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## Settlement of Criminal Acts of Ordinary Abuse Committed by Children

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### **Abstract**

*This study analyzes the model for resolving ordinary child abuse cases committed by children as perpetrators through a restorative justice approach. The urgency of this research is based on the fact that handling children's cases through formal justice channels tends to be retributive, which risks causing stigmatization and psychological trauma for children's future development. The main focus of this research is to evaluate the implementation of the diversion mechanism as an instrument for protecting children's rights in the Indonesian legal system. The research method used is normative legal research with a statute approach and a conceptual approach. Primary legal materials are sourced from the Criminal Code (KUHP) and Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA). Data analysis was conducted using a descriptive qualitative approach to provide a comprehensive overview of the out-of-court case resolution mechanism. The results of the study indicate that ordinary child abuse cases regulated in Article 351 of the Criminal Code must be resolved through a diversion mechanism at all levels of justice, considering that the penalty is less than seven years. This model prioritizes deliberation involving the perpetrator, victim, and community to achieve restoration of the original state. The primary supporting factor is the explicit mandate of the Child Protection and Child Protection Law, while the dominant inhibiting factors are the persistent paradigm of retaliation among victims and the limited mediation skills of law enforcement officers. This study concludes that restorative justice is the most effective solution for ensuring the best interests of children and preventing recidivism.*

*Keywords: Children in Conflict with the Law; Criminal Acts of Abuse; Juvenile Criminal Justice System*

### **1. Introduction**

In recent years, the increase in cases of simple assault crimes involving children has become a phenomenon that has received increasing attention in the criminal justice system. Institutional data and reports indicate that changing social dynamics, environmental pressures, and weak social and family controls contribute to the increased involvement of children in acts of minor physical violence (Saragih, 2023). Children who are in an unstable phase of emotional and psychological development tend to have limited self-control, making them more vulnerable to aggressive actions in response to everyday conflicts. This condition is exacerbated by the influence of their social environment and exposure to violence, both directly and through digital media (Santrock, 2018; Widodo, 2020).

The increase in children's involvement in simple assault crimes also reflects serious challenges in the law enforcement approach, which is still oriented towards formal punishment (Setjo & Ma, 2020). Repressive criminal justice processes have the potential to negatively impact children's development, such as stigmatization, social labelling, and an increased risk of recidivism. Therefore, various studies emphasize the importance of alternative, more humane approaches oriented toward the best interests of children, such as diversion and restorative justice, particularly for minor crimes, including simple assault (Armia et al., 2022). This approach is considered more capable of suppressing the escalation of violence, restoring social relationships, and supporting the process of rehabilitation and reintegration of children into society (Marlina, 2012; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2018).

Children who come into contact with the law as perpetrators of crimes are psychologically vulnerable because they are still at an immature stage of cognitive and emotional development. At this stage, children's ability to control their emotions, consider the consequences of their actions, and make rational decisions is still limited compared to adults (Sauri, 2023). This psychological vulnerability makes children more susceptible to conflict situations, peer pressure, and impulsivity, which can ultimately lead to involvement in deviant behavior. Various

developmental psychology studies confirm that children's involvement in crime is often driven not solely by malicious intent, but by an inability to manage emotions and an unfavorable social environment (Santrock, 2018; Steinberg, 2017).

In addition to psychological aspects, children as perpetrators of crimes are also socially and legally vulnerable. Socially, children often experience stigma, negative labeling, and social exclusion due to their status as perpetrators, which can hinder their development and social reintegration. From a legal perspective, children have limited understanding of judicial procedures and the legal implications of the process, placing them at risk of experiencing violations of their basic rights if treated the same as adults (Hunter et al., 2018). Therefore, the literature on juvenile criminal law emphasizes the need for a special approach that is oriented towards the protection, rehabilitation, and best interests of children, through mechanisms such as diversion and restorative justice, so that the justice system does not actually exacerbate the vulnerabilities experienced by children (Marlina, 2012; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2018).

Conventional criminal justice approaches, oriented toward retribution (retributive justice), often position children solely as objects of punishment without considering their psychological and social development (Ioffe, 2023). This model of punishment emphasizes the perpetrator's guilt and suffering as a form of justice, thus tending to neglect the child's rehabilitation and protection needs. In the context of children as perpetrators of crimes, a retributive approach has the potential to cause negative impacts such as psychological trauma, social stigmatization, and disruption of the child's development. Several studies confirm that a criminal justice system that treats children similarly to adults is inconsistent with the principle of the best interests of the child, which is the basis of international child protection law (Goldson & Muncie, 2015; United Nations, 1989).

Furthermore, the goals of modern punishment have shifted from a retaliatory orientation to a more humane, rehabilitative, and restorative approach. Modern punishment emphasizes crime prevention, improving the perpetrator's behavior, and restoring social relationships between the perpetrator, victim, and the community. Within this framework, the application of conventional punishment to children is considered counterproductive because it increases the risk of recidivism and hinders their social reintegration (Lafau & Simamora, 2025). Therefore, various literature on juvenile criminal law encourages the use of alternative punishments such as diversion and restorative justice as a form of treatment that is more effective and in line with the objectives of modern punishment and the principles of protecting children's rights (Marlina, 2012; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2018).

The emergence of the restorative justice paradigm and diversion mechanisms in the juvenile criminal justice system is a response to the limitations of conventional, retaliatory approaches to sentencing. The restorative justice paradigm emphasizes reparation for victims' losses, proportional accountability for perpetrators, and restoration of social relationships disrupted by the crime (Asnur et al., 2024; Oktarina et al., 2018). In the context of children as perpetrators, this approach views criminal acts not merely as violations against the state, but as social conflicts that need to be resolved through dialogue and education. Various studies confirm that restorative justice is more appropriate for minor crimes, including assault, because it provides children with the opportunity to understand the impact of their actions without having to go through a formal judicial process that could potentially harm their psychological development (Zehr, 2015; UNODC, 2018).

Diversion, as the primary restorative justice instrument in juvenile criminal cases, aims to shift case resolution from the judicial process to non-litigation mechanisms involving the perpetrator, victim, family, and community. The application of diversion in cases of minor assault is considered effective because it can protect children from the stigma of being a criminal while providing more substantial justice for victims through a restitution agreement (Nilan et al., 2025). Juvenile criminal law literature emphasizes that diversion serves not only as protection for children but also as a means to prevent reoffending and strengthen social reintegration. Thus, the restorative justice and diversion paradigms align with the principle of the best interests of the child and the goals of modern criminal justice, which emphasize rehabilitation and prevention (Marlina, 2012; United Nations, 1989).

Various previous studies have examined the application of restorative justice and diversion in the juvenile criminal justice system, focusing on the effectiveness of protecting children's rights and preventing the negative impacts of formal punishment. Marlina (2012) emphasized that diversion is an important instrument to prevent children from being subjected to the judicial process, which has the potential to lead to stigma and recidivism (Douglas, 2021). Other studies have shown that a restorative approach is more effective than conventional punishment in addressing minor crimes committed by children, as it emphasizes recovery, social responsibility, and the child's reintegration

into society (UNODC, 2018; Zehr, 2015). However, most of this research remains general, normative in nature and has not specifically examined ordinary assault as a type of crime with distinct characteristics, particularly related to the perpetrator-victim relationship and the potential for peaceful resolution (Bibi & Ahmad, 2023); (Ariefulloh et al., 2023).

Based on these studies, the novelty of this research lies in its analytical focus, which specifically examines the resolution of ordinary assault crimes committed by children through the perspective of restorative justice and diversion, from both normative and implementation aspects. This study not only assesses the suitability of the restorative approach to child protection principles but also analyzes the practical challenges of its implementation in cases of minor abuse, including the roles of law enforcement officers, victims, and the community. Thus, this study offers a novel contribution in the form of mapping a more contextual and applicable settlement model, which is expected to enrich the development of juvenile criminal law policies and practices that are oriented towards the best interests of children and substantive justice.

## **2. Research Methods**

This research uses a normative legal research method that focuses on the study of positive legal norms, legal principles, and legal doctrines related to the resolution of ordinary child abuse crimes. This approach was chosen because the research problem is closely related to legal regulations, child protection principles, and the application of the concepts of restorative justice and diversion in the juvenile criminal justice system. The legal materials used include primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include relevant laws and regulations and international legal instruments, while secondary legal materials consist of textbooks, scientific journals, and previous research results. Tertiary legal materials include legal dictionaries and encyclopedias to clarify legal terms.

In this normative research, the approaches used include the statute approach, the conceptual approach, and the case approach. The legal materials were collected through library research, which was then analyzed using qualitative analysis methods with deductive reasoning. This analysis aims to interpret legal norms systematically and coherently in order to answer the research problem formulation, as well as formulate legal arguments related to optimizing the resolution of ordinary child abuse crimes through a diversion and restorative justice approach in accordance with the principles of child protection and the objectives of modern criminal punishment

## **3. Results and Discussions**

### **Implementation Of Restorative Justice Through Diversion In Child Abuse Cases**

The application of the restorative justice approach model in resolving ordinary acts of child abuse is a legal obligation. Based on Article 7 paragraph (2) of Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA), diversion must be attempted if the crime committed is threatened with imprisonment of under 7 (seven) years and is not a repeat of the crime (recidivism). Justice is that every resolution of children's cases must reflect a sense of justice for children. All parties involved in criminal acts must avoid and distance children from the judicial process so as to avoid stigmatization of children in conflict with the law and it is hoped that children can return to the social environment naturally. The judicial process for children's cases from arrest, detention and trial must be carried out by special officials who really deal with children's problems. The judge deciding the case must be truly convinced that his decision can be a strong basis for returning and guiding the child towards a good future to develop himself as a citizen who is responsible for the life of the family, nation and state. (Abintoro Prakoso, 2012; 100-101) The main objective of restorative justice is to repair or compensate for the losses suffered by the victim, the perpetrator's recognition of the injuries suffered by the community due to his actions, conciliation and reconciliation of the perpetrator, victim and community. Restorative justice aims to empower victims, perpetrators, families and the community to correct unlawful actions by using awareness and realization as a basis for improving community life (R. Ali et al., 2021). Restorative justice also aims to restore the welfare of society, improve humans as members of society by confronting children as perpetrators in the form of accountability to the victim for their actions. Victims who are usually neglected in the judicial process, participate in the judicial process. (Gordo Bazemore, Abintoro Prakoso, 2016: 161) The parties involved in restorative justice include: (a) The victim and the victim's family.

The involvement of the victim and the victim's family in restorative justice resolution is crucial. This is because, to date, the victim's involvement in the criminal justice system has been minimal, even though the victim is the party directly involved in the conflict (the party suffering the loss). In resolving a case through restorative justice, the victim's voice or interests are crucial and are part of the decision to be made. Furthermore, the involvement of the victim's family in the implementation of restorative justice is crucial because in Indonesian society, criminal conflicts often become family issues, especially for families of minors. (b) The perpetrator and his family are absolutely essential parties to be involved, as the perpetrator's family is deemed necessary due to the perpetrator's age (a minor). The involvement of the perpetrator's family is also crucial in restorative justice resolution because the family is part of the settlement agreement, such as in the payment of compensation or other compensation. (c) Community representatives are important to represent the interests of the community where the crime occurred. The aim is that public interests are expected to remain represented in decision making. The crime of ordinary abuse as regulated in Article 351 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code has a maximum criminal threat of 2 years and 8 months. Therefore, this case automatically meets the limitative requirements to be resolved through the Diversion route, Article 6 of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Diversion Process. This diversion process aims to (1) Achieve peace between victims and children (2) Resolve children's cases outside the judicial process (3) Prevent children from being deprived of liberty (4) encourage society to participate and (5) Instill a sense of responsibility in children (Sugiharti et al., 2022). The implementation of restorative justice through diversion mechanisms in child abuse cases is a progressive approach in the juvenile criminal justice system that prioritizes the best interests of the child. This approach aims to shift case resolution from the formal judicial process to a non-litigation mechanism oriented toward recovery, dialogue, and social responsibility. In the context of child abuse, diversion not only serves to protect the child as the perpetrator from stigmatization and early criminalization, but also ensures the meaningful restoration of the victim's rights through a participatory and just process (Zehr, 2015; Daly, 2016).

Conceptually, restorative justice emphasizes conflict resolution through direct engagement between the perpetrator, victim, family, and community, with a focus on reparation, social reconciliation, and prevention of recurrence. In child abuse cases, the application of diversion is relevant because children are still in the psychological and moral developmental stage, requiring a corrective-educational approach, rather than a repressive one. Research shows that the restorative justice model can reduce child recidivism rates and increase perpetrators' moral awareness and social responsibility compared to conventional retributive approaches (Bazemore & Umbreit, 2001; McCold & Wachtel, 2013). From a child protection perspective, implementing diversion in cases of child abuse also aligns with human rights principles and international standards, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This approach recognizes that children in conflict with the law are often also victims of unfavorable social, economic, and family environments. Therefore, restorative justice through diversion serves as a dual protection instrument, protecting child perpetrators from the negative impacts of the criminal justice system while ensuring victims receive justice oriented toward psychosocial recovery (UNICEF, 2018; United Nations, 2007). However, the effectiveness of implementing restorative justice through diversion in cases of child abuse depends heavily on institutional readiness and the quality of its implementation. Frequent challenges include limited understanding among law enforcement officials, resistance to the non-punitive paradigm, and the suboptimal role of social workers and restorative mediation facilitators. Furthermore, the imbalance in power relations between perpetrators and victims has the potential to lead to secondary victimization if the diversion process is not implemented carefully and based on the principles of voluntary compliance and victim protection (Daly, 2016; Braithwaite, 2002). Therefore, implementing restorative justice through diversion in child abuse cases requires a comprehensive policy framework, strengthened officer capacity, and strict oversight mechanisms. Integrating a multidisciplinary approach involving law, psychology, and social welfare—is key to ensuring that diversion serves not merely as a procedural alternative but truly as a means of restoration and substantive justice. In the long term, this approach contributes to the establishment of a more humane, inclusive, and future-oriented juvenile justice system, as well as social harmony (Zehr, 2015; Bazemore & Umbreit, 2001).

### **Inhibiting and Supporting Factors in the Implementation of Restorative Justice**

Based on Indonesian National Police Regulation No. 8 of 2022 concerning Handling Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice, the resolution of criminal acts involves the perpetrator, the defense forum (forhan), the perpetrator's family, the victim's family, community leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders, or other stakeholders to jointly seek a resolution through peace, emphasizing restoration to the original state. Indonesian National Police Regulation No. 8 of 2022 concerning Handling Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice. Article 13 of Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning Juvenile Criminal Justice states that the juvenile justice process will be continued if (a) the diversion process does not result in an agreement; or (b) the diversion agreement is not implemented. Obstacles to the implementation of restorative justice, such as a lack of training in conflict resolution

and facilitation/mediation techniques, and imperfect implementation, will lead to a lack of success. Therefore, the implementation of restorative justice significantly contributes to the success or failure of its implementation. Heather Strang et al., Marlina, 2009, p. 229.

The implementation of restorative justice in the criminal justice system is influenced by various inhibiting factors, including structural, normative, and cultural factors (Schoultz & Flyghed, 2020). One major obstacle is the dominant paradigm of law enforcement, which is still oriented toward retributive justice, in which punishment is viewed as the primary means of resolving criminal conflicts. This paradigm leads law enforcement officials to prefer formal litigation processes over dialogue-based and restorative resolution (M. Ali et al., 2024; Bachtiar et al., 2023). Furthermore, the limited availability of clear and uniform technical regulations often leads to differing interpretations of the application of restorative justice, resulting in inconsistent practice across regions and law enforcement agencies (Armia et al., 2022)

Other inhibiting factors relate to human resources and institutional aspects. A lack of understanding, training, and capacity among law enforcement officials regarding the principles and mechanisms of restorative justice can hinder effective implementation. Furthermore, resistance from victims or the community also presents a challenge, particularly when restorative justice is perceived as a disregard for justice or a weakening of the deterrent effect on perpetrators. This situation demonstrates that the success of restorative justice implementation depends not only on legal norms but also on the readiness of legal actors and social acceptance of the restorative approach (Burton, 2021).

In addition to inhibiting factors, there are also supporting factors that play a crucial role in the implementation of restorative justice. A progressive legal and policy framework is the primary foundation for implementing this approach, particularly when regulations explicitly provide space for out-of-court settlements (Lafau & Simamora, 2025). Furthermore, the commitment of law enforcement officials to prioritize the interests of victims, perpetrators, and the community in a balanced manner contributes to strengthening restorative justice practices. Institutional support, such as implementation guidelines and oversight mechanisms, also contributes to creating legal certainty and consistent implementation. Other supporting factors stem from active community participation and social values that uphold deliberation, peace, and the restoration of social relations (R. Ali et al., 2021). The involvement of families, community leaders, and competent mediators can increase the effectiveness of the restorative justice process by creating a sense of substantive justice for all parties. Furthermore, growing academic awareness and international practice regarding the effectiveness of restorative justice in reducing recidivism and strengthening social reintegration contribute to the legitimacy of this approach. Therefore, a balance between reducing inhibiting factors and strengthening supporting factors is key to the successful and sustainable implementation of restorative justice in the criminal justice system (Kanougiya et al., 2022). The implementation of restorative justice (RJ) in the criminal justice system is influenced by various supporting and inhibiting factors, including structural, cultural, and institutional factors. As a paradigm that emphasizes reparation, stakeholder participation, and social reconciliation, restorative justice demands a fundamental shift from a retributive approach to a more humanistic and dialogical one. Therefore, the success of its implementation is determined not only by the existence of formal regulations, but also by the readiness of legal actors and social acceptance of restorative values (Zehr, 2015; Daly, 2016).

One of the key supporting factors in the implementation of restorative justice is the existence of a legal and policy framework that explicitly recognizes and regulates the application of restorative mechanisms. Clear regulations provide legitimacy for law enforcement officials to use a non-punitive approach without fear of violating the principle of legality. Research shows that countries or jurisdictions with strong institutional policies related to restorative justice tend to be more successful in consistently and sustainably integrating this approach into criminal justice practices (United Nations, 2007; Bazemore & Umbreit, 2001). Another supporting factor is the competence and commitment of law enforcement officials and restorative justice facilitators. A sufficient understanding of the principles, objectives, and techniques for facilitating restorative dialogue is key to ensuring the process is fair and does not harm any party, especially the victim. Officials with a substantive justice perspective and social sensitivity tend to be more open to the implementation of restorative justice than those who remain oriented solely toward a punishment paradigm (Braithwaite, 2002; McCold & Wachtel, 2013). Conversely, a major inhibiting factor in the implementation of restorative justice is the strong retributive legal culture that still dominates the criminal justice system. This paradigm, which places punishment as the sole form of justice, often creates resistance to restorative approaches, which are considered "soft" on perpetrators. This resistance arises not only from law enforcement officials, but also from the public, who still view punishment as a symbol of justice and effective deterrence (Daly, 2016; Zehr, 2015).

Another inhibiting factor is the unequal power relations between perpetrators and victims, which have the potential to disrupt the justice of the restorative justice process. Under certain circumstances, victims may experience psychological or social pressure to accept a restorative resolution even when they are not fully ready. Without adequate protection mechanisms, the restorative justice process risks secondary victimization and weakens the victim's position in seeking justice (Braithwaite, 2002; United Nations, 2007). Furthermore, limited human resources and supporting infrastructure also pose significant obstacles to the implementation of restorative justice. The lack of specialized training, the limited number of professional mediators, and budget constraints often result in the implementation of restorative justice being formalistic and suboptimal. This situation hinders the internalization of restorative values in everyday legal practice and reduces public confidence in the effectiveness of this approach (McCold & Wachtel, 2013; UNICEF, 2018). Thus, the implementation of restorative justice is crucially determined by the balance between supporting and inhibiting factors. Strengthening regulations, increasing the capacity of officials, and shifting the legal culture toward a more participatory and recovery-oriented justice are essential prerequisites for the success of restorative justice. Systematic and sustained efforts to address these inhibiting factors will make restorative justice not merely a procedural alternative, but an integral part of a justice system that is substantive and oriented toward social harmony (Bazemore & Umbreit, 2001; Zehr, 2015).

### **The Impact of Restorative Resolution on Child Perpetrators**

The restorative resolution approach in the juvenile criminal justice system is seen as a more humane alternative paradigm than the retributive approach. The primary focus of this approach is not solely on punishment, but rather on restoring social relationships, perpetrator responsibility, and the best interests of the child. In the context of children as perpetrators of crimes, particularly minor abuse, restorative resolution is believed to minimize the negative impact of the formal justice process on the child's psychological and social development (Zehr, 2015; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2020).

The significant impact of restorative resolution on child perpetrators is seen psychologically, particularly in reducing levels of stress, anxiety, and trauma that often arise from formal legal proceedings. The processes of dialogue, mediation, and deliberation, which are key characteristics of restorative justice, provide a safe space for children to express their feelings, understand their mistakes, and learn responsibility without the pressure of being stigmatized as a "criminal" (Braithwaite, 2002; Sherman & Strang, 2007). Thus, this approach is more aligned with the principles of child psychological development. In addition to the psychological impact, restorative resolution also positively impacts the moral development and legal awareness of child offenders. Through direct involvement in the resolution process, children not only accept sanctions but also understand the consequences of their actions on the victim and their social environment. This process encourages the internalization of values of responsibility, empathy, and substantive justice, which are difficult to achieve through conventional, coercive punishment (Tyler, 2006; Daly, 2016).

From a social perspective, restorative resolution contributes to the reintegration of child offenders into society. Rather than experiencing negative labeling and social exclusion as a result of the criminal justice process, children are given the opportunity to repair their relationships with the victim, family, and community. This reintegration is crucial to preventing social marginalization, which is often a risk factor for recidivism in children (McCold & Wachtel, 2003; Bazemore & Umbreit, 2001). Another equally important impact is a reduction in the rate of reoffending (recidivism). Several studies show that child offenders who participate in restorative justice processes have lower recidivism rates than those who undergo formal justice processes. This is due to the perceived sense of justice, personal responsibility, and social support developed during the restorative process (Sherman et al., 2015; Latimer, Dowden, & Muise, 2005).

However, the effectiveness of restorative resolution depends heavily on the quality of implementation and systemic support. A lack of trained facilitators, inadequate understanding by law enforcement officials, and unpreparedness on the part of victims or families can diminish the positive impact of this approach on child offenders. Therefore, the implementation of restorative justice must be accompanied by clear procedural standards, strengthened human resource capacity, and a monitoring mechanism oriented toward child protection (UNICEF, 2018; UNODC, 2020). Overall, restorative resolution has a multidimensional impact on child offenders, encompassing psychological, moral, social, and legal aspects. This approach serves not only as a case resolution mechanism but also as an educational and rehabilitative instrument that supports optimal child development. Therefore, strengthening restorative justice policies and practices in the juvenile criminal justice system is a strategic step toward realizing justice that focuses on the protection, recovery, and future of children (Zehr, 2015; Daly, 2016).

#### 4. Conclusion

Resolving ordinary crimes of child abuse. Article 7 (1) of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the level of investigation, prosecution, and examination of child cases in district courts, diversion efforts as referred to in paragraph (1) are carried out in the case of a crime committed (a) which is threatened with imprisonment of less than 7 (seven) years; and (b) is not a repeat of the crime. Article 8 paragraph (1) The Diversion Process is carried out through deliberation involving the Child and his/her parents/Guardians, the victim and/or his/her parents/Guardians, Community Guidance Officers, and Professional Social Workers based on a Restorative Justice approach. Article 10 paragraph (1) Diversion Agreements to resolve criminal acts in the form of violations, minor crimes, crimes without victims, or the value of the victim's losses is not more than the local provincial minimum wage as referred to in Article 9 paragraph (2) can be carried out by investigators together with the perpetrator and/or his/her family, Community Guidance Officers, and can involve community leaders. (2) The Diversion Agreement as referred to in paragraph (1) is carried out by the Investigator on the recommendation of the Community Guidance Officer and can take the form of (a) restitution of losses in the event of a victim (b) medical and psychosocial rehabilitation (c) return to parents/guardians (d) participation in education or training at an educational institution or LPKS for a maximum of 3 (three) months; or (e) community service for a maximum of 3 (three) months. Article 26 of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection Parents are obliged and responsible for (a) caring for, maintaining, educating and protecting children (b) developing children according to their abilities, talents and interests (c) preventing marriage at the age of the child (d) providing character education and instilling moral values in children.

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