



Obstacles to the Protection of Child Victims of Sexual Violence in Bone Bolango

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Article Info	Abstract
Corresponding Author: vitagobel152@gmail.com History: Submitted: 10-01-2023 Revised: 20-07-2026 Accepted: 04-08-2026 Keyword: Child Victims; Pedophilia; Protection of Rights; Sexual Violence.  Copyright ©2026 by Srie Novita A. Gobel. All writings published in this journal are personal views of the authors and do not represent the views of the Estudiante Law Journal.	Article 59 paragraph (1) of Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection obliges the government and regional governments to provide special protection to children, and Article 89 of Law Number 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System entitles child victims to all statutory protections. In Bone Bolango, however, child victims of sexual violence frequently do not receive the psychosocial assistance to which they are entitled. This article analyses the factors that inhibit the provision of protection for the rights of child victims of paedophilia in the Bone Bolango region. The study uses empirical legal research; data were obtained through interviews with officers of the Office for the Empowerment of Women and Child Protection and the integrated service centre, together with documentary study, and were analysed descriptively. The study finds that protection has not been provided optimally because of internal factors, notably the absence of a resident psychologist and of a dedicated counselling room for children, and external factors, in particular the refusal of some families to accept psychosocial assistance because of the shame attached to what has happened to the child.

How to cite (Chicago Style):

Srie Novita A. Gobel, "Obstacles to the Protection of Child Victims of Sexual Violence in Bone Bolango," *Estudiante Law Journal* 8, no. 1 (2026): 105–115. <http://dx.doi.org/10.33756/eslaj.v8i1.18278>

1. Introduction

Indonesia has declared itself as a state based on law in the life of its nation and state. This is as stated in Article 1 Paragraph (3) of the third amendment of the 1945 Constitution. This affirmation of constitutional provisions means that "all aspects of life in society, statehood and government must always be based on law, not based on mere power (*machtsstaat*).¹ Indonesia is a country that guarantees the welfare of every citizen, including the protection of children's rights which are part of human rights. Article 1 paragraph (12) of Law Number 35 of 2014 Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection reads:²

"Children's rights are part of human rights that are guaranteed, protected and fulfilled by parents, family, community, state, government and local government."

Children are God's gifts whose rights must be guarded and protected because children are the next generation of the nation who will continue the ideals and become leaders of the nation in the future and become the hope for previous generations. The definition of a child according to Irma Setyowati Soemitro is a person who must obtain rights, which then these rights can guarantee normal growth and development both spiritually and socially. Or children are also entitled to services to develop abilities and social life.³

Freedom is something that belongs to every child born into the world. Human rights recognize freedom itself, therefore the state and law are obliged to protect and may not be eliminated or eliminated by anyone. Independence, affection and the protection of their rights are inherent needs that children require adults to meet. In their growth and development, children need protection and attention from parents, family, society, and the state. The protection of children is the foundation for children to become adults in responding to future challenges.⁴

In reality, in people's lives, it is inversely proportional to the goals of the Indonesian state. Various kinds of legal problems have occurred. Patterns of human behavior are

¹ Ahmad Ahmad, "Analysis of Abuse of Authority by Government Apparatus in the State Administrative Legal System," *International Journal of Constitutional and Administrative Law* 1, no. 1 (2025): 1; Ahmad Ahmad and Kevin Rivera, "Analysis of Legal Protection of Human Rights in the Context of State Administrative Law," *International Journal of Constitutional and Administrative Law*, March 11, 2026, 40–53, <https://doi.org/10.66502/ac6z6f55>; Ahmad et al, *Hukum Konstitusi (Menyongsong Fajar Perubahan Konstitusi Indonesia Melalui Pelibatan Mahkamah Konstitusi)* (UII Press, 2020); Ahmad Ahmad et al, "Antara Otoritas dan Otonomi : Pertautan Hak Asasi Manusia dalam Praktik Eksekusi Putusan PTUN: Perlindungan HAM dalam Eksekusi Upaya Paksa Terhadap Putusan Peradilan Tata Usaha Negara," *Jurnal Konstitusi* 21, no. 3 (2024): 3, <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk2133>; Ahmad Ahmad and Novendri M. Nggilu, *Constitutional Dialogue : Menguatkan Intraksi Menekan Dominasi (Konvergensi Terhadap Pengujian Norma Di Mahkamah Konstitusi)* (UII Press, 2023); Rahmat Teguh Santoso Gobel et al, "The Constitutional Court in the Vortex of Resonance of Political Power," *As-Siyasi: Journal of Constitutional Law* 5, no. 2 (2025): 245–66, <https://doi.org/10.24042/as-siyasi.v52.28307>.

² Tentang Perlindungan Anak.

³ Soemitro Irma S, *Aspek Hukum Perlindungan Anak* (Jakarta: Penerbit Bumi Aksara, 1990).

⁴ Makarao Taufik Mohammad, *Hukum Perlindungan Anak Dan Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga* (Jakarta: Penerbit Raka Cipta, 2003).

increasingly deviating and departing from the norms that grow in society and result in violations and even crimes that lead to violations of human rights.⁵

Child protection in Indonesia means safeguarding the potential of human resources and developing the human person as part of a whole society, towards a just and prosperous society, both materially and spiritually, based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. The first aspect relates to policies and laws and regulations governing the protection of children's rights. The second aspect concerns the implementation of these policies and regulations.⁶ The principle of legal protection for children must be in accordance with the convention on the rights of the child as ratified by the government of the Republic of Indonesia with Presidential Decree Number 36 of 1990 concerning ratification of the Convention on the right of child which adheres to the principle of legal protection for children. has an obligation to provide special protection to victims who are in conflict with the law.⁷ Therefore, children are part of the younger generation. In addition, children are also one of the human resources who are potential successors to the ideals of the nation they have a strategic role and have special characteristics and characteristics that require guidance and protection in order to guarantee the growth and development of physical, mental and social as a whole, harmonious and balanced.⁸

Children as individuals who need the protection of adults to protect their rights which are often violated such as exploitation and sexual violence. Recently, the phenomenon of sexual violence against children has increased and many perpetrators of crimes are adults, sadly it is done by people closest to and known to children. Children who are victims of sexual violence have the right to be protected and their rights as victims are fulfilled, in terms of fulfilling children it is regulated in Article 89 of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System which reads:⁹

"Children of victims and/or children of witnesses are entitled to all the protections and rights regulated in the provisions of laws and regulations."

Regarding the fulfillment of the protection of children's rights as victims of sexual violence, one of them is psychosocial assistance during treatment to recovery, this is very important because basically children who are victims of sexual violence experience mental disorders in children it makes it difficult for children to be confident and will also have an impact on the future of children. When a crime occurs, the party that directly suffers a loss is the victim. victims (victims) are people who individually or collectively suffer losses, in the form of physical or mental, emotional, or economic losses, or substantial interference with their fundamental rights through actions or omissions that violate criminal law in

⁵ M. F. H. N. Puluhalawa, M. R. U, Puluhalawa, j, & Musa, "Kebijakan Kriminal Dalam Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Penganiayaan Menggunakan Panah Wayer Oleh Anak Di Kota Gorontalo (Studi Kasus Polres Gorontalo Kota)," *Jurnal Yuridis* 6, no. 2 (2019): 93–117.

⁶ Nasriani, *Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Anak Di Indonesia* (Jakarta Penerbit Raja Grafin Persada, 2012).

⁷ Gosita Arief, *Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Anak Dalam Sistem Perdilan Pidana Anak Diindonesia* (Bandung: Penerbit Refika Aditama, 2021).

⁸ N. M. Alhasni, M. R, Badu, L. W, & Nggilu, "Menakar Peran Kepolisian Dalam Mencegah Tindak Pidana Pencabulan Terhadap Anak Di Bawah Umur," *Jurnal Legalitas* 12, no. 2 (2019): 110–23.

⁹ Tentang Sistem Peradilan Perlindungan Anak.

each country, including the perpetrator's use of power.¹⁰ Arif Gosita argues that child protection is an effort to protect children so they can carry out their rights and obligations.¹¹

In Gorontalo itself there have been several cases of pedophilia uncovered and many children have become victims of the perpetrators of these crimes, in November 2021 there were 18 children who were victims of pedophilia crimes two of whom were residents of Bone Bolango, the first victim of WT was 13 years old and the second victim A was 12 years old. the two victims receive different treatment from the perpetrators of the crime of pedophilia. [DETAILS OF THE FIRST VICTIM ARE MISSING FROM THE MANUSCRIPT AND MUST BE SUPPLIED BY THE AUTHOR.] The second victim was playing games with the perpetrator on the terrace of the victim's house after that the perpetrator took the victim to the scene of the offence, and on arrival there the perpetrator carried out the action by ordering the victim to take off her pants so that sexual intercourse occurred and after that incident, the perpetrator took the victim home on the way the perpetrator told the victim not to report the incident to the victim's parents. Due to this incident, the second victim experienced severe trauma for 2 weeks.

Based on research conducted by Desita Rahma Setiawati which discusses the topic of pedophilia in Indonesia, it shows that the lack of fulfillment of the rights of children who are victims of sexual violence, in this case, the victims of paedophilia, who are pre-pubescent children. Even though there have been many researchers who have discussed the topic of sexual violence against children and of course this research has the same topic in discussion as variables and research methods. However, the author will emphasize the differences between this study and previous studies. The first difference from previous research is the fulfillment of children's rights as victims of sexual violence. Because previously there were no researchers who discussed more deeply about the fulfillment rights of children who were victims of sexual crimes.

This study therefore examines the implementation of legal protection for victims of the crime of paedophilia.

2. Method

This study uses empirical legal research. Data were collected through interviews, observation and documentary study at the Office for the Empowerment of Women and Child Protection. Data analysis was carried out by searching for and arranging in a coherent manner the results of the interviews, the field notes and the other materials collected, so that the findings can be readily understood and communicated.

¹⁰ Muladi, *HAM Dalam Perspektif Sistem Peradilan Pidana, Hak Asasi Manusia: Hakikat Konsep, Dan Implikasinya Dalam Perspektif Hukum Dan Masyarakat* (Bandung: Penerbit Refika Aditama, 2005).

¹¹ Ibid. p.42.

3. Factors Inhibiting the Protection of the Rights of Child Victims of Paedophilia in the Bone Bolango Region

At present, the crime of pedophilia is a case that requires attention from the public, moreover, victims of pedophilia are minors who really need protection. The crime of pedophilia is a crime in a classic form and this crime can develop according to human culture. Pedophilia is a crime that is often committed by adults to minors. This crime which is often directed at minors causes the child to experience trauma, loss of future, decreased enthusiasm for life, and psychological suffering which, according to the author, needs to get the attention of protection from the State and Government as stated in the Child Protection Act. In general, victims of pedophilia will experience intensive and severe trauma, making it difficult to recover. Victims will experience depression which makes it difficult for them to control their surroundings and even themselves. At this time he really needs encouragement and support from his family and society as well as legal justice for him.

Psychosocial assistance is a form of protection for children who are victims of pedophilia. Psychosocial assistance is a guide between psychological treatment and social treatment. In this case, it unites psychological treatment that is based on the interpersonal understanding of the victim and the personal social culture that surrounds the victim's life. Psychosocial is a term used to describe the relationship between a person's social condition and his mental/emotional health. In this case, the term psychosocial involves psychological and social aspects. For example, the relationship between the fear that a child has who is a victim of how he interacts with other people in his social environment. A mentally healthy person will react in a positive way in most situations. Unlike the case with people who are mentally unstable, they will react negatively to everything that happens in life.

Based on the results of the interview with Mrs. Okta as the Head of P2TP2A, explained that the regulations for handling children as victims of sexual crimes are already based on the Child Protection Act. In Law Number 35 of 2014 in article 59 paragraph (1) stipulates that: "The government, regional governments and other state institutions are obliged and responsible for providing special protection to children"¹²

Mrs. Okta also said that, if there was a case of sexual crime against a child or a child who became the perpetrator and was accepted by the police. The social service reached out and responded to the case, then assisted by P2TP2A if the victim's family accepted to be assisted then assistance would be carried out but vice versa, if the victim's family refused to be assisted then assistance, would not be carried out. This assistance is carried out so that the child of the victim or perpetrator feels safe, comfortable, and not traumatized, and still fulfills his basic rights as a child. In this case, P2TP2A plays an important role in

¹² Interview with Ms. Oktavianita Helingo, S. Si as the Head of the P2TP2A Division at the Social Service for the Empowerment of Women and Children, on November 24 2022, 10.00 WITA.

handling children as victims of sexual crimes, they will coordinate with a psychologist as a psychosocial assistant if he feels that the child as a victim needs psychosocial assistance.¹³

The following is the definition of P2TP2A and its duties and functions: Definition of P2TP2A is one of the areas of services for women and children in an effort to fulfill information and needs in the fields of education, health, economics, politics, law, protection and prevention of acts of violence, sexual crimes, and trafficking of women and child.¹⁴

Main Duties and Functions The integrated service center for the empowerment of women and children is a service center for empowering women and children based on.¹⁵ The community in carrying out P2TP2A tasks has sections according to the basic needs of the problems that are the focus to be handled in each region. Meanwhile, the function of P2TP2A is to facilitate the provision of various services for the community, both physical and non-physical, which include information, referrals, consultation/counseling, skills training, and other activities.

The aim of P2TP2A is to contribute to the realization of gender health and justice by integrating gender mainstreaming strategies into various integrated service activities to improve the conditions, roles and protection of women as well as providing welfare and child protection. One instrument that plays an important role in child protection is law enforcement. A statutory regulation cannot be implemented in society without the help or support of law enforcement officials.¹⁶

As for service activities as core activities, the types and types of service activities available vary, between central and regional levels. The provision of services is largely determined

¹³ Interview with Ms. Oktavianita Helingo, S. Si as the Head of the P2TP2A Division at the Social Service for the Empowerment of Women and Children, on November 24 2022, 10.00 WITA.

¹⁴ Interview with Ms. Oktavianita Helingo, S. Si as the Head of the P2TP2A Division at the Social Service for the Empowerment of Women and Children, on November 24 2022, 10.00 WITA.

¹⁵ Dian Ekawaty Ismail et al, "Cyber Harassment of Public Figures: Causes and Importance of Legal Education," *E3S Web of Conferences* 594 (2024): 03005, <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202459403005>; Cut Nangrie Sari Abuthalib et al, "Plea Bargaining Dalam Bayang-Bayang Keadilan: Antara Efisiensi Penegakan Hukum Dan Degradasi Nilai Kepastian Hukum," *Al-Zayn : Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum* 4, no. 1 (2026): 1130–46, <https://doi.org/10.61104/alz.v4i1.3201>; Ahmad Ahmad, "Measuring The Application of Corporate Social Responsibility of PT. Gorontalo MineralS," *Estudiante Law Journal* 4, no. 2 (2022): 2, <https://doi.org/10.33756/eslaj.v4i2.16489>; Apripari et al, "Restorative Justice in Victimless Crimes under the Criminal Procedure Code: Problematics and Solutions," *Jurnal Hukum Novelty* 17, no. 1 (2026): 144–66, <https://doi.org/10.26555/jhn.v17i1.31003>; Ahmad Ahmad and Nadya Lonely Bifirli Polii, "Mencari Jiwa Asas Pacta Sunt Servanda Dalam Pelanggaran General Agreement Of Tariff And Trade," *Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai* 7, no. 1 (2023): 1, <https://doi.org/10.31004/jptam.v7i1.6036>; Weny Almoravid Dungga et al, "Ensuring Justice in the Trend of Remote Working: Legal Challenges and Implications for Companies and Workers," *Jurnal IUS Kajian Hukum Dan Keadilan* 14, no. 1 (2026): 201–27, <https://doi.org/10.29303/ius.v14i1.1721>; Hidayat Hidayat et al, "Determination of Marriage Dispensation at Gorontalo Religious Court in Accordance with the Child Protection Law No. 35 of 2014," *Estudiante Law Journal* 6, no. 3 (2024): 663–80, <https://doi.org/10.33756/eslaj.v6i3.29567>; Dian Ekawaty Ismail et al, "Collocation of Restorative Justice with Human Rights in Indonesia," *Legality : Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum* 32, no. 2 (2024): 2, <https://doi.org/10.22219/ljih.v32i2.35374>.

¹⁶ F. M. Wantu, "Mekanisme Koordinasi Dan Sinkronisasi Lembaga Kementerian Negara: Suatu Praksis Menuju Kabinet Yang Efektif," *Jurnal Al Ahkam* 15, no. 2 (2019): 76.

by the availability of facilitators. The services provided can be in the form of counseling, psychological and medical therapy, education and training, and psychosocial assistance.

In this case, this should not have happened because to present a psychologist is the duty of P2TP2A as explained above that P2TP2A facilitates services for children who are victims of sexual crimes. However, in reality, it was only carried out in the extent of the inspection process only to complete the inspection program file at the police. Counseling should continue until the victim's psychological condition is completely recovered.

The unavailability of adequate facilities in the form of a special room for children for counseling (implementation of psychosocial assistance) at the Women's and Children's Empowerment Service. The unavailability of a special counseling room is one of the inhibiting factors for the non-occurrence of psychosocial assistance for children, while the matter of providing facilities is the duty of P2TP2A but in reality, it is not available in this case P2TP2A should provide these facilities so that child psychologist assistance can be carried out properly.

Lack of human resources (officers/employees) in dealing with children who are victims of pedophilia crimes, will cause problems when there are many cases that must be handled together, while there are only 13 members. Because this can have an impact on how P2TP2A works. P2TP2A as an institution responsible for psychosocial assistance for children should add more employees so that the protection of the rights of children who become victims can be carried out properly without any obstacles.

External factors are inhibiting factors that come from outside, including, Not all families of victims, witnesses or perpetrators simply accept the presence of a companion because they feel ashamed of the disaster their children have experienced. In fact, children should still be accompanied for the trauma recovery process. If this happens, the victim does not get his right to obtain psychological health services. So this is not in accordance with article 8 of Law Number 35 of 2014 the Child Protection Act states that: "Every child has the right to receive health services and social security according to their physical, mental, spiritual and social needs". In article 69A of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection says that: "Special protection for children as victims of sexual violence is carried out through psychosocial assistance efforts up to recovery". In this case, the child who is the victim must receive psychological health services because the settlement of this case is not only from a legal perspective but eliminating the trauma of the child as a victim of the crime of pedophilia is very important. The family as well as the victim must support this because it is good for the family and the child as a victim. In this case, the child who is the victim must receive psychological health services because the settlement of this case is not only from a legal perspective but eliminating the trauma of the child as a victim of the crime of pedophilia is very important. The family as well as the victim must support this because it is good for the family and the child as a victim. In this case, the child who is the victim must get psychological health services because the resolution of this case is not only from a legal perspective but eliminating the child's trauma as a victim of the crime of pedophilia is very important. The family as well as the victim must support this because it is good for the family and the child as a victim.

Based on the results of research conducted by the author on the above agencies, it shows that the police and the Social Service for the Empowerment of Women and Children coordinate with each other in terms of dealing with child victims of pedophilia crimes. If the police receive a complaint report, the police will contact P2TP2A and the Social Service to seek psychosocial assistance for child victims of pedophilia crimes, and vice versa if P2TP2A or the Women and Children Empowerment Service receives reports that pedophilia crimes against children have occurred, then P2TP2A and The Women and Children Empowerment Service will coordinate with the police so that the perpetrators of the crime of pedophilia against children can be legally processed.

The difference between psychologists and assistants is that assistance functions to accompany children during the ongoing legal process, starting from the investigation stage to trial. Meanwhile, a psychologist is a person who performs healing treatment to cure the psychological state of the child as a victim.

The link between the rules in the law regarding psychosocial assistance and the implementation of real assistance, regulated in the child protection law and the related agencies above has created a separate standard operating procedure (SOP) in the implementation of handling child victims of pedophilia crimes as well as providing psychosocial assistance towards the child. The person carrying out the psychosocial assistance is a psychologist appointed by P2TP2A to carry out assistance for child victims of pedophilia crimes.

In Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning child protection in article 69A it is expressly stated that special protection for children who are victims of sexual crimes is regulated in Article 59 paragraph (2) letter j. Education efforts on reproductive health, religious values, and moral values, Social rehabilitation, Psychosocial assistance during treatment to recovery, and Provision of protection and assistance at every level of examination starting from investigation, prosecution, to examination in court.

However, seeing the reality or reality that exists in the process of handling victims is not in accordance with the rules stipulated by the law. In reality, the implementation of psychosocial assistance is only limited to the examination process to complete the examination program file at the police.

In fact, the provision of assistance can provide benefits to the interests of individual victims in the form of recovery of their mental and psychological health. In addition, for the purposes of examining cases in criminal justice, children as victims/witnesses are required to provide testimony before the trial in a healthy state of mind and body without any pressure or coercion.

The author feels interested in examining problems regarding psychosocial assistance on the grounds that there is still a lack of rules governing legal protection regarding psychosocial assistance to child victims of sexual crimes. On the other hand, what is contained in the law is not relevant to the existing reality. The law stipulates that the role of a psychosocial assistant should carry out the function of handling and recovering victims from a psychological perspective. It will remain in the reality that occurs in the

field only until the process of accompanying the inspection. Of course, this can have a traumatic impact on the victim's psychology.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion that have been described above, it can be concluded that The implementation of psychosocial assistance to children as victims of pedophilia crimes that have been provided by P2TP2A and the Social Service, in reality, experienced several factors in providing protection for children's rights as victims of pedophilia crimes, including internal and external factors, namely internal factors are inhibiting factors that come from within, among other things, Lack of budget provided by the government, Adequate facilities are not available, Lack of human resources (officers/employees) in dealing with children, External factors are inhibiting factors that come from outside. Not all families of victims, witnesses, and perpetrators simply accept the presence of a companion because they feel ashamed of the disaster their children have experienced.

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