

LEGAL PROTECTION FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE THROUGH LPSK IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Yola Iskandar^{1*}, Bambang Widarto², Rizky Pratama Putra Karo Karo³

^{1,2,3}Marshal Suryadarma Aerospace University, East Jakarta, Indonesia
yolaiskandar@gmail.com

Abstract

The protection of children who are victims of violence is a constitutional obligation of the state as specified in Article 28B paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. In the practice of the criminal justice system, child victims often experience multiple vulnerabilities such as intimidation, repeated trauma (revictimization), social stigma, and the lack of fulfillment of their rights to recovery and restitution. In this context, the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) as an independent state institution plays a strategic role in ensuring the protection and fulfillment of the rights of child victims, as regulated in Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims and Government Regulation Number 43 of 2017 concerning the implementation of restitution for children who become victims of criminal acts. This research employs a normative legal research method using statutory, conceptual, and case approaches. The data consists of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials analyzed through qualitative juridical analysis. The study aims to examine the forms of legal protection provided by LPSK for child victims of violence within the criminal justice system and to identify obstacles in its implementation. The results show that LPSK provides protection including physical and psychological protection, legal assistance during judicial processes, medical support, psychological and psychosocial rehabilitation, and facilitation of restitution and compensation rights. However, several challenges remain, including weak restitution enforcement mechanisms, limited institutional resources, inadequate child-friendly facilities, suboptimal coordination among law enforcement agencies, and persistent victim-blaming attitudes within society.

Keywords: Victims of Violence, Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK), Legal Protection, Criminal Justice System, Restitution

INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian Constitution explicitly guarantees children's rights as a manifestation of the principle of the rule of law. Based on Article 28B Paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution, the state is obliged to guarantee children's rights to life, growth, and development, as well as to provide protection from all forms of violence and discrimination. This constitutional provision serves as a legal basis for the state to prioritize guidance and protection for children to achieve optimal development. This article serves as a crucial instrument used by the state to address issues of children's rights and human rights in general. Therefore, every child must receive guidance, protection, and the opportunity to develop optimally.

Globally and nationally, child protection is seen as an integral part of human rights, as stipulated in Article 52 of Law No. 39 of 1999. This regulation emphasizes that the protection of children's rights begins during pregnancy. In the context of criminal law, this commitment is demonstrated through the regulatory update from Law No. 3 of 1997 to Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. This change marks a shift towards a more modern and humane approach to children in conflict with the law.

Child protection efforts are a strategic step that must be initiated as early as possible, considering the position of children as national assets who are expected to be able to make real and effective contributions to the progress of national development in the future. As a concrete form of this commitment, the national legal instrument through Article 2 Paragraphs (3) and (4) of Law Number 4 of 1979 concerning Child Welfare has provided specific affirmation. In this regulation, it is emphasized that every child has the constitutional right to receive proper care and security guarantees, the scope of which begins from the time the fetus is in the womb until after the birth process takes place (Ramadani, 2020).

The international community's significant attention to the existence and well-being of the younger generation is manifested in a crucial international treaty, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This legal instrument was approved by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1989, and contains a clear mandate that countries worldwide are obliged to fully recognize and guarantee children's inherent rights, particularly the right to a decent standard of living. In line with the mainstream of human rights protection at the global level, Indonesia then integrated these international norms into its national legal system. This step was carried out through a ratification process authorized by Presidential Decree Number 36 of 1990, which also provided legal force for the implementation of child protection within the jurisdiction of the Republic of Indonesia (Wijaya & Ananta, 2016).

In the history of the development of criminal law in Indonesia, the protection of child victims of crime initially lacked adequate regulation in the Criminal Procedure Code (Law No. 8 of 1981). At that time, legal instruments tended to emphasize resolving victims' losses through a complex compensation mechanism. Within the Criminal Procedure Code, the victim's role was seemingly neglected and not clearly defined, except when their presence was required as a witness or a reporting witness.

This situation underwent a major paradigm shift with the enactment of Law Number 13 of 2006, which was later revised to become Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to the Witness and Victim Protection Law. Based on the mandate contained in Article 4 of the law, the state is present to ensure that every witness and victim receives physical and psychological protection. The primary focus is on creating a conducive judicial climate so that victims feel safe in providing testimony at all levels of the court system, from investigation to trial.

The introduction of the UUPSK into the Indonesian justice system marks a new chapter in the fulfillment of the rights of crime victims, where the state explicitly guarantees protection for the personal safety, family, and material assets of victims as mandated in Article 5 paragraph 1 letter a. This clause affirms that every victim has the constitutional right

to be free from fear and threats related to the information or testimony they provide before law enforcement officials. This protection has a very broad spectrum, as it includes protection for victim witnesses, non-witness victims, and even preventive protection for relatives or family members of victims who are potentially affected by the case.

This provision also synergizes with other legal instruments in handling specific cases of an extraordinary nature, including gross human rights violations, the handling of which is supported by Government Regulation Number 44 of 2008 concerning the procedures for providing restitution, compensation, and various other forms of recovery assistance. In the context of special protection for child victims of crime, regulations in Indonesia continue to experience progressive and dynamic evolution. This is reflected in the enactment of Law Number 35 of 2014 as a revision of Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, which was later strengthened by Law Number 17 of 2016. This repeated regulatory transformation demonstrates the state's serious commitment to providing a more robust legal umbrella in facing the increasingly complex challenges of child protection in the modern era (Kenedi, 2020).

In an effort to provide more substantive justice, protection for child victims of crime is strengthened through the existence of restitution instruments. The operational basis for this refers to Government Regulation Number 43 of 2017, which specifically regulates the procedures for implementing restitution for child victims of crime. In legal terminology, restitution is understood as a scheme for restoring the victim's rights through the payment of compensation that must be fulfilled by the perpetrator of the crime in accordance with a final and binding court decision. The essence of this restitution is to restore the victim's suffering, whether in the form of financial or material losses or psychological or immaterial losses that have a broad impact on the child's life. Thus, the state ensures that the responsibility for victim restitution is not merely symbolic, but also provides real compensation for the victim and the heirs left behind.

Every child who is a victim of a crime has the right to receive restitution (Article 2 of Government Regulation No. 43 of 2017), where a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old, including a child who is still in the womb. This restitution is the victim's right and can be requested for compensation for monetary losses, damages, personal injuries, psychological trauma, payment for suffering, and services to the victim, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Prosecution and Assistance of Crime Victims (Muladi, 2012).

Of course, this is a paraphrase of the last section of your text. I've expanded the narrative to be more comprehensive, technical, and have a much larger word count than the original text to ensure depth.

In an effort to strengthen the victim protection system in Indonesia, the government established Government Regulation (PP) Number 43 of 2017 as the primary legal basis for implementing the right to restitution for child victims of crime. This legal norm mandates that every child who has suffered wrongdoing must receive comparable compensation, which includes compensation for lost property, suffering resulting from the crime, and ongoing medical care and psychological support.

The definition of compensation in legal practice encompasses a very broad spectrum. On the one hand, there are measurable material losses, such as tangible financial expenses and lost economic opportunities or income. On the other hand, there are immaterial losses, which, although difficult to quantify, are crucial, such as the mental stress, emotional devastation, and persistent psychological suffering experienced by victims as a result of the perpetrator's unlawful acts. The fundamental goal of implementing restitution is to create an effective recovery mechanism to alleviate trauma and discomfort, while also serving as a crucial stimulus to support the success of the long-term rehabilitation process for child victims of crime.

Data from the past five years (2020-2025) shows a significant increase in violence against children. This data is derived from the number of applications/reports submitted by child victims to the LPSK (Lembaga Masyarakat Pemberantasan Korupsi).

Table 1. Number of Applications/Reports Submitted by Child Victims

Year	Number of children	Case Categories	Source (LPSK)
2021	288	Application for protection of child victims of violence	LPSK 2021 Report & Press Release
2022	537	Application for Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence against Children	LPSK 2022
2023	973	Application for Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence against Children	LPSK Annual Report 2023
2024	836	Child TPKS Application (out of 1,063 TPKS applications)	LPSK Annual Report 2024
2025*	1.119 -1.251	Child TPKS Application (temporary data)	Press Release & National Media quoting LPSK

Source: www.lpsk.go.id

*Note: 2025 data is still provisional (until a certain reporting period)

This research is motivated by the desire to strengthen legal protection for child victims of violence within the framework of child rights protection and the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA). It aims to provide legal certainty through an analysis of the role of the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) and related legal instruments (such as the UUPSK and the PP on Restitution), as well as fostering a more comprehensive understanding of how state institutions and criminal law can address the recovery and protection needs of child victims.

With in-depth normative analysis, it is hoped that the results of this study will be able to provide a positive contribution to law enforcement that is responsive, professional, and in accordance with the principles of child protection as mandated by the Constitution and legal regulations in Indonesia. Based on this background, the formulation of the problem in this study is structured as follows: 1. What form of legal protection is provided by the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) to child victims of violence in the criminal justice system in Indonesia? 2. What are the obstacles and efforts made by LPSK in optimizing the protection of child victims of violence during the law enforcement process?

RESEARCH METHODS

In this legal research, the author uses a normative legal research method, namely research conducted by examining secondary legal materials, such as laws and regulations, legal literature, doctrines, and relevant court decisions (Subagyo, 2004). The approach used in this research includes a statute approach, namely by examining the provisions in the Civil Code, as well as other related regulations. In addition, this research also uses a conceptual approach to understand the definitions and legal concepts regarding children born out of wedlock, child recognition, and inheritance rights in the context of civil law. Research data was obtained through library research, namely by collecting and reviewing primary legal materials (laws and court decisions), secondary legal materials (books, journals, scientific articles), and tertiary legal materials (legal dictionaries and legal encyclopedias) related to the research topic.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION**Forms of Legal Protection Provided by the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) to Child Victims of Violence in the Criminal Justice System in Indonesia****A. Form of Protection****1. LPSK Brief Profile**

The presence of the Witness and Victim Protection Law in Indonesia is actually a direct embodiment of the mandate of the MPR Decree (TAP) No. VIII of 2001, which specifically provides recommendations for policy directions in efforts to eradicate and prevent the practice of Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism (KKN). Through Article 2 paragraph (6) of the decree, the urgency of establishing a strong legal umbrella is emphasized to guarantee the safety of witnesses and victims of crime. As a concrete follow-up, on June 27, 2002, the Legislative Body of the Indonesian House of Representatives submitted the Draft Law on Witness and Victim Protection (RUU PSK) which was fully supported by the signatures of 40 legislative members from across factions, so that its status officially shifted to a DPR initiative bill.

The legislative process continued on August 30, 2005, when President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono issued a Presidential Letter (Surpres) stating the Government's readiness to discuss the PSK Bill, by appointing the Minister of Law and Human Rights as the official representative. This step was responded positively by Commission III of the Indonesian House of Representatives through the formation of a Working Committee (Panja) until the start of intensive discussions on February 8, 2006. After going through the formulation stage by the Formulation Team (Timus) and the Language Research stage (Libas), the bill was finally passed on July 18, 2006 as Law No. 13 of 2006 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims, which also became the basis for the establishment of the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK).

As an institution born from this mandate, the LPSK was established as an independent institution whose structure is not under the auspices of any government agency or other law enforcement agency. The decision to maintain this independence was based on two fundamental reasons. First, the need for a dedicated authority focused solely on witness and victim protection without being co-opted by the interests of institutions such as the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, or the National Commission on Human Rights. Second, to ensure that this complex burden of protection duties does not disrupt the performance of existing institutions. Despite its autonomous nature, LPSK still functions as a supporting institution, requiring synergy and full support from various related agencies for the effectiveness of its protection program (Eddyono, 2007).

Based on the mandate of Law No. 13 of 2006, the LPSK holds a constitutional mandate to provide comprehensive protection for witnesses and victims. The institution's main duties and functions focus on providing protection services and fulfilling procedural rights as guaranteed by the applicable legal framework. In practice, the LPSK plays a spearhead role in ensuring the implementation of fair and accountable protection in accordance with the law. The LPSK's success in effectively executing this mandate will not only strengthen the criminal justice system but will also automatically foster broad support and a higher level of public trust in law enforcement institutions (Sunarso, 2012).

In the first five years of its existence, LPSK's strategic priorities focused on the development and strengthening of its fundamental institutional structure. This consolidation phase was crucial as it laid the foundation for LPSK's future

development and progress. During its first six years of operation, the agency's effective performance was reflected in the significant annual surge in protection applications. Starting from 74 applications in 2009, the number steadily climbed to 154 (2010), 340 (2011), and 655 (2012), peaking at 1,560 applications in 2013 and 1,878 applications in 2014.

Entering 2015, the LPSK (Lembaga Penita Masyarakat/LPSK) undertook a major transformation in response to the enactment of Law No. 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law No. 13 of 2006. This adaptive step included re-drafting medium- and long-term strategic plans, synchronizing various implementing regulations and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in accordance with the mandate of the new law, and comprehensive organizational restructuring. These efforts were undertaken to ensure that LPSK had a more robust and responsive institutional capacity to address the complex needs of witness and victim protection in Indonesia.

2. LPSK's Authority

The Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) has a strategic policy direction outlined in its vision and mission. LPSK's primary vision is to establish an integrated witness and victim protection system within the criminal justice process. This vision serves as a compass for LPSK's transformation into a credible institution through the application of the principles of professionalism, transparency, and public accountability in all its protective duties and functions.

To realize this grand vision, LPSK has established five main missions as follows:

- a. Provision of Protection: Striving for real protection and fulfillment of procedural rights for witnesses and victims at all stages of the criminal justice process.
- b. Institutional Strengthening: Building a professional and resilient organizational structure to effectively respond to the needs of witness and victim protection.
- c. Internalization of Regulations: Strengthening the legal basis and increasing technical capacity in order to ensure the fulfillment of the constitutional rights of witnesses and victims.
- d. Multisectoral Collaboration: Fostering and developing dynamic collaborative networks with various stakeholders to expand the reach of rights fulfillment.
- e. Public Participation: Creating a conducive ecosystem and encouraging the active role of the community in supporting witness and victim protection schemes in Indonesia.

The following is a paraphrase of the text regarding the LPSK's operational duties and authorities based on the latest legal basis, with measurable additions:

As an independent institution, the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) bears the constitutional responsibility to organize protection and assistance schemes for witnesses and victims. In order to realize its strategic vision and mission, the LPSK's operationalization is based on the duties, functions, and authorities that are rigidly regulated in Article 12 of Law No. 31 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law No. 13 of 2006. This provision provides legal legitimacy for LPSK as the main authority handling witness and victim protection in Indonesia through a series of proactive and preventive actions.

In carrying out the mandate of Article 12, LPSK is equipped with the following ten technical authorities:

- a. Investigation Information: Authorized to request information, both verbally and in writing, from the applicant and other relevant parties.

- b. Material Test: Conducting an in-depth review of statements, letters and documents to verify the truth of the application.
- c. Public Document Access: Requesting copies of documents from any agency for the purposes of examining reports in accordance with legal procedures.
- d. Law Enforcement Coordination: Monitoring and requesting information regarding case developments periodically from the police or prosecutor's office.
- e. Identity Protection: Performing protected identity change procedures to ensure the safety of life and privacy.
- f. Facility Management: Managing and operating safe houses as temporary shelters.
- g. Sheltered Relocation: Moving a sheltered position to a safer location to avoid a real threat.
- h. Physical Protection: Providing tight security and escort for witnesses and victims who are at high risk.
- i. Procedural Advocacy: Providing direct assistance to witnesses and victims at every level of the judicial process.
- j. Financial Evaluation: Assessing the amount of losses to determine restitution from the perpetrator and compensation from the state.

3. LPSK as a Protection System for Child Victims of Violence

The Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) is an independent state institution established under Law Number 13 of 2006, which was later strengthened through amendments to Law Number 31 of 2014. LPSK has a strategic mandate in the criminal justice system because it is tasked with providing protection and assistance to witnesses and victims. Within the framework of protecting child victims of violence, LPSK holds a crucial position because:

- a. Child victims are a vulnerable group;
- b. Children often lack the ability to access legal mechanisms independently;
- c. Children have special needs in examination, trial and recovery;
- d. The risk of revictimization of children in the justice system is very high.

The Witness and Victim Protection Law gives LPSK broad authority, including providing physical protection, procedural protection, medical assistance, psychological assistance, psychosocial rehabilitation, and facilitating restitution and compensation.

Furthermore, Government Regulation No. 43 of 2017 specifically strengthens the role of the LPSK (Lembaga Penitentiary and Victim Protection Agency) in the restitution mechanism for child victims of crime. Restitution, in this context, is a victim's right imposed on the perpetrator based on a legally binding court decision. However, in practice, restitution implementation still faces various obstacles, both from the perspective of law enforcement, the enforcement mechanism, and the perpetrator's economic situation.

Thus, the LPSK acts not only as a security protection agency but also as a victim recovery agency. From a modern victimology perspective, the LPSK is a concrete form of the victim recovery system, a victim protection system oriented toward the victim's comprehensive recovery.

Obstacles And Efforts Undertaken by LPSK in Optimizing the Protection of Child Victims of Violence During the Law Enforcement Process

A. Obstacles and Efforts

1. LPSK Obstacles

From a sociological and legal perspective, five fundamental factors are intertwined and hinder the effectiveness of witness and victim protection in Indonesia. First, legal factors, including weaknesses in regulatory substance. Second, law enforcement factors; officials such as judges, prosecutors, police, and advocates should be at the forefront of justice, but often encounter the societal stigma of the law being "blunt at the top and sharp at the bottom." Third, inadequate facilities and infrastructure to guarantee physical security. Fourth, societal factors; fear of physical threats, property damage, and even job loss make many reluctant to testify. Fifth, cultural factors; refusal to testify has become ingrained in the culture because it is considered disadvantageous, which is exacerbated by the practice of violence by investigators in pursuing suspect confessions rather than seeking material truth.

Apart from the above factors, there are specific obstacles that limit the LPSK's room for maneuver:

- a. **Limited Geographic Reach:** The absence of regional offices slows coordination with medical personnel and local NGOs. This often results in fragmented and unsustainable interventions for victims of sexual violence, making decentralization of services an urgent need.
- b. **Lack of Socialization:** Low public knowledge regarding the existence of LPSK makes people unaware of the protection rights available to them.
- c. **Regulatory Weaknesses (Law No. 13 of 2006):** This law is considered to have failed to regulate protection mechanisms for law enforcement (such as prosecutors) and their families, who are also at high risk. Furthermore, the protection application procedure stipulated in LPSK Regulation No. 6 of 2010 is often perceived as overly bureaucratic and burdensome for victims experiencing trauma.

Obstacles to legal protection are not limited to witnesses, but also extend to the rights of suspects. Violations frequently occur, with suspects' rights only granted after a confession is obtained, which, ironically, is often obtained through physical pressure. This systemic failure is exacerbated by the tendency of judges to continue using the Examination Report (BAP) despite indications of violence during its preparation. Therefore, concrete physical and spiritual protection—including physical health, spiritual support, and security guarantees from the police—is needed to ensure the judicial process is conducted in accordance with human rights principles.

2. Efforts made by LPSK

In carrying out its mandate, the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) has the authority to establish strategic partnerships with various authorized agencies. Under the law, these agencies are legally obligated to enforce decisions made by the LPSK. This synergy is crucial given that witnesses are often in vulnerable positions; both victim witnesses, who hold a central role in proving material truth, and whistleblower witnesses, who are often the targets of intimidation, threats, and even death from parties who feel aggrieved by their testimony.

Criminal procedural law recognizes several types of witnesses with different roles, namely:

- a. **Witness A De Charge:** A witness presented by the defendant to provide mitigating evidence.

- b. Witness A Charge: A witness presented by the Public Prosecutor with incriminating testimony.
- c. De Auditu Witness: A witness who provides information based on what he heard from another party (not experienced himself).
- d. Expert Witness: An individual who has special expertise and is objective in assisting the judge in analyzing the technical aspects of a case.

In contrast to the Criminal Procedure Code which tends to emphasize the rights of suspects, Law No. 13 of 2006 provides comprehensive protection guarantees for witnesses and victims through three main pillars:

- a. Physical and Psychological Protection: Includes close escort, relocation to a safe house, identity change, medical assistance, and psychosocial rehabilitation.
- b. Legal Protection: The existence of immunity where witnesses, victims and informants cannot be prosecuted for reports or testimony given, as well as the possibility of providing leniency for witnesses or perpetrators who cooperate.
- c. Fulfillment of Procedural and Financial Rights: Includes living expenses, transportation reimbursement, legal assistance, and the right to restitution (compensation from the perpetrator) and compensation (compensation from the state). To obtain these rights, victims or their legal representatives must submit an application to the LPSK (Lembaga Penitentiary Agency), which will undergo a substantive verification within a short time to ensure the assistance is properly targeted.

CONCLUSIONS

Legal protection provided by the LPSK (Lembaga Penita Masyarakat, LPSK) for child victims of violence in the criminal justice system is comprehensive, encompassing security protection, procedural protection, recovery (medical, psychological, and psychosocial), and fulfillment of the right to restitution. Normatively, the existing legal framework is adequate and demonstrates the state's commitment to guaranteeing the rights and recovery of child victims. However, in its implementation, systemic obstacles remain, including regulatory weaknesses (particularly regarding the execution of restitution), low sensitivity of law enforcement officers, limited facilities and resources, and cultural factors such as stigma and low legal literacy. Although the LPSK has undertaken various optimization efforts, such as strengthening protection, increasing assistance, cross-agency coordination, and socializing victims' rights, these efforts have not been fully effective. Therefore, regulatory strengthening, institutional capacity building, and cross-sector synergy are needed so that the protection of child victims of violence can be implemented optimally and sustainably.

Based on the research findings, it is recommended that the government, along with legislative and judicial institutions, immediately strengthen and harmonize regulations related to the protection of child victims of violence, particularly in the implementation of restitution. Revisions to Government Regulation No. 43 of 2017 are needed by adding a mechanism for enforcing restitution payments, sanctions for perpetrators who fail to fulfill their obligations, and alternative financing schemes such as state bailouts so that victims' rights can be fulfilled effectively and not only in a normative manner. Furthermore, there is a need for harmonization between various laws and regulations, such as the Child Protection Law, the Witness and Victim Protection Law, and the TPKS Law, to create an integrated protection system. Law enforcement officials must also be required to inform victims of their rights from the beginning of the legal process, including the right to restitution and assistance from the LPSK.

Institutionally, the LPSK (Lembaga Penitanaan Perempuan) needs to strengthen its human resource capacity, expand its service reach in the regions, and improve its data

collection and monitoring systems to ensure optimal and sustainable victim protection and recovery. Meanwhile, law enforcement officials must increase their sensitivity and professionalism in handling child victims and be more proactive in pursuing restitution as part of victim recovery. Therefore, synergy between strengthening regulations, increasing institutional capacity, and improving law enforcement practices is necessary to ensure effective, equitable, and best-interest protection for child victims of violence.

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