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Implementation of Legal Protection for Minors Who Commit Motorcycle Theft in Sorong City

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the implementation of legal protection for children who have committed the crime of motorcycle theft and to identify the obstacles affecting the legal protection process for children in conflict with the law in Sorong City. **This method** employs an empirical legal approach with a descriptive methodology, which involves depicting conditions observed in the field based on the facts discovered and then analyzing them by integrating legal materials and primary data obtained through interviews with police officers at the Sorong City Police Department. **The novelty** of this study lies in its examination of the implementation of legal protection for children as perpetrators of motorcycle theft at the police level in Sorong City, a topic that has been relatively under-researched in previous studies. **The results** of the study indicate that legal protection for children as perpetrators of motorcycle theft has been implemented in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System through the application of diversion, restrictions on arrest and detention, the provision of legal aid, guidance by social workers, and case handling by investigators specializing in juvenile cases. However, its implementation still faces various obstacles, including limited human resources, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, and a lack of public understanding regarding legal protection for children in conflict with the law. **This study concludes** that legal protection for children as perpetrators of motorcycle theft in Sorong City has been implemented in accordance with applicable laws and regulations; however, the effectiveness of its implementation still requires improvement through capacity building for law enforcement officials, the provision of child-friendly facilities, and increased public awareness regarding children's rights within the juvenile criminal justice system.
Keywords: Legal Protection; Children in Conflict with the Law; Motorcycle Theft; Juvenile Criminal Justice System

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan *untuk menganalisis pelaksanaan perlindungan hukum terhadap anak sebagai pelaku tindak pidana pencurian sepeda motor serta mengidentifikasi kendala yang memengaruhi proses perlindungan hukum terhadap anak yang berhadapan dengan hukum di Kota Sorong.* ***Metode Penelitian*** *ini menggunakan metode hukum empiris dengan pendekatan deskriptif, yaitu menggambarkan kondisi yang terjadi di lapangan berdasarkan fakta yang ditemukan kemudian dianalisis dengan mengintegrasikan bahan hukum dan data primer yang diperoleh melalui wawancara dengan aparat kepolisian di Polres Sorong Kota.* ***Kebaruan*** *penelitian ini terletak pada kajian mengenai implementasi perlindungan hukum terhadap anak sebagai pelaku tindak pidana pencurian sepeda motor*

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pada tingkat kepolisian di Kota Sorong yang masih relatif terbatas dikaji dalam penelitian sebelumnya. ***Hasil penelitian*** *menunjukkan bahwa perlindungan hukum terhadap anak sebagai pelaku tindak pidana pencurian sepeda motor telah dilaksanakan berdasarkan ketentuan Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2012 tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak melalui penerapan diversi, pembatasan penangkapan dan penahanan, pemberian bantuan hukum, pendampingan oleh pembimbing kemasyarakatan, serta penanganan perkara oleh penyidik khusus anak. Namun demikian, pelaksanaannya masih menghadapi berbagai kendala, antara lain keterbatasan sumber daya manusia, sarana dan prasarana yang belum memadai, serta rendahnya pemahaman masyarakat mengenai perlindungan hukum terhadap anak yang berhadapan dengan hukum.* ***Penelitian ini menyimpulkan*** *bahwa perlindungan hukum terhadap anak sebagai pelaku tindak pidana pencurian sepeda motor di Kota Sorong telah dilaksanakan sesuai dengan peraturan perundang-undangan yang berlaku, namun efektivitas pelaksanaannya masih memerlukan peningkatan melalui penguatan kapasitas aparat penegak hukum, penyediaan fasilitas yang ramah anak, serta peningkatan kesadaran masyarakat mengenai hak-hak anak dalam sistem peradilan pidana anak.*
Kata Kunci: *Perlindungan Hukum; Anak Berhadapan dengan Hukum; Pencurian Sepeda Motor; Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak*

1. INTRODUCTION

As a developing country, Indonesia continues to make progress in various areas of life, including technology, science, the economy, and socio-cultural aspects. On the one hand, this progress has a positive impact on improving the quality of life for the people. On the other hand, however, these developments have also given rise to increasingly complex social problems, including a rise in deviant behavior involving children.[1] Changes in social patterns, environmental influences, advances in information technology, and a lack of parental supervision are factors that can lead children to engage in various forms of delinquency or criminal activity.[2] This phenomenon indicates that children, as the nation's future generation, are vulnerable to various negative influences that can hinder their growth and development.

Children are both a trust and a blessing from God Almighty, possessing the inherent dignity and worth of fully-fledged human beings. Therefore, the state has an obligation to protect children's rights so that they may live, grow, develop, and participate to the fullest extent possible in accordance with their human dignity.[3] Protection for children is not limited to those who are victims of a criminal offense, but also extends to children who come into conflict with the law as perpetrators of criminal offenses. This is based on the principle that children who violate the law still have rights that must be respected and protected by the state.

[1] Eka Kurniawatie, "Penerapan Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Anak Pelaku Tindak Pidana Dalam Perspektif Undang – Undang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak Uu No.11 Tahun 2012 Di Indonesia," *Corpus Juris : Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 1, no. 2 (2025): 112–22, https://doi.org/10.62335/corpusjuris.v1i2.2111.

[2] Rizky Chairunisya Ramadhani and Tengku Erwinsyahbana , Tarmizi, "Protection of Children in Conflict with the Law in the Prosecution Process by the Public Prosecutor," *Journal Education* 5, no. 1 (2025): 211–15, https://doi.org/10.30596/jcositte.v1i1.xxxx.

[3] Rima Kurniasih and Fakhlur, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum Ditinjau Dari Persfektif Hukum Positif," *Jurnal Pro Hukum* 12, no. 1 (2023): 170–76.

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Legal protection is one form of guarantee provided by the state to protect human rights and ensure respect for the dignity of every individual as a subject of law. The purpose of legal protection is to create a sense of security, legal certainty, and justice for every citizen against actions that violate the law. In the context of child protection, the state has a responsibility to ensure that children's rights are fulfilled by providing treatment that is appropriate to their needs, development, and best interests, including when children come into contact with the law as perpetrators of criminal offenses.[4] This guarantee of legal protection is enshrined in Article 28G of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which affirms that every person has the right to protection of their person, family, honor, dignity, and property under their control, as well as the right to a sense of security and protection from threats and fear. Furthermore, Article 35 of Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights affirms that every person has the right to live in a society and a state that are peaceful, safe, and respectful of human rights. These provisions demonstrate that legal protection is a fundamental right that must be granted to all citizens without exception, including children in conflict with the law.[5]

One of the most common criminal offenses in society is theft. Theft is an act that not only causes material harm to the victim but also creates anxiety and disrupts public order. Various factors can drive a person to commit theft, including economic factors, social environment, low educational attainment, bad company, and a lack of supervision from family and the community. Over time, theft has come to be committed not only by adults but also by children.

The phenomenon of children's involvement in theft offenses is an issue that requires serious attention. Children who commit crimes generally lack the level of cognitive maturity and self-control that adults possess. Therefore, the handling of children who commit crimes cannot be treated the same as that of adults. The juvenile criminal justice system prioritizes the best interests of the child as the primary consideration in every law enforcement process.[6] The approach used is not only focused on punishment, but also on guidance, education, and rehabilitation so that children can once again develop normally within their social environment.

In the city of Sorong, motorcycle theft remains one of the most common crimes and is a source of concern for the community. Motorcycle thefts generally occur in public places such as parking lots, shopping centers, and residential neighborhoods. A particularly alarming development is the involvement of children as perpetrators in several of these motorcycle theft cases. The involvement of children in motorcycle theft indicates the existence of a social problem that is not only related to law enforcement but also concerns education, the family environment, and the guidance and support provided to children.

[4] Yurizal Setyawan, Gidion Arif, Andy Fefta Wijaya, Hermawan, "Jurnal Hukum UNISSULA," *Journal of Law* 40, no. 1 (2020): 1–13, https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/1493/a5a9b09c58eea4d5afeffacdcd148625f6c2.pdf.
[5] Kartono and Suhendar, "PENERAPAN DIVERSI SEBAGAI SAFEGUARD HUKUM" 03, no. 02 (2023): 91–102.
[6] Tiara Annisa Pri Elja, "Teori Keadilan Restoratif (Restorative Justice) Sebagai Dengan Hukum (Studi Penyelesaian Kasus Pidana Anak Di Polres Tanjung Pinang)," *Journal Equitable* 7, no. 2 (2022): 192–207, https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/lib/uploads/list/27279-.

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Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System stipulates that every child in conflict with the law is entitled to special protection throughout the judicial process. One form of such protection is the use of diversion as a means of resolving cases outside the criminal justice system. Diversion aims to shield children from the negative impacts of the judicial process and criminal punishment, while providing them with an opportunity to reform without jeopardizing their future. However, in practice, the implementation of legal protections for children in conflict with the law still faces various obstacles, stemming from both internal factors within law enforcement agencies and external factors originating from families and the community.[7]

Various previous studies have examined legal protection for children within the juvenile justice system. The findings of these studies indicate that the restorative justice approach plays a crucial role in ensuring legal protection for children in conflict with the law, as it prioritizes restoration, accountability, and the best interests of the child over a purely punitive approach.[8] In addition, diversion is also viewed as an effective mechanism for protecting children from the negative impacts of the criminal justice process while promoting case resolutions that are more oriented toward the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children. However, most of this research still focuses on normative aspects that examine legal provisions, the concept of diversion, and the principles of restorative justice. Research specifically examining the implementation of legal protections for children who are perpetrators of motorcycle theft at the police level, particularly in the city of Sorong, remains relatively limited. In fact, social conditions, crime rates, and community characteristics in each region can influence the implementation of legal protections for children in conflict with the law.

In addition, previous research has not extensively examined the various challenges faced by law enforcement officials in providing legal protection to children who have committed the crime of motorcycle theft, nor the efforts made to address those challenges.[9] Therefore, research is needed to provide an empirical overview of the implementation of legal protections for children who commit the crime of motorcycle theft at the police level.

Based on the above discussion, there is a research gap between the numerous normative studies that have been conducted and the empirical conditions surrounding the implementation of legal protection for children who are perpetrators of motorcycle theft in the field. The novelty of this study lies in its analysis of the implementation of legal protection for children as perpetrators of motorcycle theft at the Sorong City Police Station, the factors

[7] Haris Dwi Saputra and Muhammad Miswarik, "Implementasi Diversi Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum," *Inicio Legis* 2, no. 1 (2021): 36–50, https://doi.org/10.21107/il.v2i1.11071.

[8] Yusrizal, Romi Asmara, and Hadi Iskandar, "PENERAPAN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TERHADAP ANAK YANG BERHADAPAN DENGAN HUKUM," *Jurnal Hukum Samudra Keadilan* 17, no. 2 (2022): 253–61, https://ejournal.staialakbarsurabaya.ac.id/index.php/al-ujrah/article/view/85%0Ahttps://ejournal.staialakbarsurabaya.ac.id/index.php/al-ujrah/article/download/85/47.

[9] Hasbullah, A. Muin Fahmal, and Baharuddin Badaru, "Journal of Lex Generalis (JLS)," *Journal of Lex Generalis (JLS)* 2, no. 3 (2022): 404–17.

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influencing the occurrence of such crimes, the challenges faced by law enforcement officials, and the efforts made to provide legal protection to children in conflict with the law. Thus, this study is expected to contribute to the development of juvenile criminal law and serve as a basis for evaluation and consideration by law enforcement officials in enhancing legal protection for children.

2. METHOD

The research approach used in this study is an empirical approach, which is a research method used to describe conditions observed in the field as they actually are. The data used consists of primary data obtained directly through interviews with respondents in the field, and secondary data obtained from a review of the literature, including academic works (research findings), laws and regulations, and other written materials relevant to this study. All data obtained will be analyzed qualitatively. Before analyzing the data, the secondary data obtained through literature review and the primary data obtained through interviews will be categorized. The collected data will then be analyzed qualitatively.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Legal Protection for Children Who Commit the Crime of Motorcycle Theft

Legal protection is a form of safeguarding provided by the state to every citizen to ensure the fulfillment of rights recognized and protected by law. In the context of children in conflict with the law, this protection is particularly important because children are individuals who are still in the process of physical and psychological development and therefore require special treatment that differs from that given to adult offenders. Consequently, the juvenile criminal justice system in Indonesia prioritizes an approach focused on protection, rehabilitation, and restoration over a purely punitive approach.[10]

Based on the results of a study conducted at the Sorong City Police Department, legal protection for children who commit the crime of motorcycle theft is provided through various mechanisms stipulated in Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. One of the most important forms of protection is the application of diversion. Diversion is the process of transferring the resolution of a child's case from the criminal justice system to mechanisms outside the criminal justice system with the aim of achieving reconciliation between the offender and the victim, sparing the child from deprivation of liberty, encouraging community participation, and instilling a sense of responsibility in the child for his or her actions.[11] Based on an interview with IPDA Melfince Rumbino, Head of the Child Protection Unit (PPA) at the Sorong City Police Department, efforts are always made to apply diversion as long as the case meets the requirements set forth in Article 7 of the Law on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System.

The legal protection afforded to children as perpetrators of motorcycle robbery crimes

[10] D K Sari and Eko Wahyudi, "Implementasi Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Anak Sebagai Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pencurian Di Polrestabes Surabaya," *Supremasi Jurnal Hukum* 04, no. 1 (2022): 61–76, http://repository.upnjatim.ac.id/5714/%0Ahttp://repository.upnjatim.ac.id/5714/2/18071010039_Bab1.pdf.

[11] Nia Afrina and Warasman Marbun, "Penerapan Diversi Penyelesaian Perkara Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum," *SUPREMASI Jurnal Hukum* 2, no. 2 (2019): 51–58, https://doi.org/10.36441/supremasi.v2i2.117.

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by the Sorong City Police through diversion, the provision of legal aid, guidance from social workers, and case handling by investigators specializing in juvenile cases demonstrates efforts to uphold the principle of the best interests of the child, as stipulated in Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. The application of diversion in this study is consistent with the view that diversion is a form of legal protection for children in conflict with the law, as it aims to shield children from the negative impacts of the criminal justice process.[12] Diversion is also viewed as an important tool in the juvenile criminal justice system for ensuring the protection of children's rights through a restorative justice approach.[13] In addition, the implementation of diversion programs accompanied by support for children is a crucial part of achieving the goals of rehabilitation and social reintegration for children.[14]

In addition to diversion mechanisms, efforts to uphold the rights of children in conflict with the law are also realized through restrictions on arrest and detention. Unlike adult offenders, children may only be arrested for a limited period and must be held in a place that ensures their safety and comfort. These restrictions aim to minimize the psychological impact that may arise during the law enforcement process. This approach aligns with the concept of restorative justice, which prioritizes the best interests of the child as the primary consideration in the resolution of criminal cases.[15]

The next step involves case handling by specialized investigators who possess the necessary expertise and understanding of the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. In practice, cases of motorcycle theft within the jurisdiction of the Sorong City Police Department are handled by investigators from the Women and Children's Protection Unit (PPA). The involvement of these specialized investigators is intended to ensure that investigations are conducted professionally while upholding the rights of children throughout the investigative process. In addition, the role of the public prosecutor is also crucial in promoting the resolution of cases through diversion so that the goals of rehabilitation and restoration can be optimally achieved.[16] The right to legal assistance from the investigation stage onward is also an important part of the legal safeguards for children in conflict with the law. The presence of a lawyer or legal representative aims to ensure that the child's rights are upheld throughout the judicial process and to prevent actions that could harm the child's best interests. These

[12] Rodliyah, "DIVERSION AS LEGAL PROTECTION TOWARDS CHILDREN WITH CONFLICT WITH LAW," *Jurnal IUS Kajian Hukum Dan Keadilan* 7, no. 1 (April 19, 2019): 182–94, https://doi.org/10.29303/ius.v7i1.847.
[13] Azwad Rachmat Hambali, "HUKUM DALAM SISTEM PERADILAN PIDANA (Diversions for Children in Conflict with The Laws in The Criminal Justice System) Abstrak," *Jurnal Ilmiah Kebijakan Hukum* 13, no. 1 (2019): 15–30, https://ejournal.balitbangham.go.id/index.php/kebijakan/article/view/568.
[14] Kamri Ahmad& Sri Lestari Poernomo Abd. Kadir, "Penerapan Diversi Terhadap Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum Dalam Perspektif Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak," *Journal of Lex Generalis (JLS)* 2, no. 3 (2022): 404–17, https://ejournal.balitbangham.go.id/index.php/kebijakan/article/view/568.
[15] Tuti Aryani et al., "Efektivitas Upaya Diversi Dalam Penyelesaian Perkara Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum," *Jurnal Pro Justitia* 5, no. 2 (2024): 1–10.
[16] Elma Seventiani, "UPAYA PENGUATAN PENERAPAN DIVERSI OLEH JAKSA PENUNTUT UMUM TERHADAP ANAK YANG BERKONFLIK DENGAN HUKUM," no. 7 (2024): 50–63.

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provisions demonstrate that the juvenile criminal justice process is oriented not only toward law enforcement but also toward respect for the child's human rights and psychological development.

This guarantee is further strengthened through the involvement of Probation Officers from the Correctional Office, who are tasked with providing support from the investigation stage through the child's reintegration into the community. This support aims to ensure that every process the child undergoes continues to prioritize education, guidance, and the child's future. Thus, the handling of cases involving motorcycle theft committed by minors is not only directed toward resolving the criminal case but also toward rehabilitation and social reintegration so that the child can resume fulfilling their social roles appropriately within the community. This approach aligns with the goals of diversion, which prioritizes guidance, rehabilitation, and the child's return to their social environment over the imposition of punitive sanctions.[17]

The research findings indicate that the Sorong City Police Department has implemented various forms of legal protection in handling cases of motorcycle theft committed by minors. Nevertheless, the increase in the number of cases from two in 2022 to ten in 2023 suggests that legal protection for minors must be balanced with more comprehensive prevention efforts involving families, schools, the community, and local government.

3.2. Factors Contributing to Motorcycle Theft Committed by Minors

The rise in motorcycle thefts committed by minors in Sorong City is a phenomenon that requires serious attention from law enforcement, the government, families, and the community. These crimes not only cause material losses for the victims but also create a sense of insecurity and disrupt social order within the community. Therefore, prevention efforts cannot rely solely on law enforcement but must also be supported by a comprehensive understanding of the factors that drive children to commit motorcycle theft.

Based on the results of a study conducted at the Sorong City Police Department, it was found that there are several key factors influencing the occurrence of motorcycle theft committed by minors, namely economic factors, family factors, and social environmental factors. These three factors are interrelated and have a significant influence on children's behavior, ultimately leading them to become involved in criminal activity.

Economic factors are among the most dominant factors driving children to commit motorcycle theft. Limited family financial resources often result in children's basic needs not being adequately met. These conditions create pressure that ultimately drives children to seek shortcuts to obtain money or meet their basic needs. Based on the results of an interview conducted on April 19, 2023, a case of motorcycle theft committed by a child for economic reasons was uncovered. The perpetrator admitted that the stolen motorcycle was sold to obtain money, which was then used to meet daily needs. This fact demonstrates that economic

[17] Taufik Hidayat, Nasrullah Arsyad, and Dian Eka Pusvita, "Diversi Sebagai Penyelesaian Pidana Anak Yang Berkonflik Dengan Hukum Taufik," *Jurnal Legal Dialogica* I, no. 2 (2026).

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hardship can be a strong motivating factor for children to commit unlawful acts.

In addition to economic factors, family circumstances also have a significant influence on a child's behavior. The family is the first and primary environment in the process of character formation and personality development. Family discord, a lack of parental attention, insufficient supervision, and poor parent-child relationships can have negative psychological effects. Children who grow up in a less-than-harmonious family environment tend to feel neglected, lack role models, and are more easily influenced by environments outside the family. Based on an interview with Aipda Syahrir, S.H., on April 19, 2023, it was found that several children involved in motorcycle theft came from families experiencing internal problems, which affected the children's behavioral development and increased the risk of their involvement in criminal acts.

In addition to economic and family factors, environmental factors also play a significant role in driving motorcycle theft committed by children. The social environment is where children interact and shape their behavioral patterns in daily life. A negative social environment can influence a child's way of thinking and acting, especially if the child frequently interacts with individuals who exhibit deviant behavior or are involved in criminal activities. Research findings indicate that some cases of motorcycle theft committed by children occur due to the influence or encouragement of peers, relatives, or other close associates. These findings suggest that an unfavorable social environment can serve as a factor that reinforces a child's intent and boldness to commit a crime.

These findings are consistent with a study conducted in the jurisdiction of the Polewali Mandar Police Department, which showed that the implementation of diversion for children in conflict with the law has not been fully realized during the investigative stage.[18] The study also identified several factors that influence the effectiveness of its implementation, namely legal substance, legal structure, the availability of facilities and infrastructure, and human resource capacity, particularly that of child investigators. The findings indicate that the handling of cases involving children is influenced not only by personal and social factors but also by the readiness of law enforcement institutions to implement legal protections for children. [19]

Based on this discussion, it is clear that motorcycle theft committed by minors does not result from a single factor but is influenced by various interrelated factors. Difficult economic conditions, dysfunctional family environments, and negative social environments are the dominant factors driving minors to engage in motorcycle theft. Therefore, prevention efforts must be comprehensive, focusing on improving family well-being, strengthening parental care,

[18] Christian A Caesar, "DIVERSI BAGI ANAK YANG BERHADAPAN DENGAN HUKUM DI KABUPATEN TANA TORAJA," *Paulus Law Journal* 2, no. September (2020): 1–14.

[19] Rahul Ardian Fikri, "Implementasi Diversi Terhadap Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum Ditinjau Dari Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2012 Tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak," *Jurnal Ilmiah Abdi Ilmu* 13, no. 2 (2020): 72–81, https://journal.pancabudi.ac.id/index.php/abdiilmu/article/view/1101/973.

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and creating a social environment that supports children's positive development.

3.3. Challenges and Efforts in Providing Legal Protection for Children Who Commit Motorcycle Theft in Sorong City

The implementation of legal protection for children who commit the crime of motorcycle theft in Sorong City has essentially been based on the provisions of Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. However, the success of its implementation is not determined solely by the existence of legal regulations but is also influenced by various factors related to human resources, supporting facilities and infrastructure, as well as the level of public understanding regarding legal protection for children in conflict with the law. Based on the results of a study conducted at the Women and Children's Protection Unit (PPA) of the Sorong City Police Department, it was found that there are still a number of obstacles affecting the effectiveness of legal protection for children who are perpetrators of motorcycle theft.

One of the main challenges faced is a shortage of human resources, particularly the limited number of juvenile investigators assigned to handle cases involving children. In the juvenile criminal justice system, investigators play a crucial role because they are the first to determine the course of a case's handling, starting from the investigative stage.[20] Therefore, the presence of investigators who possess the necessary competencies and understanding of child protection is a critical factor in the successful implementation of the juvenile criminal justice system. However, research findings indicate that the number of juvenile investigators available at the PPA Unit of the Sorong City Police Department is still insufficient relative to the number of cases that must be handled. This situation results in a heavier workload for investigators, which could potentially hinder the optimal implementation of legal protection for children in conflict with the law.[21]

In addition to limited human resources, facilities and infrastructure also pose challenges to the implementation of legal protection for children. The Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act mandates that every child in conflict with the law has the right to special treatment, including access to a safe and appropriate space during the investigation process.[22] However, based on the research findings, the PPA Unit of the Sorong City Police still faces limitations in support facilities, particularly the lack of adequate detention rooms or special rooms for children during the investigation process. The facilities currently available are still limited and therefore cannot fully provide a sense of comfort, safety, and privacy for children undergoing legal proceedings. These conditions have the potential to affect the children's psychological

[20] Kurniasih and Fakhlur, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum Ditinjau Dari Persfektif Hukum Positif."

[21] Siti Nurbadaliah, Akhmad Munawar, and Indah Dewi Megasari, "PENUNTUTAN TERHADAP PERKARA ANAK DALAM SISTEM PERADILAN PIDANA ANAK DI INDONESIA PROSECUTION OF CHILDREN'S CASES IN THE JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDON," *Rewang Rencang : Jurnal Hukum Lex Generalis* 4, no. 7 (2023): 1–25.

[22] Delpi Yasmine Andini, Ikhwanul Muslim, and Sunariyo Sunariyo, "Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak: Studi Komparatif Indonesia Dan Skotlandia," *Nomos : Jurnal Penelitian Ilmu Hukum* 5, no. 1 (2025): 95–107, https://doi.org/10.56393/nomos.v5i1.3085.

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well-being during the investigation process.[23]

The challenges identified in this study include limited human resources, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, and a lack of public understanding regarding legal protection for children in conflict with the law. These conditions indicate that the success of legal protection for children depends not only on the existence of laws and regulations but also on the readiness of law enforcement officials and public support. This view is consistent with studies indicating that the success of child protection requires the active involvement of families, the community, and law enforcement officials in ensuring the best interests of the child.[24]

Faced with these various challenges, the Sorong City Police continue to make efforts to improve the effectiveness of legal protection for children who have committed the crime of motorcycle theft. One such effort is to optimize legal education and outreach activities for the community. These activities are carried out in collaboration with community leaders, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and local government officials to improve public understanding of legal protections for children in conflict with the law. In addition to educating the public about children's rights, the police also actively urge the public to remain vigilant against motor vehicle theft through various community outreach programs and routine patrols in areas considered prone to crime.

In addition, the Sorong City Police Department's Child Protection Unit (PPA) also takes a persuasive approach toward victims and complainants in criminal cases involving children. This approach involves providing explanations and counseling on the principles of child protection within the juvenile justice system. Investigators help reporters understand that the primary goal of handling cases involving children is not merely to impose punishment, but also to guide and rehabilitate the child so that they do not repeat their actions in the future. Through this approach, it is hoped that the public will understand the importance of legal protection for children and support the implementation of case resolution mechanisms that prioritize the best interests of the child.

The efforts undertaken by the Sorong City Police through counseling, legal outreach, and raising public awareness about child protection demonstrate a preventive approach to curbing children's involvement in criminal offenses. These efforts also support the effective implementation of diversion, the success of which requires cooperation among law enforcement officials, families, and the community in the process of resolving cases involving children.[25]

Based on the above discussion, it is clear that the effectiveness of legal protection for

[23] Rosmi Darmi, "Implementasi Konvensi Hak Anak Terkait Dengan Perlindungan Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Proses Hukum," *Jurnal Penelitian Hukum De Jure* 16, no. 740 (2016): 439–50.
[24] Syabbul Bachri Wiwin Setianingrum, "Diversi Terhadap Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum Perspektif Maslahah Mursalah," *Sakina: Journal of Family Studies* 6, no. 3 (2022): 1–19, https://doi.org/10.18860/jfs.v6i3.2203.
[25] Dian Alan Setiawan, "Efektivitas Penerapan Diversi Terhadap Penanganan Anak Yang Berhadapan Dengan Hukum Dalam Peradilan Pidana Anak Sesuai Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 11 Tahun 2012 Tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak," *DiH: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 13 (2018): 231–42, https://doi.org/10.30996/dih.v0i0.1585.

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children who commit the crime of motorcycle theft is not only determined by the existence of laws and regulations but is also influenced by the readiness of law enforcement officials, the availability of adequate facilities and infrastructure, and public support for the implementation of the juvenile criminal justice system. Therefore, synergy is needed among law enforcement officials, the government, families, and the community to ensure optimal legal protection for children in conflict with the law.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that legal protection for children who commit the crime of motorcycle theft within the jurisdiction of the Sorong City Police has been implemented in accordance with the provisions of No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System through the application of diversion, restrictions on arrest and detention, case handling by investigators specializing in juvenile cases, the provision of legal aid, guidance from social workers, and restrictions on sentencing for children. Nevertheless, the implementation of these legal protections has not yet been fully optimized because it still faces various obstacles, including limited human resources, particularly child investigators; limited facilities and infrastructure to support the investigation process involving children; and a lack of public understanding regarding the concept of legal protection for children in conflict with the law. To address these challenges, the Sorong City Police Department has undertaken various initiatives, including increasing legal outreach and public awareness campaigns, as well as providing education and counseling to both victims and complainants regarding the importance of protecting and guiding children. Therefore, the effectiveness of legal protection for children who are perpetrators of motorcycle theft requires sustained support from law enforcement officials, the government, families, and the community to ensure that the best interests of the child are met while also realizing the goals of a juvenile criminal justice system oriented toward rehabilitation and social reintegration.

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