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Law Enforcement Challenges to Defamation on Social Media

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Abstract: This research aims to find out and analyze law enforcement against perpetrators of defamation through social media in jurisdictions as a result of this research, researchers found that first, How is the implementation of law enforcement against perpetrators of defamation via social media by the Gorontalo City Police, after the ITE Law No.19 of 2016, that is the implementation of law enforcement against perpetrators of defamation via social media by Satreskrim. Second, the factors that become obstacles for the police in enforcing the law against perpetrators of defamation through social media by the ITE Law No. 19 of 2016, namely the obstacles or obstacles lie in the legal constraints themselves, constraints from law enforcement, constraints on facilities and infrastructure, constraints from society, cultural constraints.

Keywords: Defamation; Social media.

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1. Introduction

One of the mandates of the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia as a modus vivendi (sublime agreement) for the formation of the Indonesian state in the fourth paragraph states that the goal of the state is one of "protecting the entire Indonesian nation", this has provided a bridge to the existence of holistic and comprehensive protection that is the responsibility of the state and the state elements inherent in it. As is known, of course, if you read the spiritual nuances of this country's birth certificate, then substantively this country was actually formed to be free from all forms of oppression, both physically and psychologically for all the people and communities living in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, including in this case it is a child. ¹

Indonesia is the highest agreement of the state's formers, even though it experienced a constitutional test when the 1945 Constitution was changed to the Constitution of the United Republic of Indonesia in 1949, however, recognition of regions under the auspices of the Indonesian State is still recognized. ² An absolute requirement for state sovereignty is the existence of a society that obeys the constitution and its government. ³ Because the essence of the constitution is a conception of the state which is the basis and limitation of the constellation of the state administration system. ⁴ Therefore, in legal politics, the discovery of law and the creation of new law that is in accordance with the goals of the State is a value that must be implemented in order to achieve legal supremacy and justice. ⁵

In our daily lives, even in society, to meet the needs of life there are often crimes and violations committed by certain people and people who threaten some members of society, which in legal science is known as criminal acts.⁶ Currently, not only is the crime rate or quantity of crime increasing, but also the type of crime or quality has developed rapidly in Indonesia. Criminal sanctions are seen as an effective solution in overcoming this problem. Criminal sanctions are a form of the state's responsibility to maintain security and order as well as legal protection efforts for its citizens. This is a logical consequence of the concept of forming a state which, according to JJ Rosseau, is based on community agreements. Next, the people agreed to enter into a noble

¹ 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.

² Novendri M. Nggilu, "Tinjauan Yuridis Pengaturan Sanksi Pidana Dalam Peraturan Daerah Provinsi Gorontalo," *Lambung Mangkurat Law Journal*. 5, No. 2 (2020): 109–121., 110

³ Mellisa Towadi and Nur Mohamad Kasim, "An Indication of China's Policy towards Uighurs and Its Implications by International Law Aspects." *Jambura Law Review*. 3, No. 01 (2021): 55–71., 69

⁴ Ahmad dan Novendri M. Nggilu Fakultas, "Denyut Nadi Amandemen Kelima UUD 1945 Melalui Pelibatan Mahkamah Konstitusi Sebagai Prinsip the Guardian of the Constitution of the Constitution Through the Principle of the Guardian of the Constitution." *Jurnal Konstitusi*. 16, No. 4 (2019): 785–808., 791

⁵ Mohamad Hidayat Muhtar, "Model Politik Hukum Pemberantasan Korupsi Di Indonesia Dalam Rangka Harmonisasi Lembaga Penegak Hukum." *Jambura Law Review.* 1, No. 1 (2019): 68-93., 73

⁶ Dian Ekawaty Ismail and Mohamad Taufiq Zulfikar Sarson, "Criminology Analysis of Women's as Perpetrators of Domestic Violence Crimes," *Jambura Law Review* 3, no. 1 (2021): 57–76., 58

agreement (modus vivendi) which was outlined in a basic law in the form of a state constitution. ⁷ Legal protection is very necessary because efforts are made to integrate various needs within the association so that there are no conflicts between needs and can enjoy all the rights granted by law. ⁸ The state is firmly obliged to try to fulfill the rights of every citizen. ⁹

Law enforcement is an effort to make the ideas of justice, legal certainty and social benefits a reality. So law enforcement is essentially a process of realizing ideas. "Law enforcement is an effort to make legal ideas and concepts that the people hope for become a reality. Law enforcement is a process that involves many things.¹⁰

According to Soerjono Soekanto, law enforcement is an activity to harmonize the relationship between values described in solid and embodied values/views and attitudes and actions as a series of final stages of value translation to create, maintain and maintain peaceful social life. ¹¹

Until now there is no uniform legal definition in Indonesia regarding what is meant by defamation, however. According to the English phrase, defamation is defined as defamation, slander, libel, Slander is oral defamation, while libel is written defamation. Meanwhile, in the Indonesian dictionary itself, insults are defined as insults, insults and insults. ¹² Meanwhile, insult is the process, action, method of insulting. The meaning of insult is to look down on, humiliate, tarnish another person's good name, defame someone else's good name, curse, so, the Indonesian dictionary emphasizes that defamation is more only about a person's personality. ¹³

"Meanwhile, according to R Soesilo, attacking one's good name in a sexual sense is not included in the defamation referred to in this article, because it is regulated within the scope of crimes against morality as regulated in articles 281 to 303 of the Criminal Code." ¹⁴

⁷ Ramdan Kasim, "Dehumanisasi Pada Penerapan Hukum Pidana Secara Berlebihan (Overspanning van Het Straftrecht)," *Jambura Law Review.* 2, No. 1 (2020): 1–29., 3

⁸ Jufryanto Puluhulawa, Mellisa Towadi, and Vifi Swarianata, "Perlindungan Hukum Situs Bawah Air Leato / Japanese Cargo Wreck The Legal Protection of The Leato Underwater Site" *Jurnal Reformasi Hukum* 24. No. 2 (2020): 189–208., 197

⁹ Julius Mandjo, "The Right to Obtain Free Assistance and Legal Protection for The Indigent People Through Legal Assistance Organizations." *Jambura Law Review.* 3, No. 02 (2021): 365–77., 375

¹⁰ Endi Dwi Saputra dan Khairunnisah, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pencemaran Nama Baik Melalui Penggunaan Media Sosial Di Kota Samarinda," *Legalitas: Jurnal Hukum* 5, no. 1 (2020): 43.

¹¹ Endi Dwi Saputra dan Khairunnisah *Op. cit*, Hal 43

¹² FX Brhirawa Braja Paksa Bambang Sutrisno, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pencemaran Nama Baik Menurut Pasal 27 Ayat (3) Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2008 Tentang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik (UU ITE)," *Jurnal Sebelas Maret* 8, no. 1 (2019): 20.

¹³ Muchladun Wildan, "Tinjauan Yuridis Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pencemaran Nama Baik," *Lex Crimen* 3, no. 1 (2015): 2020.

¹⁴ Ibid, Hal. 4

Based on the explanations above, the author can understand and argue that defamation can be defined as an action that can attack a person's good name or honor, which devalues the dignity of another person, so that the person can feel aggrieved or has their reputation defamed.

Article 27 paragraph (3) of the ITE Law and the articles regulating offenses of insult or defamation in the Criminal Code raise questions and raise pros and cons regarding the application of the law in cases of insult or defamation. In terms of defamation norms in the Criminal Code and the ITE Law are the same. However, from the perspective of the perpetrator, criminal threats and elements in public both appear different.

After looking at the laws and regulations governing defamation, anyone who deliberately attacks someone's honor, whether verbally, in writing, or through electronic or social media, can be subject to criminal sanctions for defamation as regulated in Article 310 of the Criminal Code and also in Article 27 paragraph (3) and Article 45 paragraph (1) of Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions

With the enactment of laws and regulations that regulate crimes that occur in Information Technology and Telecommunications. Thus, this rule is a definite answer that resolving a criminal case regarding ITE can be resolved without any legal problems. The method is based on the rules regarding ITE.

According to initial observations regarding the number of defamation cases, which researchers conducted at the Gorontalo City Police in the last three years, in 2018 there were 36 cases recorded, in 2019 there were 16 cases recorded, and in 2020 there were 8 cases recorded, which in total, the cases were completed in three Last year there were 60 cases and there are still 2 unresolved case reports, namely in 2020, there were several cases of ITE crime or defamation that occurred in Gorontalo City which have been decided by the Gorontalo District Court. The number of cases involving the ITE Law over the last three years is 60 cases. Of the cases that have occurred, the author is interested in highlighting a similar case regarding defamation through social media.

Defamation through social media in the city of Gorontalo has indeed experienced a decreasing trend, but in this case, in the handling of the case, there was neglect or obstacles/obstacles from the police, as in the handling process, in concrete terms, there is one example of a decision case; Number.250/Pid.Sus/2019/PN Gto

The case in 2019 was decision Number 250/Pid.Sus/2019/PN Gto. The defamation case in this case was committed by the defendant FM (32 years old), a housewife who had committed a criminal crime, namely intentionally and without rights. distribute and/or transmit and/or make accessible electronic information and/or electronic documentation which contains defamatory and defamatory content.

The defamation case that has been decided by the court is a case carried out by the defendant FM, namely that it started with the defendant knowing that the account (II Mx) together with (OBRM) posted a status on February 23 2019 and provided comments from the victim's witness (ST) in the status. belonging to Mr. Jfr I mean the account (Jj Mx) together with (OBRM) Ols Kms from the post on February 27 2019 and at that time the defendant commented on a comment belonging to the victim witness (ST) in the status or post (Jj Mx) together (OBRM) with the words ""This is a b**i who thinks about making comments that are offensive to you, bro, because you used to be in my inbox with ngana, so why don't you be arrogant about it, bro, let's just open our parents' eyes If you are arrogant, don't be arrogant, don't just live with hope, don't be arrogant, so don't think about it, don't just comment b**i (ST)," and the defendant also posted a status on the Facebook wall. on February 27 2019 at around 17.00 WITA, namely "Kyp ngana ngana ngana stel also bku comment b tangential p us? What does ngana p mean nou? Do you like to ask how to use those false teeth? Let's do this, not just one boy, but we can't change our ways, understand ngana nou (ST) so be friendly and be quiet patiently until you see someone who looks like you can also inbox cmn kykx ngana no pu*s, don't you like it so you share it on social media or something?", That the result of the upload made the victim witness feel insulted and his good name was defamed. Previously, there was mediation between the victim witness and the defendant at the Waluhu Village office and the defendant admitted that the account and the person posting it were the defendant, but there was no clear point in the mediation. "That the defendant did this because the defendant felt offended, hurt, annoyed by the comments made by the victim witness or posts by (Jj Mx) with (OBRM) which seemed to be cornering or leading (aimed at)."

That the Expert explained that the screen capture results from uploads from accounts in the name of "Fhemy chyank irvanto" included electronic information and/or electronic documents and that the uploads contained insulting or defamatory words towards other people. The Defendant's actions are as regulated and punishable by crime in Article 45 Paragraph (3) of Republic of Indonesia Law No. 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to Republic of Indonesia Law no. 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE).

Based on the data above, it can be seen that there have been two mediations, where the first mediation was carried out by the Waluhu village office and assisted by the local police but did not reach a clear point, after some time the defendant repeated his mistake by posting it on the Facebook home wall. with the intent and purpose of offending the victim, so that the victim reports the defendant (FM) back to the authorities

Based on the presentation of the case or problem above, the author is interested in discussing it further in the form of writing a thesis with the title "Law Enforcement Against Perpetrators of Defamation Through Social Media in the Legal Area of the Gorontalo City Police Department"

2. Research Methods

This type of research is empirical legal research. Empirical research is a legal research method that uses empirical facts taken from human behavior, both verbal behavior obtained from interviews and real behavior carried out through direct observation. Empirical legal research begins with written positive legal provisions that apply to legal events. in concert in society, ¹⁵Data analysis is carried out by collecting data, qualifying it then connecting theories related to the problem and drawing conclusions to determine the results..

3. Implementation of Law Enforcement Against Perpetrators of Defamation Through Social Media by the Gorontalo City Criminal Investigation Unit, After the ITE Law No.19 of 2016

Society and order are two things that are very closely related, they could even be said to be two sides of a coin. It is difficult to say that there is a society without order. Order in society is created together, therefore, in society you will find various kinds of guidelines, benchmarks or measures, each of which contributes to creating this order.

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers at the Gorontalo City Police, which relates to law enforcement against criminal acts of defamation on social media by the Gorontalo City Criminal Investigation Unit in accordance with ITE Law No. 19 of 2016 in Gorontalo City, namely what occurred on Facebook social media, and according to the results of the researcher's interview with Mr. Melcky GRS Naue, who serves as BA UNIT TIPIDTER SAT RESKRIM Gorontalo City Police, he explained that "Enforcing criminal law against perpetrators of criminal crimes is the best way for justice to be enforced. "Criminal crimes cause suffering to the victim physically, shame, and also mental but psychological, which must be paid special attention to the officers, especially regarding this act of defamation on social media." ¹⁷

Meanwhile, according to Soerjono Soekanto's opinion, law enforcement is an activity of harmonizing the relationship between values described in rules, solid views and embodying them in attitudes and actions as a series of value translations at the final stage to create peaceful social life.

Even though criminal acts of defamation are regulated in the ITE Law, this does not rule out the possibility of resolution using restorative justice methods (Budhijanto,

¹⁵ Kornelius Benuf and Muhamad Azhar, "Legal Research Methodology as an Instrument for Unraveling Contemporary Legal Problems," Gema Perempuan 7, no. 1 (April 1, 2020): 20–33, https://doi.org/10.14710/GK.2020.7504.

¹⁶ Suharta dan Jonaedi, *Panduan Praktis BILA Anda MENGHADAPI PERKARA PIDANA Mulai Proses Penyelidikan Hingga Persidangan* (Jakarta: PT Prenada Media Group, 2013).

¹⁷ Melcky G.R.S Naue Anggota Penyidik Unit TIPIDTER SAT RESKRIM Porles Gorontalo Kota, Wawancara Tanggal 16 Agustus 2023 Pukul 10.30 WITA

2017). The application of the restorative justice system in the process of resolving criminal cases at the investigation level is influenced by several factors, such as the perpetrator's responsibility for their actions, the victim and the perpetrator together looking for a solution to reach an agreement.

In every crime or criminal act, it can cause deep sadness for the victim, for example criminal crimes of insulting or defaming through social media where the perpetrators must be given punishment or sanctions in accordance with the relevant laws or regulations, especially in The object or case in this research is where the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim is still cousins. So enforcers must pay attention to matters regarding law enforcement against these perpetrators. Some time ago there was an incident of criminal insult and defamation committed by the defendant (FM) in Waluhu Village, Bone District, Bone Bolango District. The perpetrator intentionally distributes and/or transmits and/or makes accessible electronic information that has infringing or defamatory content. The defendant's actions are threatened with punishment as regulated in the Electronic Transaction Information (ITE) Law. ¹⁸

The chronology of the cases in the results of this research is:

"That the defendant (FM) is the cousin of the victim witness (ST). Initially the defendant (FM) knew that the (JJ Mx) joint (OBRM) account posted a status on 23 February 2019 and commented on the victim's witness (ST)'s comments on the status belonging to Mr. Jfr. The meaning was that the (JJ Mx) joint (OBRM) account) from the post on February 27 2019 and at that time the defendant (FM) commented on the comment belonging to the victim's sanctions (ST) in the status or post (JJ Mx) together with (OBRM) with the words "this b*b* is ngana p the comment by 2b offends Mr T, because I used to be in the inbox with Ngana, there was a message so what's wrong with being arrogant, Nganas, I just opened my parents' eyes, I'm so happy that you're arrogant, Ngana first, just live with B, I hope you don't have any characteristics "p is arrogant, so don't b*b* because you don't want to just comment b*b* (ST)." And the defendant (FM) also posted a status on his Facebook wall on 27 February 2019 at around 17.00 WITA, namely "kyp ngana Rua Stel jga bku comment b tangential p us? What does ngana p mean nou? Would you like to ask about the characteristics of the false teeth? We can do this instead of one man playing with the child and we will also change the teeth, so be patient and stay patient until someone looks like you can see it too. inbox why don't you feel satisfied, why don't you like it so you share it on social media or something?." 19

Based on the chronology above, it can be seen that the Defendant's status post can be accessed by everyone because the post is published, not private, so everyone who is friends with the Defendant's account or the victim's witness account, or other people can comment, like and share the status upload. As a result of the Defendant's (FM) actions on the social media Facebook, the victim witness (ST) felt insulted and the

¹⁸ Putusan Nomor 250/Pid.Sus/2019/PN Gto

¹⁹ Ibid

victim witness's (ST) good name was tarnished. The defendant's actions as regulated and punishable by crime in Article 27 Paragraph (3) are threatened in Article 45 Paragraph (3) of Law No. 19 of 2016 concerning amendments to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions. This is made worse by the fact that the criminal threat mostly involves punishments against freedom such as imprisonment and confinement. This situation is a burden on the criminal justice subsystem which is downstream, namely Correctional Institutions.

Regarding law enforcement, Mr. Melcky GRS Naue explained that "In enforcement, of course we have to receive a report first. In the sense that we will only process a problem if there is a report first, after that we will follow up on the problem according to what has been reported. After we have received this report, we carry out an examination process on the report from the reporter, witnesses and also goods or things that can be used as evidence to confirm that the problem experienced by the reporter is true, after all administrative related matters have been fulfilled. "Then we will summon or invite the reporter for further information." 20 Even though there are regulations regarding criminal acts of defamation and the sanctions or punishments are clearly stated in the relevant laws and regulations, this case can be resolved amicably because the relationship between the complainant and the respondent is that they are cousins. In the process of resolving this case, the reporter and the reported person will be met first with one aim, namely to carry out mediation. This mediation is an alternative for resolving disputes in a fast, simple, efficient, confidential way, can maintain good relations between the victim and the perpetrator and may be able to restore a sense of kinship between the victim and the perpetrator because remembering in this case as stated above It was explained previously that they are cousins.

In general, mediation itself is classified into two types, namely the first is mediation outside the court which is facilitated or handled by an individual, private mediator or an institution which can be an alternative resolution of problems between the two parties. The second mediation is mediation carried out in court which has been regulated by the Supreme Court.

Before resolving the problem through family or mediation, the officers cannot force the case to be resolved in that way, but it depends on the complainant whether he will resolve it using mediation or will continue to process it all the way to court. In the interview, Mr. Melcky GRS Naue also said that "our efforts are only to bring together, meaning we cannot force this case to be resolved with the police, nor can we force the complainant to resolve it or not object because the objection issue is the right of the "The reporter, we can only mediate and facilitate to bring them together to make

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²⁰ Berdasarkan hasil wawancara, pada hari rabu 16 Agustus 2023 pukul 10.30 di Kepolisian Daerah Kota Gorontalo, Satuan Reserse Kriminal Data Tindak Pencemaran Nama Baik.

peace, but it doesn't have to be forced, so if the reporter still objects to the case being reported, we can't do much." ²¹

4. What factors are the obstacles for the Police in enforcing the law against perpetrators of defamation through social media in accordance with the ITE Law No. 19 of 2016

Crimes of Insulting or Defamation through Social Media, many law enforcement or legal applications for perpetrators of crimes of insulting or defaming through social media have several obstacles in implementing criminal penalties against the perpetrators, the following are the obstacles found by researchers from the results of interviews with Mr. Melcky GRS Naue, as an investigator who serves as BA UNIT TIPIDTER SAT RESKRIM, the evidence is more complicated compared to ordinary crimes because you have to present experts regarding the evidence that is used as evidence in a trial. The witnesses presented (apart from the victim witnesses) cannot witness it directly at the trial. scene of the crime, but can only watch it via social media. Cannot know in detail the amount of loss because there is no benchmark for the loss experienced by the victim in material form, because this crime refers to social impacts such as shame, and to the psychological impact that experienced by the victim.

Apart from the above obstacles or obstacles in applying criminal charges against suspects of criminal acts of defamation or insulting through social media, there are several other obstacles or barriers according to the author which actually become obstacles in applying criminal charges against perpetrators of criminal acts.

Here the theory used by the author in answering the problem of obstacles in law enforcement uses Soerjono Soekanto's theory. According to the author, this theory is suitable in helping problems regarding the obstacles to a crime, especially defamation or insults on social media which states that there are an uncertain number of obstacles to a crime. The process in law enforcement is as follows: ²²

Obstacle factors or obstacles to the law itself. In the criminal law regulations there are several characteristics to explain the circumstances of a criminal act, therefore the legal regulations are generally formulated in the regulations of the law, an act that is prohibited and then accompanied by sanctions, obstacle factors or Barriers to Law Enforcement. Law enforcement has very important levels and parts. Law Enforcement is one of the most important foundations in a series of changes in the legal process, often doing something about starting to take actions that are contrary and something that is certainly a regulation so that going against it gives rise to various problems, factor obstacles or obstacles from Facilities and Facilities, in This case must of course be supported by adequate program equipment and hardware equipment. Such as

 $^{^{21}}$ Berdasarkan hasil wawancara, pada hari rabu 16 Agustus 2023 pukul 10.30 di Kepolisian Daerah Kota Gorontalo, Satuan Reserse Kriminal Data Tindak Pencemaran Nama Baik.

²² Refki Idham, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Penghinaan Atau Pencemaran Nama Baik Melalui Media Sosial," *Jurnal Petitum* 1, no. 1 (2021): 88.

program equipment is the process of changing a person's attitude and behavior which is accepted so that nowadays it tends to be a simple incident, there are many occasions when the police or judges are He himself often encounters obstacles in his duties.

Obstacle factors or barriers from society, enforcement of laws and regulations and so on to regulate society from a number of people. According to the author, what determines law enforcement is the community's legal awareness. The higher the level of awareness in society about the law, the greater the possibility of good law enforcement. On the other hand, the lower the level of public legal awareness, the more difficult it will be to carry out good law enforcement.

Factors of cultural constraints or obstacles. In social life, culture cannot be ignored, therefore culture is a basic thing about behavior, making rules that dictate what should happen and what is prohibited. The more conformity there is between legal regulations and society's culture, the easier it will be to enforce them, whereas if a legal regulation is incompatible or contrary to society's culture, the more difficult it will be to implement or enforce the law in question.

The five factors discussed are interconnected with each other. Because that is the main thing in law enforcement itself. The crux of it all lies in the law enforcement factor itself. This is because the regulations are made and compiled by the law enforcers themselves, their implementation is carried out by the law enforcers themselves and become role models for the community.

The obstacles and barriers encountered by researchers through the results of interviews with Senior Judge 2 Mr. Mascaryo, SH., MH at the Gorontalo District Court are that it is difficult to prove other crimes because they have to present expert witnesses related to the evidence that is used as evidence. in court and also the witnesses presented at the trial cannot witness directly at the scene of the crime. You can only watch it via social media. It is also difficult for judges to fully understand the losses experienced by the victim in material form, because the crime of insulting or defaming one's good name via social media has more of a psychological impact, the social impact of shame experienced by the victim. The lack of facilities and experience in handling cases of defamation or insulting someone via social media is still quite certain. This is a set of elements that are regularly interrelated to form a totality of evidence which makes it difficult for judges to carry out defamation cases. Which is used to achieve the purpose of something that states the truth of an event, the issue of evidence that is faced by the judge in a defamation case.

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussions carried out by researchers, that although law enforcement against defamation via social media in Gorontalo City has referred to the ITE Law No.19 of 2016, the Gorontalo City Police tend to offer mediation as the first solution. Mediation is considered an option to resolve problems quickly, simply, and maintain good relations between the parties involved. However,

if mediation does not reach an agreement, the decision to continue the legal process depends on the reporter. Obstacles in law enforcement in this case include legal factors, law enforcement, facilities and infrastructure, society, and cultural factors.

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