2024).

Forensic medicine helps confirm the elements of a crime, such as the type of injury, cause of death, or pregnancy in cases of infanticide. Judges use these forensic findings to assess the perpetrator's responsibility and differentiate between minor and serious crimes, such as assault. Furthermore, this science identifies victims in cases of mutilation or rape through medical examination.

CONCLUSIONS

Forensic medicine is a branch of medicine that applies medical knowledge to support the judicial process, particularly in criminal cases involving bodily harm, health, or life. This science plays a crucial role in assisting law enforcement officials such as police, prosecutors, and judges in objectively uncovering facts through forensic examinations, post-mortem examinations, and autopsies. Therefore, the integration of forensic medicine into the criminal justice system ensures that legal decisions are based on accurate scientific evidence, thereby enhancing the fairness and effectiveness of law enforcement.

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